THE OLD NORTH STATE.

Monday Evening, April 16, 1866.

LEWIS M. HANES, Editor.

A Second Daniel Come to Judgment.

We are informed on the authority of one of the Washington correspondents of the revolutionary press that Judge Underwood, of Virginia, a universal place-hunter and standing candidate for the Virginia Senatorship, has lately made what is called an important decision in Virginia; his conclusion being that the rebellion still exists, the *habeas corpus* has not been restored in any of the Southern States, and martial law is still supreme. This effort of Dogberry wisdom was developed in the case of a man named Thomas Javin, of Alexandria, who, for an ordinary assault upon one of the favored descendants of Ham, was fined by an impartial Provost Marshal the extravagant sum of $500, and sentenced to imprisonment until it should be paid.

An application for a writ of habeas corpus was made by the counsel of Javin, under the supposed assurance of protection of the late peace proclamation. The prisoner was brought before Judge Underwood under the writ, which was returned by the officers of General Augur stating all the facts of the case, and adding that he had been held under military authority by order of the President of the United States—all of which was duly certified on the back of the writ. The hearing consumed six hours, after which Judge Underwood decided in substance that the peace proclamation did not apply to such cases, and remanded the prisoner to custody. He held that the proclamation, in excepting Texas, practically declared that the rebellion continued to exist. As long, therefore, as Texas was excepted, the writ could not apply to such cases as that of Javin, even if the proclamation was legal.

We clip the foregoing from the Baltimore *Transcript* for the purpose of making some comments. What the consequences of the late peace proclamation of the President would be, we thought was too clear to admit of any doubt. The Constitution of the United States provides that "the writ of *habeas corpus* shall never be suspended, except when in cases of insurrection or invasion the public safety may require it." An insurrection had existed in eleven states for more than four years, but the President in his recent proclamation declares that the insurrection in ten of those States is at an *end*. Certainly no portion of the country is now invaded. Then surely the writ of habeas corpus is restored in the ten Sfates in which the insurrection is declared to be at an end. This is a logical sequence of the President's proclamation. It was not necessary for him to say in so many words, "the writ of habeas corpus is hereby restored in said States." The proclamation was made by competent authority, and it establishes the *fact* that in the ten States referred to, the contingencies upon which *alone* the writ of *habeas corpus can* be suspended have ceased to exist, and having ceased to exist, the writ is necessarily restored.

But Judge Underwood has made the wonderful discovery that because Texas was not mentioned in the proclamation, that therefore the rebellion continues to exist in Virginia. Strange logic this; we cannot comprehend it. In Texas, we admit that it still continues, technically, to exist, and that consequently the writ has not been restored in that State. But if the proclamation was made by competent authority, and of this we do not entertain a doubt, the insurrection has ceased to exist in the States enumerated therein, and the writ has been restored in those States; for it would be absurd to say that because the people of one State were in insurrection against the government, therefore the writ of *habeas corpus* is suspended in eleven States where there is no insurrection. Yet this is, in effect, what this *learned* (?) Judge says. We are no lawyer, and therefore it may be thought presumptuous in us to criticise the opinion of a Federal Judge; but it seems to us that the case is so clear that nothing but common sense is wanted to enable any man to understand it.

Since writing the above, we see that Judge Connelly F. Trigg, of the United States Circuit and District Courts in Tennessee, has decided in the case of General Rucker, that the proclamation *does abolish* military supremacy, and that all cases of Treason will hereafter go to the civil authorities. We presume no one will question that Mr. Justice Trigg is at least *equally* competent with Judge Underwood to decide the question.

We find the following in the Louisville *Democrat*, of the 24th ult.:

'CHOLERA AT KEY WEST, FLORIDA.—The following is an extract from a private letter from an officer in the army, dated New Orleans, March 13.

"Official news that the cholera has broken out at Key West has reached us. Assistant Taylor and sixteen men are down with it. A strict quarantine is established below New Orleans, and vessels from Havana and Key west are subject to twenty-one day's quarantine.

"The pestilence is slowly but surely approaching. Having already reached the main land of our Southern coast from the West Indies, we may soon expect its progress northward. Let the people of our cities and towns prepare for it. Is Louisville ready?

IN WARREN.—Reuben McDowd, a negro, was tried this morning before Judge Fowle, upon charge of stealing a pair of shoes from M. Rosenbaum, and the jury found him guilty. His punishment was assessed at thirty-nine lashes on the bare back, which was duly administered by the sheriff."—*Raleigh, (N. C.) Progress, April 3.*

In view of such occurrences as these—quite common in the South—we think the civil rights bill has not become a law a day too soon. A gentleman who was present and witnessed the execution of the above sentence writes a friend in this city that it was "the most horrible thing I ever saw.—The negro was made to take off all his clothes. The sheriff then took a cowhide and gave him thirty-nine lashes, bringing the blood every time, and using up two cowhines. I saw another whipped to-day. I understand that they are going to cut the ear off one to-morrow, which is another way they have of punishing here." It is time that American civilization was thoroughly purged of these relics of barbarism. Certain sections of the civil rights bill, if applied to the judge who pronounced this sentence and the sheriff who executed it, would have a salutary effect upon both. No stronger argument could be adduced to prove the necessity of this measure than the occurrence related above.—*Washington Chronicle.*

The law of this State provides that all males, both white and black, shall be publicly whipped, when convicted of the crime of larceny. Since our civil courts have resumed their operations, persons of both colors have been whipped for stealing. The law makes no distinction. If Reuben McDowd had been a white man he would have been punished in the same way. This has been a custom with our people for many generations, and if this generation be a barbarous one, so was that to which William Gaston and Nathaniel Macon belonged. We believe that when a person, black or white, is guilty of stealing, he deserves to be whipped for it; and that a person who wilfully and wickedly commits murder, ought to be hanged. But the people of our State have no choice in this respect. They have no penitentiary or houses of correction, and they must either whip thieves or turn them loose on society. The demoralization occasioned by the war has been such, that if the latter should be done, all the farmers' horses would be stolen, and indeed no species of property would be safe. Our people are not able at this time to build houses of correction. They are barely able to pay their taxes and live. Their civil courts cannot even pay witnesses and jurors for their attendance; and we know that, at the last term of Wake County Court, (formerly one of the wealthiest counties in the State,) there was not money in the Treasury to pay a mechanic for making some pine tables for one of the officers. We beg our friends who reside in more favored regions, to bear with us in our poverty. We are as solicitous as any of them can be to uphold the character of "American civilization." We regret that some of our ancient customs, and the poverty that prevents us from erecting a penitentiary or houses of correction for the punishment of crime, should subject us to uncharitable and injurious imputations. BUT OUR LAWS, SO LONG AS THEY ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, AND SO LONG AS THEY BEAR EQUALLY IN THEIR PUNISHMENTS ON WHITE AND BLACK, DO NOT CONCERN CITIZENS OF OTHER STATES. Our cotemporary of the Chronicle would punish the Judge who directed this colored man to be whipped, and the Sheriff for whipping him. The civil rights bill would not do that. The colored man was punished just as a white man would have been, and as white men have been, recently; and this is all the bill referred to requires.

But the correspondent of the Chronicle, who has no doubt witnessed many things more "horrible" than the whipping of a miserable thief, is shocked at the report that "they are going to cut the ear off one to-morrow." Well, the ear has not been cut off. Every body still has his ears, and some people have very long ears. True, one of the punishments for perjury in this State is cropping; but this punishment is seldom if ever inflicted. We have been living here and looking about us for more than forty years, and we have not yet seen any one with cropped ears.

We learn that the colored man referred to was well whipped, as white thieves are well whipped; but the correspondent is mistaken in saying he was "made to take off all his clothes." He was only divested of his shirt.

Correspondents of Northern newspapers are prone to paint the dark side of Southern society. They are unwilling to see any "silver lining" to the murky cloud which is ever before them. The writer of this will give them a couple of instances of his own knowledge, which occurred at the February Term of Wake County Court, and will prove that our people have some *little* regard for the colored folks. A negro boy who had stolen some cotton yarn was brought before the Court. He confessed his offence. His former master plead for him, and offered to pay the costs if the Court would release him without punishment. *This the Court did*, admonishing him to go his way and steal no more. The Court might have had him whipped; but, as he was a mere youth, as he seemed to be penitent for his crime, and as his former master interceded for him, and promised that he would have an eye upon him and endeavor to make him an honest, industrious man, he was permitted to go unpunished, as we have stated. The other case was that of a grown negro man, who had been sent to the jail of an adjoining county on the charge of larceny. One of his relatives came into Court and begged for him. A couple of white men of character offered to go his bail. The Court made an order to send thirty miles for him at the expense of the County, in order that he might give bail and go to work. But meanwhile he broke jail, came back to Raleigh, and went to the Freedman's Bureau and *got protection*. We have before us the protection paper he received from a subordinate officer of the Bureau, which says, among other things, "Any person violating this order will be arrested and dealt with in the severest and most exemplary manner." After some words between this officer and the sheriff of the county, this negro man was again arrested by the latter, but he was bailed, and we suppose is now at work.

We trust the Chronicle will do our people the justice to lay these two cases before its readers. They occurred under the eye of the writer of this, who is Chairman of Wake County Court.

We think we know something of the people of North Carolina, and we feel sure there is no disposition among our judges, our juries, or our members of the legal profession to do injustice to free people of color. At the same Term of the Superior Court of this County at which this negro man was whipped, a negro woman was tried for the crime of arson. She had a fair and impartial trial. Four counsel, learned in the law, appeared for her, and two of them addressed the jury in her behalf in an able and impressive manner. We have often listened to one of her counsel, Ex-Governor Bragg, but we have never heard him make a more effective speech than he did in this case. Respect was shown, and full weight was given to the testimony of colored persons given in the case. The general belief was that the woman was guilty. It is more than probable the jury thought so; but her guilt was not legally proved beyond all doubt, and, giving her the benefit of this doubt, they returned a verdict of not guilty.—*Raleigh Standard.*

The Austrian-Prussian Controversy.

The quarrel now going on between Prussia and Austria over the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, appears, by the latest European advices, to become more obstinate daily. There was an obscure rumor, a short while ago, that the Austrian Emperor had written a conciliatory and friendly letter to the King of Prussia; but the truth of this is denied in the latest intelligence from Vienna.

The tone of public opinion in Berlin leans decidedly toward anticipations of the declaration of war on the part of Austria, based on the straitened finances of that power. The threatening attitude assumed by Prussia, in the matter of her expressed determination to annex the two Duchies, which is the source of all the trouble, compels Austria, resolved on her part to make the occupation of the territory in dispute by Prussia a *casus belli*, to maintain a much larger standing army than she would otherwise do. The condition of the Austrian exchequer will not permit a lengthy armed inaction; and hence it would not be at all surprising if, at any moment, the Prussian Government should receive the Emperor's ultimatum, to abandon at once all pretensions upon the Duchies or prepare for hostilities.

By the Convention of Gastein, Holstein became subject to the authority of Austria; but, with the Prussian territory lying between her and the Duchies in dispute, and adjoining the latter, her hold upon Schleswig-Holstein must be considered very feeble. Austria has declared her willingness to abandon the Duchies to a ruler who has the best claim to the throne; but she has not, thus far, consented, and doubtless will not consent, that Prussia should usurp that ruler's right.

The question of the friendship or hostility of the minor German States has not yet entered into the quarrel. No conference upon the subject of the differences has yet been had with the German Diet, for the simple reason that the dispute between the two great Powers has not yet taken a definite shape. That they will eventually be drawn into the whirlpool, in case of hostilities, is more than probable, and that they will "come out small" in the articulating process (to borrow a simile from Mr. Silas Wegg's friend, Mr. Venus,) is also not more than possible. One of the most singular results of a war of this complicated nature would be the extinction of all the little German Dukes, Grand Dukes, Margraves, Palatines, Princes, etc., who now exercise a kingly rule upon their country estates, and the summary absorbing of them into one of two great empires, including the whole German race.

In case of a recourse to arms, the military preponderance would rest with Austria. She has at present over four hundred thousand men under arms, and can increase it by another hundred thousand, if necessary. This force she can use effectively, if pushed to the point of making an issue, for the reason that neutrality in a struggle between her and her adversary has been promised by the other great European Powers, including Italy. With fair play assured to them, Prussia and Austria thus stand before the eyes of the world apparently bent upon a bloody conflict—the former supporting her claims to respect upon the reputation of the great Frederick, and upon her military training in the Napoleonic wars; the latter founding her pretensions upon the memories of that Empire whose sceptre, wielded by Kaiser Barbarossa, of Christian memory, held in fief the Burggraff of Prussia, and cast a shadow of authority over the whole of Germany.—*N. Y. News.*

A genuine case of Asiatic Cholera is reported to have occurred in Richmond yesterday about noon. The victim was Nellie Palmer, daughter of John J. Palmer, Esq., the present public printer, a beautiful young lady, possessing many accomplishments. She came from Winchester during the war. She was taken mysteriously ill at the residence of Mr. David J. Saunders on Sunday night, and died yesterday morning. Dr. Coleman, who was early in, pronounced it an undoubted case of cholera, the dreaded visitor we have so often heard of in our far-off borders. We trust the physican is mistaken in the character of the disease; but 'forewarned is forearmed.' The subject was alluded to in the City Council last evening.—*Examiner, 10th.*

From the National Intelligencer.

WE OBSERVE in the discussions of the press concerning the provisions of the civil rights bill—now a law, in consequence of its passage over the veto by a vote in each House of two-thirds—and especially concerning the manner in which the objections made by the President may operate to his embarrassment as the Executive, some looseness of apprehension that ought to be corrected.

1. Objections to a bill are not to be taken to imply that the evils which are possibly, or even probably, incident to its practical working are inevitably to happen.—For example, it is a very becoming objection from the Executive that a proposed law lodges in his hands a dangerous power. The very proffer of the objection is a good assurance, when the measure has gone into effect, that such an evil is not to happen.

2. If, in the opinion of the President, a proposed measure contains unconstitutional provisions, and they nevertheless go upon the statute book, it is not obligatory upon him, at the risk of stultification, to refuse in advance of occasion to execute them. The interpretation of statutes comes after their enactment, and arises upon actual instances, in whatever form circumstances offer them. Such instances may never arise as shall require the decision. When they do, it should be made upon all the lights accessible, and upon an official responsibility as little restricted as the Constitution will allow.

3. When a competent authority has declared any particular provision of a statute void by reason of unconstitutionality, such a decision does not avoid the whole law, nor any other part of it than that which was concerned in the case passed upon. It is true that the several provisions in most laws are so inter-dependent, one upon the other, that there is generally somewhere in the statute one which, if found to fail, renders virtually null and all the others. But this is not always the case. An ordnance, for example, may establish a fire department, and repeal all previous laws on the subject. It may also provide a religious test for membership. The latter provision would be void. But that would not affect the remainder of the statute.

4. It is common to speak of a bill in Congress as 'unconstitutional'—unfortunately, too commonly a justifiable opinion. The word is to be understood as applied, not actually to the several provisions and sanctions of the bill, but to some of them only—that particular one, perhaps, whatever it be, for the sake of which the bill is supposed to have been brought forward. In this view, it is not incorrect to speak of a bill or a law as 'unconstitutional,' though some carelessness of speech on these subjects has led to popular misapprehension, which at such times as the present goes to swell the popular agitation.

A Family of Seven Persons Murdered—Particulars of the Tragedy.

Philadelphia, April 11.—The most horrible tragedy ever known to have occurred in this city came to light this afternoon. An entire family, consisting of Christopher Deering, aged 38; his wife, aged 30; Miss Kealing, a lady cousin, aged 45, and his four children, named James, aged 8; Thomas, aged 5; Annie, aged 4, and Emma, aged 14 months, were found brutally murdered upon their premises, on Jone's lane, near the Point House road, in the First Ward. All the persons named had their throats cut and their heads horribly mangled. The murder is supposed to have been committed on Saturday, as Mr. Deering was last seen on the morning of that day. The mother and her four children were found in one corner of the barn, covered with dirt and hay. The father and Miss Kealing were found lying close to the outside of the barn, and like the others, covered with dirt and hay. The discovery of the murder was not made till about 2 o'clock this morning. The bodies were in a partially decomposed state, showing evidently that several days had elapsed since the perpetration of the attrocious deed.

Mr. Deering was a cattle dealer, and greatly respected by his neighbors. His residence is in the suburbs of the city, where houses are some distance apart, which accounts for the affair not being discovered before. It is confidently believed that the person who committed the horrible deed is a young German about twenty-five years of age, who has been in the employ of Mr. Deering for several weeks past. He has not been seen about the place since Friday.

The instrument used in murdering the family was a very sharp axe, subsequently found in the house. With this he struck them in the head, and afterward cut their throats. A small boy, about fourteen years of age, who was employed by Mr. Deering, is also missing. He is also supposed to have been murdered, and his body thrown down a well on the premises, or into one of the many ditches which abound in the neighborhood. Further developments will be made to-morrow. The murderer has not been captured up to the time of the present writing. The horrible affair has created great commotion throughout the entire city.

IMPOSING EXAMPLE OF A STATESMAN.—When about to vote on the passage of the Civil Rights bill, Mr. Doolittle made a most eloquent and powerful speech in support of the President's restoration policy. In the course of his remarks he read the instructions of the Legislature of Wisconsin, commanding him and his colleague to vote for the Civil Rights bill in order to pass it over the President's veto. These instructions, said Mr. Doolittle, I shall disregard. He then proceeded to give his reasons for this course, as telegraphed in the Congressional report, and thus continued:

"I know, sir, that if I disregard these instructions, and vote to sustain the President's policy, that act will terminate my public life. Be it so. I would not sit here for an hour with the weight upon my conscience which I would have if I failed in this hour in what I conceive to be my duty to my country. I respect the opinions of the men who have constituted themselves my instructors: but they have been deceived and misinformed. If they were here, they would think and act differently."

The South Carolina Courts.

The Governor of the State of South Carolina and the late Provisional Governor, Mr. Perry, have represented to the President that the Superior Courts of that State will not administer justice under the State laws, even against white men who were criminals, because of the interference of the military authority under Gen. Sickles. It seems that by the criminal code of the State, white men are liable for petit larceny, horse-thieving, &c., to the penalty of thirty-nine stripes laid on the bare back. There is no penitentiary in the State, and the Legislature adjourned without creating that institution, which is so necessary for all the purposes of civilization. A case came to the State court sitting in Charleston of aggravated crimes, and, upon conviction, the criminal, who was a white man, and to the manner born, was sentenced to receive nine-and-thirty lashes. The ceremony was about to be performed, when Major General Sickles forbade it in an official order.

As the matter now stands criminals of the white and native race cannot be punished in South Carolina according to her own laws, and, as the Legislature is not in session, no other code can be provided.

The President, in this emergency, is urged to abrogate General Sickles' order. What the President will do in the case is yet unknown. The military order will perhaps be enforced, and the State left to devise some mode of punishment better adapted to the ideas of the age.—*National Intelligencer.*

By direction of the Quartermaster General, Brevet Major James Gleason, Quartermaster, U. S. A., will start in a day or two to make a tour of inspection of all the battle-fields of Virginia, for the purpose of ascertaining, as far as possible, the number and location of all the Union dead that have been buried on the fields. It is the intention of the Government, as we have stated, to have all these remains brought to the Arlington Cemetery for interment.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

This action, upon the part of the Government, is eminently proper. The government owes a debt of gratitude to the men, who fell in the struggle to maintain its supremacy, and that consideration, to say nothing of the claims of humanity, renders it becoming that their remains should be respected and honored.

The same reasons appeal with equal force to the States of the South in behalf of their dead. When those States called, their sons recognized the authority and rushed to arms at the summons. They believed that they were perilling their bodies in defence of a good cause. They sealed that faith with their lives—lives very precious to relatives, friends and communities. Each State of the South, therefore, owes to its good name, by every obligation of justice, pride, gratitude and humanity, to guard with pious reverence, so far as it can, the ashes of its gallant dead.—*Sentinel*

[OFFICIAL.]

CIRCULAR TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS IN REFERENCE TO APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICE.

It is right and proper that the Government of the United States should give earnest and substantial evidence of its just appreciation of the services of the patriotic men who, when the life of the nation was imperilled, entered the army and navy to preserve the integrity of the Union, defend the Government, and maintain and perpetuate, unimpaired, its free institutions. It is, therefore, directed—

First. That in appointments to office in the several Executive Departments of the General Government, and the various branches of the public service connected with said departments, preference shall be given to such meritorious and honorably discharged soldiers and sailors—particularly those who have been disabled by wounds received or disease contracted in the line of duty—as may possess the proper qualifications.

Second. That in all promotions in said Departments, and the several branches of the public service connected therewith, such persons shall have preference, when equally eligible and qualified, over those who have not faithfully and honorably served in the land or naval forces of the United States.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

Executive Mansion, April 7, 1866.

PEOPLE STARVING IN ALABAMA.—The Huntsville *Independent* contains an appeal in behalf of the people of Marshal county, Alabama, who are represented as starving. The Judge of the court of probate for that county certifies to the following:

'Of helpless, indigent, people, without any means of support, including white and colored, there are twenty-one hundred and eighty persons—women, children and infirm men. Of persons who are able to work, but have no means to purchase supplies for carrying on farming operations, there are families embracing about two thousand persons white and black. Of the residue of the population, not twenty have means more than adequate to their wants. According to the census last taken, in 1860, the population of the county, white and colored, was about eleven thousand, and at this time is not probably more than nine thousand five hundred persons.'

SMALL POX.—We are happy to be able to state, on the authority of Dr. R. S. Primrose, city physician, that the small pox is rapidly abating in this city, and the hope and belief is that in the course of a few weeks it will have entirely disappeared. Still, we again urge upon those who have not been vaccinated not to neglect it. Any one of them may be the very last case. The city physician can be found daily at the office of the city marshal.—*Commercial.*

THE SHOEMAKER.

A shoemaker sat on his work-bench sat,
With a shoe about half done;
His figure was short, and his hair was gray,
And his bright eyes twinkled in such a way,
That you would have thought he was only at play,
Or having a bit of fun.

All labor, said he, appears to be
A part of my honored trade;
They may dig or preach, or hew, or teach;
Whatever they do, you will see in each
Something that's always within my reach,
Or my daily custom made.

The parson may smile as down each aisle
His eloquence sonorous rolls;
He can only believe, when his sermon is o'er,
And silence broods o'er the pews once more,
That he merely performs what I've done before,
For I am a curer of soles.

The doctor delights, as he knowingly writes
A prescription for pain or smart,
To think that for aches he can give an ease,
And also to think of the coming foes;
I'm sure my profession with his agrees;
I practice the healing art.

An LL.D. or higher degrees
Of scholastic lore commanding,
May aspire to fame in some science high,
And puzzle wise heads with logic dry;
And yet he cannot do more than I,
To improve the understanding.

The merchant at ease, sends over the seas,
And commerce lends aid to his call;
But tempest may rally to rend his sails,
And his argosies sink under wintery gales;
Like me he his fortune sadly bewails,
Whenever he loses his awl.

Though hard I may stitch, and never get rich,
Yet some of more means I can beat;
For though of their wealth they may make a great show,
And scatter their income as fast as they go,
There's one thing that I can do oftener I know,
And that is, make both ends meet.

When ages have sped, and among the dead
All other professions have passed,
I all alone in my glory shall be;
No other employment will any one see;
It must be so, for you all will agree,
My profession is one of the last.

GENERAL NEWS.

The payments of the direct tax under the act of August 5, 1861, for the first quarter of 1866, ending March 31, were as follows: Virginia, $22,270,17; North Carolina, $37,310; South Carolina $10,297,45; Tennessee, $40,000; Arkansas, $15,230. Total $125,107 62.

Brig. Gen. Buckner, late of the Confederate States army, was arraigned in the United States Circuit Court, at Memphis, on the 6th instant, on a charge of treason, and held in $10,000 bail to answer at the next term of court.

The number of vetoes heretofore sent in is as follows: by Washington 2, by Madison 6, by Monroe 1, by Jackson 9, by Tyler 3, by Polk 3, by Buchanan 1, by Johnson 2. All of these were sustained, save an unimportant one of Tyler's and the last of Johnson's.

The Marion (S. C.) *Star* says that on the night of the 1st a portion of the United States Garrison there set fire to the house of Kate Lewis, a courtezan, burned up the school room of the free negroes, and beat several of their colored brethren unmercifully.

It is estimated, says the Chicago Times, that one thousand persons were killed or wounded by the late tornado in Pope and Johnson counties, in Illinois.

The first Conneticut river shad of the season was caught in Wethersfield cove, on Tuesday, and sold for $3.

One hundred and seventy-five negroes voted at the election in Madison, Wisconsin, a few days ago, under the recent decision of the State Supreme Court.

The Government is about to commence the rebuilding of Fort Sumter.

The death of a Mormon Bishop is thus announced: He was thirty-seven years old, and leaves an interesting family of eleven wives and forty-seven small children to mourn his death.

The Edgefield (South Carolina) *Advertiser* of Wednesday last reports the arrest of some dozen or more prominent citizens in that vicinity by the military authorities, and their incarceration at Columbia in that State.

The Gainesville (Florida) *Era* thinks that State will soon have a superabundant population, as emigrants are pouring in from all parts of the world. It bids them welcome, and assures them of a kind reception, particularly if they bring money.

THE FROZEN WELL OF BRANDON, VT.—The *Freeman* thus speaks of this remarkable well:

This well has existed seven winters and six summers. Its depth is 41 feet. The water is from two and a half to three feet in depth. A coat of ice is formed on the wall of the well the whole depth of the water. The ice becomes so thick in winter as to render it difficult to dip up water with a common bucket. The surface of the water also freezes over every night during the winter. Ice has thus formed four inches in one night, the present winter. The owner is obliged to descend into the well and cut open the ice every morning in winter, in order to draw water. As spring advances, the surface of the water ceases to freeze, but the ice remains on the well around the water, diminishing in quantity as summer advances, but does not entirely disappear, some remaining until the next winter's freezing commences. The well yields an abundant supply of water.