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THE TRUTH OF HISTORY—JOHNSTON'S SURRENDER TO SHERMAN.

Wilkes Spirit (New York) vouches for the perfect authenticity of the following statement: It now falls to our lot to show that the responsible author of the Sherman-Johnston agreement was not Gen. Sherman, but President Lincoln.

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would have vindicated him, he refrained from speaking it.

### CURFEW BELLS.

Many have heard of the "curfew bell," but not all know its origin. Its history in England runs back to the time of William, the Conqueror, who ordered a bell to be rung about sundown in summer, and at eight o'clock in the evening in winter, at which time fire and lights were to be put out, and the people to remain within doors, and penalties were imposed upon those who neglected or refused to comply with the law.

The old king has been generally charged with instituting this custom in order to impress upon his subjects a sense of their subject condition; but, as the "curfew-bell" was rung in France long before William's time, as a safeguard against fire, it is not improbable that he brought the custom with him into England from the Continent, and that he has been stammered as to his motives. At any rate, he has sin enough to answer for without this.

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### INFLUENCE OF THE SOIL ON THE HUMAN RACE.

A novel question has arisen among anthropologists as to the effect of soil on character. The question is asked whether, for example, the character of the Scotch is an expression of the soil of Scotland? Mr. Cleghorn advances an opinion that it is. He finds that wherever the boulder clay exists in Caithness there are the best men, the best cattle and the best cereals; and where it is absent there are all of a miserable description.

With our State government restored to competent hands, a brilliant future awaits North Carolina. No State offers greater inducements to industry and capital, and the shrewd settler will not overlook them. Immigration is now the great question, whether immigrant be the German, the Swiss or the Yankee. What we want is men of muscle, of capital and of energy.

Washington Cor. St. Louis Democrat. THE WHITE HOUSE—A STORY OF LOVE IN THE KITCHEN. "I was hearing plentiful gossip upon 'old' Washington, the other day, from an old lady resident, when she alighted upon this anecdote of romance, associated with the official terms of John Quincy Adams, Mrs. Adams was a haughty woman, and her favorite nephew was one Ben Johnson Hellen, a young student or lawyer. Hellen going often to the White House, saw there as a domestic or servant of his aunt a very beautiful Irish girl. Mrs. Adams suspected nothing of his susceptibility, till one Sunday night it was reported to her that her nephew was escorting the beautiful 'Biddy' home from church. She upbraided the girl severely, who replied that she could not prevent Mr. Hellen from following her in the street. The young man was debarred from seeing the girl for a good while, till one day she disappeared. Mrs. Hellen had married her. She lived in retirement in this city many years, and her children rank among the most excellent and reputable citizens here.

ATTACKED BY A SQUIREL.—Last Saturday, in this vicinity, two boys, Frank and James, were in the woods getting wood, when Frank discovered a large fox squirrel making towards him, in an angry manner; Frank ran and the squirrel pursued him growling most furiously. Frank is a brave boy, but he relied upon his feet, and made excellent time, but the squirrel was close after him, showing his teeth most angrily which caused Frank to follow manfully, when James ran to his rescue, and then was the exciting time; a squirrel after Frank and James' after squirrel. Frank made for his horse and dodged around him awhile, but thought there was no time for swapping horses, so James got sufficiently close to strike the squirrel and kill him which ended the chase. This was a very singular circumstance but nevertheless, it is true.

"Railroad" Accident.—We learn that Elwood Fisher, one of the hands employed in the construction of the N. W. N. C. Railroad, met with a serious accident on Tuesday morning last, by being thrown from a mule and having his foot badly crushed.

### COMING SOUTH.

We have information that prospecting companies are passing through Washington City almost daily, on their way South. They are represented to be general men of ample means, and are anxious to invest a part of their capital in Southern enterprises. Some wish to buy land and others to establish manufacturing, and others to engage in anything that promises the most profitable results.

Get into your Hole.—During the "late unpleasantness" there was a cool, unquenchable sort of a Yankee, named Gunn, who ran a stage in Western Virginia over a route much frequented by "whackers. His friends frequently told him that some day he would get smashed up and gobbled, and he had better give up his job, but all to no purpose, for he kept on driving the stage and pocketing the greenbacks. So three of them concluded they would give him a good scare that he would accept as a warning. In coming from stable late at night, he always took a short cut across an old burying ground. To this point they repaired.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION IN TENNESSEE.—A lengthy correspondence on national politics is published in the Tennessee papers between Senator Fowler and ex-Governor Henry S. Foote. Mr. Fowler takes ground on the suffrage question, and earnestly favors the immediate enfranchisement of Tennessee "rebels." He speaks in strong and complimentary terms of the loyalty of the people of Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, and contends that a lenient policy on the part of the dominant party is all that is required to bring about full returns to peace and prosperity. He predicts that Gen. Grant's administration will be eminently liberal and conservative, and its first and leading mission will be to bring about universal suffrage. He further says that if the radicals of Tennessee fail to move in the work of enfranchising these proscribed fellows, they will have ceased to form a part of the great republican party of the nation. Gov. Foote promises that the people of the South, and especially of Tennessee, will thoroughly co-operate with the administration if it inaugurates any thing like a forbearing and magnanimous policy, and he predicts none but the extremists of political parties will fail to support impartial suffrage. Both the Senator and Governor think this the great panacea for existing evils.

Sale of General Grant's House.—We understand that Messrs. Kilbourn & Latta, real estate brokers, corner of Seventh and F streets, have sold to Mayor S. J. Bowen the residence of General Grant, on I street, for \$240,000. This fine house is one of the three known as the Douglas Row, one of the other two being occupied by ex-Mayor Wallace, and the other as the Protestant Orphan Asylum. They were originally built by Senators Douglas, Rice and Brock-inde, some three years ago.

Fine Pork.—A. F. Fogle, Esq., of this place has furnished us with the weight of a lot of nineteen hogs, about 9 months old, slaughtered a few days since; as follows: 360, 287, 250, 283, 335, 300, 370, 263, 251, 276, 207, 294, 315, 320, 397, 370, 270, 245, 316.—Total, 5,588.—Salem Press.

### End of the World.—A German has discovered that this globe we live in is gradually shrinking, by the process of cooling, which has been going on since its creation. In the lapse of time the contraction will draw all the continents below the water level except a very few high points, which will be the residence of such few human beings as may be able to get on them. These human beings will be modified and transformed to suit the changed condition of things. But for the satisfaction of the present generation it is stated that these changes cannot be effected in less than five hundred millions of centuries.

The Immigration Convention.—The adjourned meeting of Immigration Convention assembled in this place on Saturday last, which was very largely attended and quite a harmonious session was the result. Dr. S. S. Satchwell presided, and Messrs. Wm. Robinson, of Wayne, and Major John W. Dunham, of Wilson, acted as Secretaries. Eighteen counties were represented, and it goes to prove that the people of the Old North State are determined to raise her prostrate condition and place her once more on the pinnacle of prosperity. The farmer has learned long since that colored labor cannot be relied upon, intoxicated by being raised to "equality" with the white race, they think that it is time that they should suspend labor. But they have been cutting their own throats—the planter has learned that white labor is more reliable, and furthermore, by the introduction of German and Swiss immigrants, his lands can be worked by men of integrity.

At the meeting held on Saturday, a permanent association was formed, to be called the "Eastern North Carolina Immigration Association," when the following named gentlemen were elected as permanent officers of the Convention, viz:—Dr. S. S. Satchwell, of New Hanover, President; Jas. S. Woodard, of Wilson and T. H. Atkinson, of Johnston, Vice-Presidents, Jordan Stone, of Halifax, Corresponding and Records Secretary, E. B. Borden, of Wayne, Treasurer, Hon. W. T. Doyche, of Wayne, Dr. A. J. DeRosier, and Col. S. L. Fremont, of New Hanover, Executive Committee.

OUR RAILROAD.—The efficient and gentlemanly Chief Engineer, Mr. J. C. Turner, with a full corps of active and capable assistants, are now industriously and energetically at work surveying the Western Division and French Broad Branch of our road. The energy already displayed by the President and Directors of the Western Division is a guaranty that the work will be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as possible.—All concerned have our most cordial co-operation, in everything that will facilitate the good work. As soon as possible we shall visit the boys in their Camps, and "report progress," as committees say to the Legislature the day after they have been to a big dinner, or Posaun supper where John Barleycorn held forth promiscuously.

To Purify a Room.—Set a pitcher of water in a room, and in few hours it will have absorbed all the respired gases in the room, the air of which will become purer, but the water will be filthy. The colder the water is the greater the capacity to contain these gases. At ordinary temperatures a pint of water will contain a pint of carbonic acid gas and several pints of ammonia. The capacity is nearly doubled by reducing the water to the temperature of ice. Hence, water kept in a room while it is always unfit for use. For the same reason the water from a pump should always be pumped out in the morning before any of it is used. Impure water is more injurious than impure air.

The United States squadron, with Commodore Mahan, has departed for America.

### FROM RICHMOND—U.S. CIRCUIT COURT.

Richmond, Dec. 3, M.—In the United States Court, to-day, (Chief Justice Chase on the Bench,) the argument commenced on the motion to quash the indictment against Mr. Davis. Robert Ould, counsel for Mr. Davis argued that the Fourteenth Amendment punished Mr. Davis by disfranchisement and that this punishment was shown by the terms of the American people as a merciful substitute for the penalties of death and confiscation contained in the Constitution; that the punishment of Mr. Davis commenced upon the date of the adoption of the Fourteenth Article, and he cannot now be punished in any other way; that the latest expression of the will of the people in their Constitution is the law and repeals all former provisions made for those who engaged in the rebellion; that the Fourteenth Article is the latest expression intended expressly for and covering cases of all engaged in the late rebellion; and that no man can be punished twice for the same offence.

FROM BOSTON. Boston, Dec. 3, M.—General Grant was met by several business men, on yesterday. He visits various manufacturing establishments to-day.

FROM WASHINGTON. Washington, Dec. 3, M.—The Supervising Architect of the Treasury reports in favor of the alteration and repair of the Alexandria, Charleston, Mobile, Norfolk, New Orleans, Richmond, Savannah, and Wilmington Custom Houses. National Banks, acting as Depositories, are required to keep open until the Collectors of Revenue can close the daily cash account. Judge Fullerton had a consultation with McCulloch, to-day, regarding revenue frauds. The Government loses a quarter of a million by the fire of Fort Lafayette. Only the walls are standing. Early legislation, favoring the Southern Pacific Railroad through Texas and Arizona, is expected.

FROM RICHMOND. Richmond, Dec. 3, P. M.—After re-assembling the Court, Gov. H. H. Wells, and District Attorney Beach, for the Government, replied, contending that the fourteenth amendment merely created a disability and not a penalty which is the subject of a Judicial sentence and was not inconsistent with the Act against treason. The amendment was prospective and could not reasonably be construed as intending to repeal existing punishments for past and future treasons. The Court then adjourned. Dana closes to-morrow for the Government and O'Connor for Davis. The corner stone monument of the Confederate dead, at Hollywood Cemetery, was laid to-day.

FROM ST. LOUIS. St. Louis, Dec. 3, P. M.—Four hundred cars passed the temporary bridge over the Missouri at Omaha.

FROM FLORIDA. Tallahassee, Dec. 3, P. M.—In the Supreme Court, to-day, Attorney General Neek's motion to make the rule nisi absolute, was granted. Lt. Gov. Gleason, appeared by Counsel and waived process and filed a demurrer.

### From the Richmond Dispatch. DEEP PLOWING.

It is certainly amusing, while not without instruction to listen to a debate of elderly farmers on plowing. They are not educated up to the time, and are not yet freed from the influences peculiar to the condition of the country at the time, they imbibed the rudiments of agricultural knowledge. Virgin soil was then ready whenever the farmer chose to clear away the forest, and that was deemed cheaper than to attempt the restoration of exhausted fields. The great object then was to cultivate the largest surface, and thus make up for any deficit there might be for the want of manuring and proper cultivation.

It is not wonderful, therefore, that there are now amongst very intelligent elderly gentlemen many advocates for shallow plowing, and many who say good crops of wheat cannot be grown on deeply plowed land. The most laughable suggestion of these gentlemen, however, is that the diminution of the crops of wheat is attributable to deep plowing! As there never has been any deep plowing to speak of amongst us, this remark would seem to be sharp irony if it came from any other source.

We heard a very entertaining discussion not long since on this subject. One pretty successful farmer fought deep plowing with extraordinary earnestness and vim; another introduced a variation in advocating plowing in wet land. He declared that he had seen the water following his plow as the turned up the globe, and that he found benefit rather than injury from turning up the soil in that condition. But these teachings are growing fewer in number daily, and the coming school of farmers will turn over a new leaf.

In Virginia we do a great deal of plowing in some winters, and much has been or may have been done this fall. The farmer who plows deep during this season will be surely a convert to that mode of plowing. He will find his land in better condition for early movement next spring, no matter what kind of weather there may be. He cannot go to an extreme in this respect. He may put in four horses, and he will find that he has lost nothing, but gained largely, by it. Even in the matter of surface there is not a great difference between the area plowed by four horses with one plow and the same number with two plows. But the area plowed by the four horses with one plow will produce more than that plowed by the four with two plows. Try it who may.

Now, the land that is plowed deep will absorb more moisture than that which is plowed shallow. The moisture descends to the bed below, and is there held in reserve for a period of dryness, when it is brought up by surface evaporation. In that way the crops upon it are supplied and kept green in a season when a neighboring field that is plowed shallow will have burnt up. At the same time, the growth on deeply plowed land does not suffer as much from excessive moisture as that on the shallow fields. The deep fallow has greater space and capacity for absorption, and the roots of the crops are not so drowned with wetness as in the shallow fields. The shallow kind of plowed land is soon filled to repletion with water, and will bare away as growing, leaving the surface bare to the hard pan beneath. Thus, again, like a thin cake on a griddle, it will be heated through and baked. Not so the deeply plowed land. It cannot be so easily lifted up and flung away by the water, nor will it bake, and burn and dry up the sources of nutriment to plants, as the thinly-broken soil does. But it will maintain a condition of life and healthiness, and continual supply of moisture to plants, in a drought that will burn up the crops on the land not so plowed.

Any one may readily see that besides the advantages to the growing crop upon the deep plowed land there can be no question that such tillage tends constantly to the improvement of the land itself—increasing its fertility, strength and quality; and such plowing, with prudent successions and manuring, will increase the productivity of the land to an almost fabulous extent; while the shallow plowed land must ever deteriorate in spite of manuring. The farmer must get back each year all he puts on it; for the fertilizer is gone before the second.