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Almost a Fire—Mr. M. host of the Boyden House, Col. C. S. Brown, came near having a fire on last Saturday morning. Mr. M. had prepared a large awning which he intended to hoist in front of the hotel. On Friday night he had it thoroughly saturated with oil, folded up and laid away in the store room of the house. Early Saturday morning he was up, and observed by the smell fumes of burning oil and cloth in the room, and upon examination found that they were issuing from the awning, and though the heat increased by the contact of the oil and cloth had not burst forth into open flame, the cloth was so badly scorched as to render it useless. His discovery of the muting flames was fortunately most timely. A few moments later serious consequences might have resulted from the spontaneous combustion or development of heat. This should be a warning to persons to be careful not to have cotton or cloth saturated with oil lying carelessly about their houses.—*Salisbury Banner.*

ROBBERIES—Edith is not waiting to show that thieves of no mean acquirements in the refined profession of burglary and petty larceny, and no doubt with capacities equally susceptible of felony, in certain emergencies, exist among us—live by playing their diabolical avocations, ignoring the rights of good citizens, and defying the laws of the land.

On Saturday night, Messrs. Shydam and Bates' store was entered, and no doubt, much goods carried off, though the proprietors do not really know what is missing. The entrance was made through a window. The blinds were first removed, and a broken glass gave access through the same. The thief, however, undauntedly became frightened and left in haste before he had accomplished his purpose, as the money box was found at the window through which he entered, the money undisturbed, and two hats lying outside it on the pavement.

On the same night, Dr. Roberts' drug store was robbed of several bottles of perfume, toilet soap, &c. through a broken glass in the window.

These instances of the depravity among us, just beginning to develop itself in a form so unmistakable, should serve as a warning to our citizens.

Watch Him.—A miserable rascal, from the Northern Latitude, no doubt from Massachusetts, calling himself the Bishop of the Zion of America, spent a few days in our city a short time since, and while here, by cajoling and flattering the negroes, succeeded in palming off on them about two hundred pictures of himself at the trifling sum of one dollar each. Our contempt for the swindler, but our pity for the poor, ignorant negroes who permitted themselves to be cheated out of their hard earnings by such a northern scoundrel.—*Jb.*

BAIL FOR MR. DAVIS.—A dispatch to the New York Times, says:

"Mr. Davis' counsel are preparing for his expected release very industriously, although Judge Underwood is known to hold that treason is not a bailable offence. Bail will be tendered in the sum of \$100,000, and the two sureties first offered will be Augustus Schell and Horace Greeley. It should be remembered that the moment Mr. Davis is delivered to the custody of the Marshal, all military control over his person ceases, and the court must of necessity dispose of his case in some manner. He may be recommended to jail for the next term, and if that happens he will be worse off than now, for the President would have no power to release him. Hence the anxiety of his counsel to secure the acceptance of bail."

In his harangue to the Anti-Slavery Society of New York, last Tuesday, Wendell Phillips said:

"With the Senate of the United States bartering principles with Sherman and Fessenden, the practical leaders of that body, I consider it time to tell the South, in the language of an old Anti-Slavery Society, that we put no confidence either in oaths or parchment, in no guarantee of impeachment; and that we shall not believe the negro to be safe until we see forty acres under his feet; a school house behind him, a ballot in his right hand, the sceptre of the Federal Government over his head, and with no State Government to interfere with him until half the white men in the Southern State are in their graves." [Cheers.]

The language is significant. It scarcely disguises murder, and sounds the alarm to every natural instinct of self-preservation. If it has been resolved by black blacks and white blacks to force

the issue of extermination on the South, there are hundreds of thousands of true men in the North on whose aid we can confidently rely on that issue, to supplement our weakness in those States South of us, where the preponderance of numbers is against the South. Here we can manage the matter.

THE PROSPECT.

The prospect before the tax-payers of this country is very encouraging. With an immense tariff, doubling the cost of everything they use, with an internal revenue tax, and income tax, falling off with frightful rapidity; with imports reduced below any precedent for many years, past; with a vast amount of the wealth of the country exempt by law from taxation; and held by the wealthiest of the people; with a debt larger than that of any nation that ever existed, and with a financial panic threatening the upheaval of the entire business of the nation, the future of the poor of America is not rose colored.

But that is not all. Not only are the receipts falling off, but the expenditures are increasing. The Washington correspondent of the New York "Times" says:

"From present indications, it is not improbable that the expenditures of the War Department will be immensely in excess of the estimates made for that purpose. The requisitions of the War Department for Quartermaster's service, Pay and Subsistence Departments, miscellaneous service and Freedmen's Bureau, since the first of March and up to this date, two months and seven days, amount to \$5,934,803.87, which, however, includes \$1,394,711.26, the amount found due the State of Pennsylvania for expenses during the rebellion, as covered in the Treasury as her quota of direct tax. This does not include \$400,000, required for the Pay Department, upon which no warrant has been issued. From this it appears that the expenses of the War Department for the fiscal year will be from \$120,000,000 to \$150,000,000, or five or six times as much as the estimated expenses."

It is not surprising that we find, in view of these facts, sentences like this flashing through the press:

"The rich men have thought it all right after taking possession of the property of the late Confederate States, to repudiate the Confederate war debt.—Let us prepare to repudiate the Lincoln war debt! When we do that, labor will, once more, make a good living for the laborers."—*Freeman's Journal.*

The day is surely and swiftly coming when that cry will be the slogan of a great party—the greatest party in this country. We do not inquire into its honesty or dishonesty, its policy or impolicy. Suffice it that it is coming, and swiftly.

JUDGE UNDERWOOD'S CHARGE.

The staid and dignified speech delivered by Judge Underwood at Richmond meets with the universal condemnation of the press everywhere. There does not seem to be a newspaper in the land, so far as we have seen, that is base enough to commend or defend it. He has so stained and disgraced the judicial emblem that his name will become a scorn and reproach in all civilized nations, and go down to posterity, in company with that of the odious and brutal effeys, whose success he seems to desire legitimately to become, and with whom alone he is worthy to be compared. The achievement of his infamy has been so complete as to give hope that public opinion may ultimately drive him from the bench he has so dishonorably and deeply disgraced.

A HIT—A PALPABLE HIT.

The New York "Tribune," of Wednesday, asked the "World" to print, in full in its columns, that most unconstructive song, "Oh! I'm a good old rebel," and, furthermore, demanded the opinion of the "World" as to the fitness of its author for restoration.

The "World" replied by giving the greatest prominence to the obnoxious lyric, and adds:

"If treasonable song writing is a good reason for disfranchisement, what has the 'Tribune' to say against the execution of the sentence upon its own editor? Suppose the Charleston fire companies, the other day, as they lifted their hats to the old flag by General Sickles' order, had sung snatches from the 'Tribune's' celebrated lyric on that national emblem, one company giving these lines:

"All hail, the floating flag!
 The stars grow pale and dim,
 The stripes are bloody scars—
 'Aie the vagrant byn!"

Another then?
 "Tear down the floating flag!
 Half mast the starry flag!
 Insult no sunny sky
 With hat's polluted rag!
 Destroy it ye who can!
 Deep sink it in the waves!"

GOLD IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Washington Chronicle, in an interesting article on gold placers in the south, refers to our state in this wise:— "Men familiar with gold mining in California who have recently returned from North Carolina assure us that, in their belief, there are as good gold mines in the latter as in the former state, if only worked with the same skill and perseverance. There is, hardly a stre in the counties of Moore, Randolph, Montgomery, Davidson, Cabarrus and Stanley, in northwestern North Carolina, which will not yield gold by 'panning' the sand from its bed. And this same is true of parts of Mecklenburg, Union, Lincoln, Catawba, Lenoir, Burke, H. H. H. and other counties in the same section of that state."

FROM THE NEW YORK HERALD, MAY 3. IS THE SOUTH UNDER A MILITARY DESPOTISM?

There is much misapprehension as to the status of the South at present under the reconstruction acts of Congress and the military police required to carry out these acts. We hear a great deal, particularly from the violent unreconstructed rebels of the South and their confederates, the copperhead democrats of the North, about military despotism, martial law, tyranny, and so forth. In some cases the condition of the South, and the facts with regard to the action of the general government are wilfully misrepresented, from bad feeling or for political objects. But it is evident that many of the truly loyal people do not properly understand the nature of the temporary military police under which the South is placed. Even some of the military commanders over the districts into which the South is divided have misunderstood the status of that section of the country and their duties in executing the laws of Congress.

Now, the South is not under martial law. When the rebellion was subdued and the war ended martial law ceased, and anything done now by the Federal officers availing of military despotism is a mistake, and contrary both to the constitutional rights of the people and the laws of Congress. The Southern States, though their loyal governments were overthrown by the rebellion, and their political relations with the loyal States of the North, suspended for the time, are still in the Union, and the broad shield of the Constitution still protects the people. The whole action of the Federal Government, from the beginning of the war up to the present time, has been based upon this fact, notwithstanding the opinions and declarations of a few extreme radicals in Congress. The object of the reconstruction acts of Congress and the military police appointed under them is only to enable the States lately in rebellion to resume their functions of local government, and to restore them to full political communion with the rest of the States. President Johnson attempted to accomplish this in his own way and without consulting Congress, but his plan was deemed imperfect, unsafe, and not tending to secure loyalty and peace in the future. Congress set that aside, as it had a right to do, and adopted a plan of its own. And here the question arises, by what right or under what constitutional power did Congress act in passing the reconstruction acts, and in establishing a military police to see that these acts be carried out? It is found in the Constitution, which says that "the United States shall guarantee to every State a republican form of government." When the rebellion was put down there was no government in the Southern States which the United States could recognize.

There was an assumed foreign government, which necessarily fell with the rebellion under which it was created. It was the duty of Congress then to see that a government should be established, and one republican in form. Congress, therefore, had the undoubted right to prescribe the mode in which this should be done, with all the details and machinery for that purpose. This is a power derived from the Constitution, and there is no despotism in exercising it. The Federal Government might, perhaps, have gone further under the extraordinary circumstances connected with the gigantic rebellion—might perhaps under the war power, or under an assumed law of necessity, have paid less regard to the claims of constitutional protection; but happily it has not. The reconstruction acts are but enabling laws to help the disorganized rebellious States to establish loyal republican governments and to resume their privileges in the Union, and nothing more.

The constitution also requires the United States to protect the several States against domestic violence. It is true this is to be on the application of the Legislature or of the Executive. But where there is no Legislature or Executive, or none that the United States could recognize, as in the case of the South when the rebellion was subdued, what should be done? Is it not clearly the duty of Congress to protect the States and citizens from domestic violence under such circumstances? The government could not wait for an application from a Legis-

lature or an Executive, when there was none in existence which it could recognize. That would simply be permitting anarchy to reign. It would be no government at all. The reconstruction acts, then, in dividing the South into military districts and establishing a military police, have not created a despotism, nor were they so intended. They are merely provisional, and, as we said, only to protect the South and to enable that section to be restored. The Generals commanding these districts may make mistakes and exceed their legitimate powers. General Schofield did, no doubt, in his action against the press of Richmond. The Constitution says Congress shall make no law "abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." The utmost latitude should be allowed in the discussion of all subjects in the South as well as at the North, so long as the press does not incite insurrection or a disturbance of the peace. General Sickles, too, went beyond his legitimate duty in compelling some of the Charleston people to carry the flag in their procession. Carrying the flag or not carrying it was a matter of taste, and had nothing to do with the preserving the peace or seeing that the laws of Congress were executed.

Every loyal citizen might regret to see the bad feeling and bad taste of that portion of the Charleston people who did not carry in procession the glorious old flag; but our Generals were not sent to the South to be Gessler's, or to interfere in any such small and harmless matters. On the other hand, General Pope acted right in the course he pursued toward Governor Jenkins, of Georgia, because the question was one concerning the administration of the laws and the principles involved in the reconstruction acts. The military are not in the South to take away or obstruct the constitutional rights of the people. They are there only to preserve the peace and to see that the reconstruction acts of Congress be not impeded in their operation. There is no despotism intended in these acts, and we advise both the officers in command in the South and the people not to look at them in any other light.

WHY TEXAS IS CALLED THE "LONE STAR."
 Mr. Smith was Provisional Governor of the embryo Republic, or State, or Territory of Texas. While acting as Provisional, it became necessary to send some official document to New Orleans. The gentleman who was to take the document insisted that it should have some kind of a seal. The Provisional government had adopted none. Just then some one observed a five pointed brass button on the Governor's old overcoat. It was not off in the matter, and used as a State Seal. Arrived at New Orleans, the newspaper reporters, seeing the impression of the five pointed brass button on the wax, made it an emblem for the Lone Star Republic.

"She Always Made Home Happy."
 Such was the title but impressive sentiment which a friend wished to add to an obituary notice of "one who had gone before." What better tribute could be offered to the memory of the lost? Eloquence, with her loftiest eulogy poetry, with her utmost thrilling diction, could afford nothing so sweet, so touching, so suggestive, of the virtues of the dead, as the simple words: "She always made home happy."

AN OLD NEWSPAPER.—The Caledonia Mercury, which claimed to be the oldest newspaper in Great Britain, and which for some months past was issued in the form of an evening half-penny paper, ceased publication on April 20th. It had been in existence since 1662—more than two centuries.

AOTHER RIOT.
 Again we record an outrageous and lawless act of negro insolence and violence. It is not fashionable to say so, but what is of more consequence, it is truth to say, that the negro is now proving his unfitness for citizenship in a manner that must, sooner or later, convince the world that a terrible blunder has been committed in this land. After two years of freedom he has developed but two "improvements"—one a passion for neglecting his work and parading the streets on every possible occasion, and the other for mobbing policemen.

We repeat that this thing must be put down at once, if life or property are to be safe in the South; and we repeat our grave offense of the thorough comprehension of that fact which seems to possess the minds of the soldiers who are stationed here.

There is a remedy for this thing which we are entirely persuaded must be available, unless this lawless cease speedily, and that is a universal resolve on the part of the white people to give no employment to any negro who takes part in these mobs, or is the other mobs which produce these. The inconvenience will be temporary, and the results most salutary. The sooner these persons, particularly those who employ a large

numbers of negroes, begin winking to the mobbers, the better for both parties. Any violence that may be threatened to retaliation Uncle Sam's boys will be apt to cure with a little blood-letting.

A Card from Robert Bonner.—The Troy Whig having stated that Robert Bonner had to borrow money two years ago to advertise his Ledger, Mr. Bonner telegraphed to the Whig the following card:

New York, April 16.
 EDITOR DAILY WHIG—Your statement in the Whig of the 9th inst., that I had about to build a splendid marble building at the corner of William and Spruce streets is correct, but your further statement that "two years ago Robert Bonner had to borrow money to pay his advertising bills" is entirely erroneous. I have made every dollar of my own money, but never since I was born have I had occasion to borrow one cent. I do not mean this as any reflection on the credit system—only that a system was never in my line.

I agree heartily with you as to the advantages of advertising; it is impossible to over-estimate them; but the first essential in advertising—the foundation without which there can be no super-structure—is to have something the public wants—something worth buying—something superior to its kind. To advertise such an article—and you cannot do it too extensively—is to insure permanent prosperity, but to advertise an inferior article gives one a mere ephemeral success. All the capital I had when I began to advertise I earned as a journeyman printer, but I was careful to make a paper which, when advertised and introduced, I knew the people would like and continue to buy. I put my money into advertising, I paid cash as I went, and the building to which you refer is one of the results.

ROBERT BONNER.

NEGROES AND STREET CARS.

We find the following in a late number of the New York "Sun," and commend it to the perusal of all Boston emigrants who come down here for the purpose of haranguing the negroes and inciting them to deeds of violence:
 A great deal of indignation has lately been wasted upon the people of Richmond because they dislike the idea of having negroes ride in the street cars. It is a foolish prejudice, of course, and one which disappeared in this city several years ago. But why do not the special champions of the Freedmen direct a little of their surplus indignation toward Northern cities in which the same prejudice exists. The people of Philadelphia have persistently refused to allow negroes in their street cars, and it was only by coercion on the part of the late Legislature that they were finally obliged to sacrifice their prejudice. It is somewhat singular that the self-styled defenders of the negroes give their attention exclusively to fault-finding in the South, paying no attention to the colored people in the North.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

From Richmond.
 Richmond, May 11.—The steamer John Sylvester with Mr. Davis on board, arrived this afternoon, at 5 o'clock. Long before her arrival the military arrangements had been made by General Schofield. A detachment of infantry was present and sentinels were posted at regular intervals including about two hundred yards square of the wharf.

As the steamer came in sight, the most intense anxiety was exhibited by the crowd, but there was no demonstration—no cheering or hissing. When the steamer was made fast Hon. J. Davis went on board, and after a falling in with Mr. Davis, brought Mrs. Davis ashore and conducted her to a carriage. In a few minutes Mr. Davis came over the gang plank accompanied by Gen. Barton and Dr. Cooper. He looked very much changed from what the citizens of Richmond remembered him.

The party immediately entered the estrades which were surrounded by the mounted guard, and drove rapidly by a side street up towards the Spotswood Hotel.

Richmond, May 12.—Mr. Davis remained at the Spotswood Hotel all day, and was called on by a large number of citizens. There is no guard over his movements. Several bouquets were sent him.

Another Riot in Richmond.
 Richmond, May 12.—The negroes to day attempted to rescue a drunken negro from the police. Bricks, clubs and pistols were used. Four policemen were badly beaten—one of them severely injured. A company of soldiers guarding the Lobby Prison, were called on, and captured 18 of the rioters.

was dispersed upon the persuasion of a colored Jayman.

To-day mounted soldiers patrolled the streets to keep order. And squads of police were placed at all the churches, in view of the threats of the negroes to force their way in among the white people.

A large procession of negro societies attend a funeral to-day, accompanied by an unnumbered company of colored militia, the officers of which carried swords. There was no disturbance.

Election of Bishop.
 Augusta, Ga., May 12.—Rev. John Beckwith, of New Orleans, is elected Episcopal Bishop of Georgia.

Mexican News.—Gov. Throckmorton on Registration.
 New Orleans, May 12.—San Louis Potosi advices of the 27th ult., say that, on the 23d, Maximilian, at Queretaro, placed himself at the head of a column of 6,000 men, leading the attack on the Liberals. The fight lasted all day. The Liberals were surprised at first and driven back.—They subsequently rallied and repulsed the imperialists, who took refuge in the city. The Liberals held a portion of the city a few hours, and then took up their old position.

Foreign News.
 New York, May 12.—A cable dispatch to the Herald, dated the 11th ult., says: "Notwithstanding the satisfactory solution of the Luxemburg question by the treaty arrangement, fears are entertained and generally expressed that war has been merely postponed by the work of the diplomats."

Warlike preparations are still actively carried on in France, Germany, Russia and Greece. It is said that before the close of the peace conference, a proposal will likely be advanced, by England, to all the powers inclined to belligerent action, in which Queen Victoria will recommend and urge a general disarmament.—Should this proposal be entertained, another Congress will probably assemble in London to secure its formal adoption and uniform execution by all the great powers. But it is thought that even this proposition will not be successful in securing the maintenance of peace.

London, May 12.—The treaty was signed yesterday by the respective Governments. The Prussians will evacuate Luxemburg in a few days.

Berlin, May 12.—The French Cabinet has made satisfactory explanations to Prussia, regarding her recent war-like preparations.

Richmond, May 13.—The United States Court was packed this morning. A military guard was placed around it and a strong police force made.

At 11 o'clock, Mr. Davis was brought in and took a seat with Gen. Barton and the Marshal. A servant accompanied him.

Gen. Barton's return of the writ was read, and Judge completed Gen. Barton, in obeying the laws and relieved him of the custody of Mr. Davis. The Marshal immediately served on him a bench warrant, to answer the Norfolk indictment.

Mr. O'Connor spoke of Mr. Davis' long confinement and feeble health, and asked that he be bailed. There being no objection upon the part of the prosecution, who fixed the bail at \$100,000 the Judge announced his readiness to accept the bail, stating, at the same time, that the responsibility of the delay in bringing Mr. Davis' case into court rested on the Government and not upon the District Attorney. He also said that half the bail should be given by persons residing in the State of Virginia.