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"ARE YOU A MASON ?"

Rev. Dr. Magill, being asked the above question by a lady, responds as follows:

I [illegible]
Who will [illegible]
In the hands of [illegible]
I have [illegible]
Thrice [illegible]
And there for [illegible]

By the [illegible]
Who [illegible]
I succeeded [illegible]
Was [illegible]
By [illegible]
But not without [illegible]

Here [illegible]
With [illegible]
With sentiments [illegible]
Then [illegible]
To [illegible]
What Hiram [illegible]

Very [illegible]
I made [illegible]
And "light" [illegible]
When [illegible]
In due [illegible]
A Master, and [illegible]

Thus far I [illegible]
And [illegible]
What happened [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
To a [illegible]

And [illegible]
[illegible]
A [illegible]
[illegible] then went,
[illegible] length
[illegible] to find;
[illegible] I gained,
[illegible] obtained
[illegible] my mind.

[illegible] wrought,
[illegible] sought
For treasures so long hidden there;
And by labor and toil
I discovered rich spoil,
Which are kept by the craft with due care.

Having thus far arrived,
I further contrived
Among the valiant Knights to appear;
And as pilgrim and Knight,
I stood ready to fight,
Nor Saracen foe did I fear.

For the widow distressed
There's a chord in my breast;
For the helpless and orphan I feel;
And my sword I could draw,
To maintain the pure law
Which the duty of Masons reveal.

Thus have I revealed
(Yet wisely concealed),
What the "Free and Accepted" well know,
I am one of a band,
Who will faithfully stand
As a brother wherever I go.

From the N. Y. Herald.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME COURT AND RECONSTRUCTION.

The cases expected to come before the United States Supreme Court shortly, involving the question of the constitutionality of the Reconstruction acts are giving rise to a good many speculations. Of course all stories professing to unfold what will be the decisions of the judges on this important question are entirely unauthorized and based upon the judgments or imaginations of private parties. No one can know in advance what will be the conclusions of the learned judges. The latter will hear both sides, and then make up their decisions from the arguments and legal precedents advanced, making a little allowance, of course, for the political bias of each of the judges.

But this may be said, that should the supreme judicial tribunal of the land declare unconstitutional the action of Congress in enacting the rebel States out of the Union, disfranchising white voters and forcing negro suffrage and African supremacy upon the people of those unhappy districts, the course of the executive may be pretty certainly indicated even at the present moment. The President, in all probability, would, in that event, hasten to proclaim that the rebel States were never out of the Union, and that, *ergo*, the people of those States are still entitled to all the civil rights (save and except property in slaves) enjoyed by them anterior to the acts of secession; that the subordination of the civil to military authority has been illegal, and must immediately be abolished; and that all the past action under the Congressional reconstruction policy has been null and void. Following this out to its natural results he would to be consistent, have to recall the military governors, with their numerous trains of satellites, and perhaps would remove all semblance of military surveillance, save such as prudence would suggest to be [illegible]ry to the preservation of law and [illegible] in view of the alleged negro conspiracies and the supposed disaffection still of many of the white residents.

Reverdy Johnson.

Reverdy Johnson is said to be busily engaged in various legal schemes looking to the defeat of the reconstruction laws. He informed some of his Southern friends, a few days ago, that he fully expected a decision from the Supreme Court within a short time affirming that Virginia is a State. The President also expects this, and the lawyers interested in the case, say that if such a decision is rendered he will withdraw military supervision from that State by ordering the commanding officers not to interfere, except at the request of the civil authorities. It is said Reverdy Johnson is giving close attention and advice in the cases now being prepared, involving the constitutionality of the reconstruction laws in each of the Southern States.—*Bal. Com. Advocate.*

IMPORTANT ORDER.

HDQ'RS SECOND MIL. DISTRICT,
Charleston, S. C., Dec. 31, '67

General Orders, No. 164.

I. Paragraph II of General Orders No. 10, from the Headquarters of the Second Military District, dated April 11, 1867, is modified as follows:

SUITS FOR DEBTS.

Judgments or decrees for the payment of money on causes of action arising in North Carolina between the 20th of May, 1861, and the 20th day of April, 1865, and in South Carolina between the 19th day of December, 1860, and the 29th day April 1865, shall not be enforced, by execution, against the person or property of the defendant. Proceedings for such causes of action now pending shall be stayed, and no suit or process shall be instituted or commenced on such causes of action until after the civil government of the respective States shall be established in accordance with the laws of the United States.

Paragraph III of the same order is modified as follows:

EXECUTIONS.

Sheriffs, coroners and constables are directed to suspend the sale of all property upon execution, or process under judgment or decree of a court of the so-called Confederate States, or of the State of North Carolina, rendered between the 24th day of May, 1861, and the organization of the provisional government of said State, under the President's proclamation of the 29th day of April, 1865, or of the State of South Carolina, rendered between the 19th day of December, 1860, and the organization of the provisional government of the said State, under the President's proclamation of the 30th day of June, 1865, unless the written consent of the defendant be entered of record, and except in cases where the plaintiff or his attorney, upon oath, supported by corroborative testimony, shall allege that the defendant is disposing of, removing, or about to remove, his property beyond the jurisdiction of the court, with intent to defraud his creditors: *provided*, that no such judgment, so rendered, within the periods aforesaid, shall be a bar to the commencement, in a State court, of a new suit upon the same cause of action in any case in which, by law, the defendant may remove or appeal the same to a court of the United States.

FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE.

The sale of real or personal property, by foreclosure of mortgage, is likewise suspended in the cases embraced in paragraphs II and III, of said order No. 10 as above amended, except in cases where interest money accruing subsequent to the 29th of April, 1865, shall not have been paid before the day of sale, and all previous restrictions on such sales are revoked.

Paragraph IV of the same order is modified by substituting the 29th day of April, 1865, for the 19th day of May, 1865.

SUITS ON NEGRO DEBTS.

All proceedings for the recovery of money on contracts, whether under seal or by parol, the consideration of which was the purchase of slaves, made subsequent to the 1st day of January, 1863, are suspended. Judgments or decrees entered for such causes of action shall not be enforced.

Paragraph VII of the same order is modified as follows:

HOMESTEADS.

In all sales of property under execution or by order of any court, there shall be reserved out of the property of any defendant who has a family dependent upon his or her labor, a dwelling house and appurtenances, and (if in the country) twenty acres of land, or so much thereof that the whole shall not exceed in value the sum of two thousand dollars; and in a town or city, the immediate lot upon which such dwelling house is situated; and necessary articles of furniture, apparel, subsistence and implements of husbandry, trade, or other employment, to the value of five hundred dollars. The homestead exemption shall inure only to the benefit of families. In other cases the exemption shall extend only to clothing and implements of trade or employment usually followed by the defendant, of the value of two hundred dollars. The exemption hereby made shall not be waived or defeated by the act of any defendant who has a family dependent upon him or her for support, and the exempted property shall be ascertained and defined by the sheriff or other officer enforcing the execution, who shall call to his aid two impartial citizens to make the necessary appraisement, and shall make report thereof to the court.

ARREST FOR FRAUDULENT DEBTS.

Paragraph X is hereby modified so as to authorize arrest in civil actions *ex contractu* only in cases where the demand is past due, and the defendant has been guilty of fraud in contracting the debt sued for, or has removed or disposed of his property, or is about to do so, with intent to defraud his creditors, or is about to leave the State with such intent.

EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES.

Paragraph XVI is amended by adding thereto: All proceedings in any court of North Carolina, or of South Carolina, recognizing or sanctioning the investment of the funds of minor heirs, or of females, or of insane persons, in the securities of the late rebel government, or the securities of the States of North Carolina or South Carolina, created for the purpose of carrying on war against the Government of the United States, will be suspended until the question of the validity of such investments shall have been determined by the courts of the United States, or by national legislation. And nothing in the provisions of this, or of the Order No. 10 above cited, shall be held to bar or hinder the recovery, by suit, or the estate of any minor heir, female, or insane person, (*cestui que trust*), whether in the hands of executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, masters or clerks of equity courts, and other fiduciary agents, or invested by them in their fiduciary character.

DISTILLERIES.

II. General Orders, No. 25, of May 20, 1867, is revoked; and on and after the first day of January, 1868, the distillation of spirituous liquors in this Military District will be subject to such restrictions only as are imposed by the laws of the United States and of the States of North and South Carolina, respectively.

BAR-ROOMS.

III. Paragraphs VI and VII of General Orders No. 32, dated May 30, 1867, are revoked, and the power to grant licenses for the sale of spirituous or intoxicating liquors is remitted to the proper local authorities, to take effect on and after the first day of January, 1868, and to be subject to the following conditions:

1. The municipal authorities granting the license shall be answerable that the parties to whom such licenses are granted, together with their sureties, shall be responsible persons, and of good moral standing in the community, and that both principal and sureties shall be able to qualify individually in double the amount of the bond required, and that the bond shall be a lien upon the personal property of both principal and sureties, and upon proof of default shall warrant the summary seizure and sale of so much of the property of either or both as may be necessary to satisfy the forfeiture or fine and costs.

2. Drunkenness and disorderly conduct on the premises shall work the forfeiture of the license and of the penalty of the bond.

3. The owner or keeper of any bar-room, saloon or other place at which intoxicating liquors are sold, and all other persons interested or connected therewith, shall be regarded as principals in any action of damages growing out of any assault, riot, affray or other disorder occurring on the premises, or directly traceable thereto.

4. All bar-rooms, saloons or other places at which intoxicating liquors are sold, shall be closed on the day or days of any general or local election, and for the twelve hours next preceding the opening and next succeeding the closing of the polls at such election; and the sheriffs of counties and districts and the chief of police of cities and towns, shall have power to direct the closing of bar-rooms and other places for the sale of intoxicating liquors whenever it may be necessary in their judgment to preserve order and quiet.

5. The proceeds of all license, forfeitures and fines, under the local regulations or under the provisions of military orders, will be devoted to the support of the poor, and as soon as realized will be turned over to the commissioners or overseers of the poor of the district, county, city or town in which they accrued, and commissioners or overseers will at the end of each month report to the Provost Marshal-General of the District the amount received by them during the month, specifying the names of the parties from whom it was received.

6. The penalties imposed by this order or by the local police regulations may be enforced in any civil or military court, and upon conviction the court may award to the informer a sum not exceeding fifty per cent. of the forfeiture or fine. And it is made the duty of all sheriffs, constables and coroners of counties and districts, and the police of cities and towns, to be vigilant in the enforcement of the police regulations and the provisions of this order in relation to the sale of intoxicating liquors.

The provisions of this paragraph will be held to apply to such licenses granted under General Orders No. 32, to inn keepers, as remain unexpired after the 1st of January, 1868.

DISTRICT COURTS.

IV. To promote the speedy trial of prisoners confined for minor offences, and diminish the cost of their maintenance, all committing magistrates will on the 16th and last days of each month, report to the judge of their county or district court all commitments made by them during the preceeding half month, specifying the date of commitments, the names of the prisoners and the offences for which they were committed, to the end that the judges may, whenever in their opinion the number of prisoners or other considerations of public interest call for it, hold special terms of their courts for the purpose of disposing of such cases. The additional expense of holding such special terms will be a charge upon the State Treasury, and the accounts therefor will be audited and paid as accounts of a similar character are now audited and paid, and if the salaries now paid the judges should be inadequate in view of the additional labor performed by them, a reasonable addition upon the proper representations through the Governor of the State, will be allowed.

PILOTAGE.

V. The pilotage regulations now existing in the States of North and South Carolina are so far modified that on and after the first day of March, 1868, all passenger steam vessels, regulated by the laws of the United States, and carrying a pilot commissioned by United States Commissioners, shall be exempt from the compulsory payment of pilotage.

NORTH CAROLINA POLL TAX.

VI. So much of the act of the General Assembly of the State of North Corolina, entitled "An act to raise money," rattified on the 26th day of February, 1667, as makes it "the duty of all persons and corporations to list and pay the 'poll) tax of such persons liable to the same, as are in their employment, on the 1st day of April of each year, as laborers," is rescinded, and hereafter all individual taxes will be assessed directly upon and collected directly from the individuals from whom they are due; *provided*, that the provisions of this order shall not apply to the taxes levied for the current year, except that double poll tax shall not be enforced if the original tax be paid on or before the 1st day of March, 1868.

By command of Brevet Major General DD. R. S. CANBY.

LOUIS V. CAZIARC,
Aid-de-Camp, Act'g Ass't Adj't Gen.

OFFICIAL: Louis V. Caziarc, A. D. C., A. A. General.

☞ The following are the paragraphs of General Order No. 10 referred to in, and modified by the foregoing order:

I. Imprisonment for debt is prohibited, unless the defendant in execution shall be convicted of a fraudulant concealment or disposition of his property, with intent to hinder, delay and prevent the creditor in the revery of his debt or demand. And the proceedings now establish d in North and South Carolina, respectively, for the trial of and determination of such questions may be adopted.

II. Judgments or decrees, for the payment of money, on causes of action arising between the 19th of December, 1860, and the 15th of May, 1865, shall not be enforced by execution against the property or the person of the defendant. Proceedings in such causes of action, now pending; shall be stayed; and no suit or process shall be hereafter instituted or commenced, for any such causes of action.

III. Sheriffs, Coroners, and Constables, are hereby directed to suspend for twelve calendar months the sale of all property, upon execution or process, on liabilities contracted prior to the 19th of December 1860, unless upon the written consent of the defendants, except in cases where the plaintiff, or in his absence his agent or attorney, shall upon oath, with coroborative testimony, allege and prove that the defendant is removing, or intends fraudulently to remove, his property beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the Court. The sale of real or personal property by foreclosure of mortgage is likewise suspended for twelve calender months, except in cases where the payment of interest money, accruing since the 15th day of May, 1865, shall not have been made before the day of sale.

IV. Judgments or decrees entered or enrolled, on causes of action arising subsequent to the 15th day of May, 1865, may be enforced by execution against the property of the defendant; and in the application of the money arising under such execution, regard shall be had to the priority of liens unless in case where the good faith of any lien shall be drawn in question In such cases the usual mode of proceeding adopted in North and South Carolina, respectively, to determine that question, shall be adopted.

VII. In all sales of property under execution or by order of any court, there shall be reserved out of the property of any defendant, who has a family dependent upon his or her labor, a dwelling house and appurtenances and twenty acres of land for the use and occupation of the family of the defendant; and necessary articles of furniture, apparel, subsistence, implements of trade, husbandry or other employments, of the value of five hundred dollars. The homestead exemption shall inure only to the benefit of families—that is to say, to parent or parents and child or children. In other cases, the exemption shall extend only to clothing, implements of trade or other employment usually followed by the defendant, of the value of one hundred dollars. The exemption hereby made shall not be waived or defeated by the act of the defendant. The exempted property of the defendant shall be ascertained by the Sheriff, or other officer enforcing the execution who shall specifically describe the same and make a report thereof in each case to the court.

X. In suits brought to recover ordinary debts, known as actions ex contractu, bail as heretofore authorized, shall not be demanded by the suitor, nor taken by the Sheriff or other officer serving the process. In suits for trespass, libel, wrongful conversion of property, and other cases known as actions ex delicto, bail as heretofore authorized may be demanded and taken. The prohibition of bail in cases ex contractu, shall not extend to parties about to leave the State; but the fact of intention must be clearly established by proof.

XVI. Nothing in this order shall be construed to restrain or prevent the operation of proceedings in bankruptcy, in accordance with the acts of Congress in such cases made and provided, nor with the collection of any tax, impost, excise, or charge levied by authority of the United States or of the Provisional Governments of North and South Carolina; but no imprisonment for overdue taxes shall be allowed. Nor shall this order or any law of the Provisional Governments of North or South Carolina operate to deny to minor children, or children coming of age, or their legal representatives, nor to suspend as to them, any right of action, remedy, or proceeding, against Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Guardians, Masters or Clerks of Equity Courts, or other officers or persons holding a fiduciary relation to the parties or the subject matter of the action or proceeding.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

Harrisburg, Jan. 9.—In the Legislature this morning, there were two ballots—the caucus candidates receiving 45 votes each. Scattering eight.

GOVERNMENT RELIEF FOR THE SOUTH.

The official reports of General Hancock, Canby, Ord, Gillem and Scott, in regard to the great destitution existing throughout the South, is exciting a proper degree of concern in Washington.—These reports have been submitted by General Howard to General Canby, with the request that they be called to the immediate attention of the President and Congress, with a view to some thorough and practical mode of relief. Our information leads us to believe that the President will, within a very few days, lay these reports before Congress, with a specific plan of action, but recommending immediate and sufficient relief to meet the wide-spread and increasing destitution and suffering in the Southern States.

The leading citizens of Charleston have taken this subject under special consideration, and in order to give practical effect to their views, one of their number has gone to Washington to place before the authorities the appalling facts of Southern necessities and their plans to relieve them. This gentleman, we learn from the Charleston papers, has submitted three plans of relief:

1. That Congress should authorize a loan of $30,000,000, to be lent in small sums to necessitous planters; the loan to bear interest and a lien upon the crops of the borrowers; the loan to be distributed by local commissioners of approved position and standing.

2. That the Government should lend the Southern people an amount equal to the gross amount of revenue already received by the United States from the cotton tax; the loan to be secured, issued and distributed as under the first plan.

3. That the United State Government should sell the gold in the National Treasury, in excess of the sum required to meet current demands, and lend the premium realized by its sale to the South, upon terms and in the manner before named.

The President, General Grant, Chief Justice Chase, Senator Harlan, of Iowa, and General Howard, all express themselves as warmly favoring some measure for the relief of the suffering people of this section, and General Grant said he would, as Secretary of War, submit to Congress a communication earnestly recommending one of the above plans.

Generals Hancock and Ord recommend the repairing of the levees of Mississippi by the Government, in order to reclaim many valuable estates now in ruins and to give employment to many thousands of freedmen, now without labor or means, who must either rob or starve, unless employed or assisted by the Government. This would be a great relief in that particular section of the South.

We shall look forward with deep anxiety to the action of the President and the legislation of Congress upon this question. They are in possession of all the facts and know full well the necessities of the South. Without aid from some quarter, this section is ruined beyond present redemption, and with its downfall the prosperity of the North also goes. "I am frank to say," said Radical Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, in his recent speech in the Senate, "that the market of the South is as indispensable to our prosperity as our prosperity is necessary to our existence." That market is now destroyed. The same body which has checked Southern industry, taxed Southern productions and demoralized Southern laborers, can now do something to restore this market, and as our helpless condition is rapidly dragging the prosperous North into the same prostration, we may hope for the inauguration of some practical, possibly liberal, measure of relief.

Wilmington Journal.

☞ We have been favored by Col. Bomford with the following circular which we publish for the benefit of all concerned:

HD'QRS. MIL. POST OF RALEIGH,
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 7, 1868.

Circular:

In compliance with instructions received from Headquarters Second Military District, dated Charleston, S. C., January 3d, 1868, I have the honor to inform all persons concerned that surplus copies of General Orders No. 165, Headquarters Second Military District, are on file in this office for distribution. General Orders No 165, Headquarters Second Military District, constitutes the certificate of election to the respective delegates to the State Convention, ordered to convene in Raleigh, N. C, on the fourteenth inst.—Any delegates who have not been furnished with a copy of the order referred to, will call at these Headquarters and be furnished with an official copy of the order. By order of Col. J. V. Bomford:

DANL. T. WELLS,
1st Lt. 8th U. S. Inf'y., Bvt. Maj.
Official: Post Adjutant.

COMING SOUTH.

The Wilmington (Del.) *Commercial*, of last week, says the extent to which the farming communities in many of the Northern States are moving to more genial climates and an easier tilled soil is hardly generally known. One of our real estate agents in Wilmington informs us that he now has on file applications and enquiries from no less than three hundred parties in reference to lands for sale on the Peninsula. They write from all the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and States further West, while one gentleman writes from Tennessee. Most of the parties desire a less severe climate, with shorter winters.

These two lines that look so solemn,
Were just placed here to fill the column.

HOPE AND MEMORY.

A little baby lay in the cradle and Hope came and kissed it. When its nurse gave it a cake, Hope promised another to morrow; when its young sister brought a flower, over which it clapped its wings and crowd, Hope told it of brighter ones which it would gather for itself.

The babe grew to a child, and another friend came and kissed it. Her name was Memory. She said, "Look behind thee and tell me what thou seest."

The child answered, "I see a little book."—And Memory said, "I will teach thee to get honey from the book that will be sweet to thee when thou art old."

The child became a youth. Once when he went to his bed, Hope and Memory stood by the pillow, Hope sang a melodious song and said, "Follow me, and every morning thou shalt awake with a smile, at the pretty lay I sung thee."

But Memory said, "Hope, is there any need that we should contend? He shall be mine as well as thine; and we shall be to him as sisters all his life long."

So he kissed Hope and Memory, as he was beloved of them both. Whilst he slept peacefully, they sat by his side, weaving rainbow tissues into dreams. When he awoke, they came with the lark, to bid good morning, and he gave a hand to each.

He became a man. Every day Hope guided him to his labor, and every night he supped with Memory at the table of knowledge.

But at length Age found him; he turned his temples gray. To his eye the world seemed altered. Memory sat by his elbow chair, like an old and tried friend.—He looked at her seriously and said, "Hast thou not lost something that I entrusted to thee?"

And he answered, "I fear so; for the lock of my casket is worn. Sometimes I am weary and sleepy, and time purloins my key. But the gems that thou did'st give me when life was new—I can account for all—see how bright they are!"

While they thus sadly conversed, Hope put forth a wing that she had worn, folded under her garment and tried its strength in a heavenward flight.

The old man laid down to die, and when the soul went forth from the body, the angels took it: and Memory walked with it through the open gate of Heaven. But Hope lay down at the threshold, and gently expired as a rose giveth out her last odors.

Her parting sigh was like the music of a seraph's harp. She breathed it into a glorious form, and said:

"Immortal happiness! I bring thee a soul that I have led through the world. It is thine now since Jesus hath redeemed it.—*Mrs. Sigourney.*

Advertising.—The New York *Tribune* has the following upon the value of advertising, and every practical business man will confirm what it says of the present state of business: "Prudence and economy, of course, are the two great lessons to be learned; but there is one part of these lessons which in dull times is especially apt to be forgotten. Be sure of one thing; whatever you have to sell, there are many people ready to buy, even in the most depressed season. Find them out; show them your wares; persuade them to buy of you rather than another. When buyers are reluctant sellers must be active. It is neither cheap nor sensible to sit still behind your counter and wait for the bustle of trade to revive.—When business is dull, that is the very time to advertise. In the first place, that is when you most need to advertise; and in the second, that is when people devote most time to reading the newspapers, and when your advertisement consequently is most generally seen. A few dollars thus invested will do more to revive a sluggish business than anything else in the world."

Moving.—The New York *Times* learns through correspondents in various parts of the cotton States that very considerable numbers of people are moving away from there to the North, and still larger numbers are preparing to move away in the spring. The idea has taken firm possession of the minds of the people of the cotton States that their section is destined to ruin, poverty, and negro supremacy in the future, and they complain that their hopes of better times have at last left them.

We would call the attention of our Southern friends who are now seeking new homes to Virginia. Our troubles here are very transient. Here there need be no want, and can be no conflict of races. Here they will find cheap and productive lands, a climate that suits them, congenial society and a warm welcome. Many of them have Virginia blood in their veins, and they will come to us like long absent kindred returning home. The old mother State will take them to her bosom the more affectionately for their misfortunes. Let them come.—*Rich. Whig.*

RECONSTUCTION IN LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 6.

The following order has just been promulgated:

HEADQ'RS 5TH MILITARY DISTRICT,
New Orleans, Jan. 1, 1868.

General Orders
No. 1.

Applications have been made at these headquarters implying the existence of an arbitrary authority in the commanding General touching purely civil controversies. One petitioner solicits this action, another that, and each refers to some special consideration of grace or favor, which he supposes to exist, and which should influence this Department. The number of such applications, and the waste of time they involve, make it necessary to declare that the administration of civil justice appertains to the regular courts. The rights of litigants do not depend on the views of the General. They are to be adjudged and settled according to the laws. Arbitrary power, such as he has been urged to assume, has no existence here. It is not found in the laws of Louisiana or Texas. It cannot be derived from any act or acts of Congress. It is restrained by a Constitution, and prohibited from action in many particulars.

The Major-General commanding takes occasion to report that, while disclaiming judicial functions in civil cases, he can suffer no forcible resistance to the execution of processes of the Courts.

By command of Maj. Gen. Hancock:
L. HARTSUFF, A. A. G."

FROM AUGUSTA.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 8—P. M.

The committee appointed by the Macon Conservative State Convention have issued an address to the people of Georgia and the United States, setting forth that since the termination of the war the people have complied in good faith with all the legitimate requirements of the Government, and have earnestly worked for the restoration of the State to its Constitutional rights in the Union. The address enumerates grievances suffered by the people from Congressional legislation in the enactment and enforcement of the military bills. It appeals to the people of Georgia to organize for self-protection and ceaseless opposition to negro supremacy, and to Northern people to come to their rescue and unite with them in the patriotic effort to restore and perpetuate constitutional government. The address is signed by ex-Gov. Johnson, Benjamin H. Hill, and three others.

Congress.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Senate.—Memorials were presented, asking for relief for the freedmen in the District, for female suffrage in the District, and one from 5,000 hand loom operatives, asking for exemption from taxation.

A petition from the Alabama Convention, praying the removal of Governor Patton's political disabilities, was presented.

Mr. Morton called up his resolution, instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill abrogating the existing Governments in the rebel States and providing proper Governments in lieu thereof.

Mr. Frelinghuysen moved to amend, so as to make the reporting of the bill discretionary with the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Morton desired to test the sense of the Senate, directly, upon the question.—It was high time that Congress had defined its position. To his mind, the state of affairs, now existing in these rebel communities, had never been more alarming. Congress had, on the 2d. of March, declared the existing governments in those States as illegal and not affording proper security for life and property; and at that time Congress had provided military supervision, until such time as loyal governments could be established. To-day, the military authority, which they had set up, was obstructing the proper operation of the law, in some of those States, and upholding the existing illegal governments.

[Mr. M. here sent to the desk of the Secretary the acts of March and July to be read, and also the order No. 1 of Gen. Hancock, in which the civil authority is declared supreme.]

It would be seen that Gen. Hancock, in this order, not only defied the power of Congress, but actually nullified and refufused to execute its laws. As General Hancock has confronted directly the Congress, it becomes a question as to which side will submit. He recognizes the authority of the civil tribunals, organized by the very State governments which Congress has declared to be illegal.

There was danger that the work of reconstruction would fail by the very military power which they had raised up to forward it. At this crisis, it was incumbent on Congress to be true and consistent to itself and proceed to abrogate these Governments.

If the amendment of Mr. Frelinghuysen was adopted it would mean nothing. He (M.) wanted a peremptory order to this Committee to bring in a bill immediately, and he desired this Senate to so order.

Mr. Frelinghuysen said that he only thought it right that some confidence should be placed in the judgment of the Committee.

The further consideration postponed.

House.—The bill asking for the release of Father McMahan, and several other Fenians, passed.

General Grant and the Reconstruction Policy.

Senator Wilson has written a long communication which appears in the New York Independent, recommending the nomination of General Grant for the next Presidency. We quote from it the following:

"To the reconstruction policy of Congress—the vital and overshadowing issue of the day—General Grant gave his earnest support, and has zealously striven to carry the legislation of Congress into effect. On the reconstruction policy General Grant has been and now is in accord with Congress and the Republican party. So anxious was he to have that policy carried into effect that he urgently pressed upon members of Congress the vital importance of so arranging the adjournments as to be able to meet at any time, should the needs of the country require it."

It appears from the above that General Grant is as Radical as the most Radical, and fully endorses the reconstruction policy of Congress, with all its attendant evils and disasters to the country. This is next in gross error and wrong to his general endorsement of the infamous Stanton.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

Treatment of the Aged.

A little thoughtful attention, how happy it makes the old! They have outlived most of the friends of their early youth. How lonely their hours! Often their partners in life have long filled their silent graves; often their children they have followed to the tomb. They stand solitary, bending on the staff, waiting till the same call shall reach them. How often they must think of absent lamented faces; of the love which cherished them, and the tears of sympathy that fell with theirs, now all gone! Why should not the young cling around and comfort them, cheering their gloom with songs and happy smiles?