New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE

PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)

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NEW ORLEANS:

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1864.

Sales at Auction Yesterday.

By R. T. Montgomery, at King's stable, Barone street, between Ond No. 1 mules; at 11 o'clock, at 89 Gaiety street, 10 bales cotton.

By McCowen & Landry, at 10 o'clock, at 67 Magazine street, trunks.

By E. M. Jacobs, at 10 o'clock, corner Royal and Bourbon streets, stock furniture.

By the Sheriff, at 12 o'clock, at Merchants Exchange, valuable property and place of a lot of ground.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—For Scorbutic diathesis, purpled eyes, blotched skin, sallow face, and blurred local affections, these medicines prove a sovereign remedy, lighting the partial wreck in safety, till nature repairs the storm and the shaking frame is manned and fully equipped.

D. R. Murphy, auctioneer, sells this day, on account of whom it may concern, at 10 o'clock A. M., in store No. 47 Magazine street, eighteen ladies and gentlemen's trunks.

R. T. Montgomery will sell this day at 11 o'clock, at King's stables, on Barone street, between Gravier and Common streets, several fine saddle and harness horses and No. 1 mules; also, at 3 o'clock, at No. 89 Camp street, 200 twelve gallon stone, a large proportion being of the finer grades. See advertisements.

CHEESE, BUTTER, FLOUR, POTATOES, &c.—S. B. Bevans & Co., corner of Poydras and Tchoupitoulas streets, have just received by Mississippi and river steamer choice Goshen and Western butter, Western Reserve cheese, lard, flour, &c., together with 200 barrels pinkeye potatoes. See advertisement.

MEN'S, BOYS' AND GIRLS' HATS.—The well-known hat establishment of A. Dreis, corner of Canal and Chartres streets, has removed by the last ocean steamer an invoice of hats of a variety of styles, including the new silk hat with tilting brim.

The Sheriff sells at auction this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, the unexpired term of the lease of premises situate on Felicity and Front streets, between Poydras and Lafayette, First District. See advertisement.

VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION BY THE SHERIFF.—We call public attention to the sale to be made this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, by the Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans, of valuable improved real estate, at the corner of Commonwealth and Tchoupitoulas streets, First District. For particulars see advertisement.

McCowen & Landry will sell to-day, at their auction mart, a fine assortment of furniture. See advertisement.

Capt. H. J. Chaisé and J. P. Young, Clerk of the passenger packet Continental, from St. Louis, have obliged us by polite and acceptable favors.

The steamship Oriental, Captain H. J. Gardner, leaves this morning for Boston, with the United States mails, a full cargo and the following passengers:

Mrs. Sarah Wood, Mrs. F. O. Pope, J. Conron, Joshua Bates, Irving Underwood, E. Colbert, U. S. N., Miss Hatch, Mr. H. Morse.

The Financial Condition of the City.

We are indebted to Mr. Stoddart Howell, Comptroller, for a copy of his report, embracing a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of New Orleans, from July 1 to December 31, 1863, and also a variety of interesting statistical matter concerning the wealth and financial resources of the city.

In the period named the total receipts were $1,645,895 92, and the expenditures $1,564,861 63, leaving a balance of $61 334 29. Among the expenditures was the item of $1,291 80 for the education of colored children.

In 1860 the aggregate taxable property in the city was valued at $121,639 850, of which real estate constituted $83 702,710, slaves $6,985,280, personal property $30 751,920. In 1861 it was $125,192,402, real estate being estimated at $97,434,350, slaves at 6,989 240, personal property $31,148,732. In 1863 the total valuation of taxable property, slaps property being excluded from the assessment, is put at $100,889 098. By this last estimate real estate is rated at $86,414,850, and personal property $14,474,248. Thus the only very marked decrease is observed in personal property, and nearly the whole reduction under this head is to be referred to the falling off in capital and money at interest.

The report gives in detail the various properties owned by the city, such as public squares, buildings, offices, batture, ground rents, markets, wharves, stocks, &c., the aggregate value of which, $16 183,958, is the distributed: Real estate, $11,234,000, Water Works stock, $500,000; Gas stock, $1,000,000; Opelousas Railroad stock, $3 600,000; trust funds, $959,958. Of these properties only the markets, wharves, and ground rents contribute to the city revenues. Before 1861 the markets produced a revenue of seven per cent on their assessed value, $4,000,000; wharves five per cent. on their assessed value, $4,000,000; while the ground rents, $112,000, yielded them, as now, six per cent.

The city tax is now 1 per cent. on real and personal property; or upwards of $1,000,000, out of which 54 per cent is applied to the payment of consolidated coupons, and 17 per cent. to the payment of railroad coupons, leaving 29 per cent., which, with income from various properties, is absorbed by the ordinary city expenses.

The total amount of city bonds outstanding at the beginning of the present year was $26,494,136 25. Of this sum $3,622,000 represented subscriptions to the N. O. and Jackson, and Opelousas Railroads, and $6,872,186 25, the old city, municipality, and consolidated debts. Add to the above indebtedness the amount of city notes in circulation, $5,230,104, and the whole debt of the city now outstanding, legal and redeemable is raised to $12,724,240 25.

This enormous excess, as the Comptroller recently stated in an address delivered to the Acting Mayor, the $1,000,000 of bonds and $250,000 of promissory notes, issued for the purposes of city defense in 1861, and the payment of the interest on which Gen. Butler prohibited on the ground of their illegality and unpatriotic issue. By this ruling, the McDonogh trust fund lost $144,000 00, and the Fink trust fund, $60,000, the Finance Committee of the late Council having applied one half those funds to the purchase of city defense bonds.

We also read in the abstract above referred to the following noteworthy remarks:

The revenues in all branches are much less than formerly. The taxes for 1862 were reduced fifty per cent, and for 1863 the same; the Licenses do not come up to former years; the State appropriation to the public schools is only half paid for the year 1861, and for years 1862 and 1863 the fund cannot be called due.

There is no doubt of the success of the present system of Municipal Government. With a vast falling off of the municipal, the War Bureau, assisted by the acting Mayors, have for nearly two years, by a system of economy, brought down the expenditures to equal, if not below the receipts, one pleasant fact the City Government is a profit to be properly taken hold of by their successors in office.

I hope soon to see a Legislature elected, and trust the reason City Charter will be brought to their immediate notice. I with others in the City Government can point out the defects in the Charter—the proper remedy will bring down the expenses of the City Government to such a degree that no taxes on property will be required except for the payment of City Bonds.

Three Days' Later from the North via the River.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMER CONTINENTAL.

Gen. Sherman in West Tennessee—He Raises Union City and Destroys the Railroad.

MOVEMENTS AND PLANS OF GENERAL GRANT.

Preparations for a Raid by Longstreet's Cavalry.

LEE'S ARMY REINFORCED AND PREPARING FOR A CAMPAIGN.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

LATER AND IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

Gold 159½ in New York.

We received last night by the steamer Continental, Captain Conron, from St. Louis, files of Western papers to the 26th, and Cairo and Memphis papers of the 25th, 26th and 27th, from which we take the following:

[From the Memphis Bulletin, March 26.]

Walton City, Tenn., Captured by Sherman.

From the officers of the steamer Glasgow, which arrived at a late hour last night, we learn that on Thursday morning a force of Confederates, estimated at some six thousand men, under Gen. Forrest, made their appearance at Union City, where was stationed a cavalry force of some eight hundred men. For a time there was heavy skirmishing, but the odds being so great, and a line of cars coming in from Fulton to remove the stores of the post, it was deemed best by the officer in command to evacuate at 11 o'clock. We could learn nothing as to Forrest's future movements, but will doubtless learn fresh papers coming down to-day.

The Cairo Democrat of the 26th thus refers to the same affair:

From the Captain of the steamer Sanoline, that arrived from below, we learned the following facts, which we regard as the most various of the whole affair. The Captain's boat lay at the Columbus wharf about four hours and had the fullest opportunities for ascertaining the facts. The rebels—the number of the force not ascertained—attacked the railroad at Union City, towards Columbus. They came within a few miles of the latter place, before they were discovered by the Union scouts—Upon their presence being reported at headquarters, at Columbus, a force was sent out to meet them up, and give them battle, if they dared anywhere of that kind. The rebels retreated toward Union City, tearing up the track of the road, and burning the bridges.

From Knoxville—Rebel Preparations for a Raid into Kentucky.

Knoxville, March 23.—Several bushes of money sell here yesterday. The rebels still occupy the most active preparations for their supposed raid into Kentucky. They are seizing horses in every quarter. There is no doubt but their cavalry is in good condition. McLain's division and Vaughan's brigade are being rapidly mounted. Other bodies of troops will follow suit as soon as horses can be procured.

One thousand men have been furloughed under the promise that they will return with their mounts with a horse. Longstreet is expected from Richmond.

Nashville, March 23.—Rumors are afloat of the capture of three trains at Wartrace. They are groundless.

Gen. Sherman arrived here to-night.

Knoxville, Tenn, March 22.—A flag of truce for the exchange of rebels for Union citizens went to the front to-day.

Some 200 bales of Government cotton, valued at $10,000, were burned near the depot by three boys, supposed instead by resident rebels.

No hostile demonstrations at the front.

Longstreet is reported to be preparing to visit his friends in Kentucky.

General Grant and the Army of the Potomac.

Washington, March 23—Gen. Grant arrived here this morning, and leaves for the front to-morrow. The intended view of the army of the Potomac with not come off, it being the extreme intention of the new commander to proceed with reorganization quietly and speedily. There is a feeling prevalent that there is no time to waste.

Gen. William F. Smith, who was confirmed to-day as Major General, is to have a command in the East, near under Grant. Smith will act as Chief of Staff of the Lieut. General and direct wherever it nominally is commanded of the Army of the Potomac. Before Grant returns West, he will, after remodelling the army, fight it.

In the re-organization about to be effected, it is learned that Generals Hancock, Sedgwick and Warren will be retained as corps commanders, and that Gen. Meade retains his present position, Gen. Grant exercising the supervision and control of the entire army.

The preparations for the projected expedition of Gens. Burnside and Hancock will be directed to cease by General Grant, and both commands placed in a condition for active co-operation with the Army of the Potomac. Hancock has already returned to his command.

From the South.

New York, March 23—The Richmond Examiner of the 18th says that an engine has passed over that portion of the railroad destroyed by Sherman.

The Herald has a letter from Huntsville, Ala., the 15th, which states that General Smith, who commanded the recent cavalry raid in Mississippi, says he has obtained positive information that Vice President Stephens, of the rebel Confederacy, is hostile to the present policy of the Confederates, and has written to Richmond that he will not resume the Presidency of the rebel Senate until the recently adopted conscription law is repealed, as regarding its passage as a violation of the plighted faith of the Confederacy.

New York, March 23.—The Raleigh *Progress* announces that Gen. D. H. Hill assumed command at Charleston. Beauregard goes to the Mississippi.

The Savannah *Republican* of the 6th has a rumor that the Yankees were landing in considerable force the previous evening at Darien county.

Accessions to Lee's Army.

There is no doubt of the fact that Lee is daily receiving accessions to his army, and is preparing for an early opening of the approaching campaign. His cavalry is being reorganized, and although a smaller organization than last summer, is equally as formidable.

Infantry are coming up from various quarters, and in a few weeks we shall have in our front an army not at all inferior to that which confronted us last summer.

The Trade Permit Fee Reduced to 5 per Cent.

Washington, March 22.—The following is a letter of instructions sent to-day to all the Collectors of Customs and special agents of the Treasury Department.

Treasury Department,

Washington, March 21, 1864.

Sir. The 6th section of regulations, series of September 1863, is so far hereby modified that on and after the first day of April next, the license or trade permit fee on shipments to and from the insurrectionary States will be five per cent, instead of five, as therein prescribed.

S. P. CHASE.

New York Markets.

New York, March 23.—Money — Easy. Pretty good business doing at 6 per cent.

Sterling Exchange—Firmer but quiet at 180 for bankers' bills.

Gold—Irregular, unsettled and firmer, opening at 64¼, declining to 64⅛ advancing to 65⅛, declining to 65¼, and closing quiet at 65⅛.

Government Stocks—Firm. U S 6s, 81 112 to 112¾; 5 20s 109⅜ to 109⅝; 7-30s, October and April, 113.

Cotton active and firm at 72 to 74c, for Middling Uplands; 68 to 71c for Low Middling.

Flour 5 to 10c better. Sales at $6 85 to 6 95 for extra State; $7 20 to 7 30 for round hoop Ohio; $7 25 to $8 25 for trade brands—market closing firm, and no sellers at inside figures.

St. Louis Markets.

St Louis, March 23.—Tobacco—The quality offered this morning was rather poor and prices favored buyers. Sales comprised 15 hhds: Green leaf at $4 50 to $5 70; 10 do factory do at $6 10 to $6 50; 10 do lugs do at $6 70 to 9 40; 16 do common at $17 50; shipping leaf at $9 60 to $12 50; 4 do medium do at $15 30 to 17 50; 1 do good at $18 10; 3 do medium manufacturing leaf at $20 to 24 25; 25 boxes at $3 40 to $6 50.

Flour—Demand active. Sales comprise 200 bbls, common spring extra at $6 45 to 6 50; 300 do double extra at $6 50 to 7 60; 100 do double extra at $6 25; 800 do fancy double extra, private, $6 70; do extra at $6; 6 mosquito boat lined and delivered at $7 50; do superior at $5 65; 65 do fine at $5 40.

Whisky—Market advanced and active, with sales of 237 barrels, in three lots, at 87½c.

Provisions—Pork sold 14 bbls, at $19; 100 bbls mess pork at $21; 381 bbls do at $21 75, delivery; 3800 sugar cured canvassed hams, loose, at 14½c; 1000 same ribbed sides at 8c. Lard sold green—Sales of 150 kegs prime kettle lard at 14 c., delivered; 173 pkgs white grease at 9½c per pound.

Later Foreign News.

THE FLORIDA AND THE ST. LOUIS AT MADEIRA.

Another Battle Between the Danes and Germans.

THE DANISH QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

Maximilian and Mexico.

New York, March 22—12:20 P. M.—The steamship China, from Liverpool 12th and Queenstown 13th, has just arrived. Her dates are three days later than per City of Washington.

The appeal in the Alexandra case came up before the House of Lords on the 11th.

The rebel cruiser *Florida* and Federal corvette St. Louis were at Funchal, Madeira, on the 5th. It was believed to be the intention of the St. Louis to set out the Florida, but from an understanding of interference by the above authorities.

The Florida required coal. The Governor of Madeira will detain her 24 hours to allow a supply, but ultimately consented to her obtaining sufficient to get away from the St. Louis.

The Times is set to the investment of Fredericia, but it is believed that the allies were concentrating a strong force in the vicinity.

The Archduke Maximilian would leave Paris on the 15th or 16th. Napoleon has been particularly attentive to him.

It is rumored that General Benauve will such be withdrawn from Mexico, having accomplished his mission.

The Bank of France gained $13,000,000 specie in one month.

Rentes quiet at 66f 45c.

The King of Bavaria is dead. His son, aged eighteen, has succeeded him as King.

The English funds on the 11th were firmer. Consols closed 89 to 89¼.

Cotton 3-4, easier; Middling Uplands 30½d; Middling Orleans, and Uplands 30¾d.

The Danish war was debated in the House of Lords on the 5th. Lord Russell pronounced the Austrian and Prussian course unjustifiable.

The answer of Denmark relative to a conference was expected in a few days. If she answers negatively, war will be commenced; otherwise the conference will go on.

Lord Shaftesbury urged that a British fleet be sent to the Baltic, to watch American vessels there.

Lord Russell said the channel squadron was bound, and could be sent, if desirable, at the shortest notice.

By telegram to Queenstown, dated London, March 16, we learn that a severe fight has taken place between the Austrians and Danes near Wiet. The loss was heavy on both sides. The Danes were driven back. The Allies are advancing in great force toward Fredericia. The Times says the country will not plunge into war at the bidding of the Queen.

LATERT.

Skin of Illinois Central shares at 16½ to 17½ discount.

Rumors, Ladoga, March 6.—The Prussian division of the guards, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Field Marshal Von Wrangel, advanced yesterday to Sonderburg, driving the Danes to Fredricks, and capturing 100 prisoners. The Prussian loss was two killed and twenty wounded. The Austrians are advancing on Veile.

London, March 10.—The *Shipping Gazette* interprets Earl Russell's speech on Tuesday night as, in effect, meaning that this country of Denmark by themselves, if that be possible; but failing in that, then by force of words.

FOREIGN NEWS BY THE OLYMPUS.

New York, March 23.—The following is a digest of news in the Sun that, received per Olympus, which arrived here last night:

In the House of Commons Sir Hugh Cairns said that he would, on the 15th, ask the Government for papers relative to the Confederate enlistment of seamen, whether it is true that who representations against Federal enlistments in Ireland.

The Attorney General said that Confederate war vessels had the same right as Federals to capture British vessels conveying contraband, provided always captures be sent before a Prize Court.

Palmerston, in response to D'Israeli, reiterated his conviction that the whole Austro-Prussian proceedings were an outrage, and not justified by State affairs.

Russia has proclaimed the emancipation of peasants in Poland.

Important petroleum discoveries are reported in Southern Russia.

There is a ministerial crisis in Greece.

Lester from Red River—The Union Troops said to be at Shreveport.

The *Era* of last evening says:

The U. S. transports steamer James Battle, which left Alexandria yesterday morning, has arrived. We had the pleasure of an interview with her commander, Capt. James D. Phillips, from whom we will some intelligence of the greatest importance.

The Union forces, both on land and water, had made rapid progress toward the interior, driving the enemy before them, and never reached Alexandria the day before yesterday that Shreveport had been taken possession of by the Union troops.

None of the particulars of the advance upon and occupation of the place had been made public, although it was known that the gunboats were the first to arrive there.

Several of the iron-clads and transports crossed the falls several days since, and proceeded up the river at once, and Gen. Smith's troops were en route at the same time, and in the same direction.

Captain Phillips says considerable difficulty was experienced by our fleet in getting above the falls, and one of our steamers was lost. She was a hospital boat, and proved very useful—The Captain could not remember her name.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Correction.—We stated yesterday that Mr. Sullivan was the associate of Mr. Thomas for the prosecution, in the case of U. V. Woodruff & Co., tried before Recorder Leasnoet. This is an error. The attorneys for the prosecution were Messrs. Thomas and E. H. Shannon.

Third District Court—Judge Hawkes—Hackley vs. Ingram.—This case was tried in the Third District Court on Thursday last, and a judgment of $500 was rendered in favor of plaintiff for a violent assault and battery. On a motion for a new trial the case will be reopened on Saturday next. Judge Gleaon for plaintiff, Hahn, Cutler and Thomas for defendants.

Provost Court—Judge Atocha Presiding.—F. Lanz upon was convicted of an attempt to carry up the river certain articles for a lady, in contravention of military orders. For this and for the sake of making an example accused was fined $150, to stop these illicit attempts at purveying goods about during the reign of the bayonet.

James Caddy and Francis Kelly, who robbed Ch. Mocha of a hat and a watch on the highways of the city, were found guilty and sentenced to hard labor, with ball and chain, for a term of five years at Tortugas.

Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Reynolds, both soldiers' wives, were complained of by a landlady. The charge was that they had violently assaulted the premises gratuitously by refusing to pay rent, but that they had become abusive and a nuisance. The Judge ended the matter by a very real lengthy lecture, by ordering the soldiers' wives to move into quarters to be assigned them by the proper authorities.

A. Lewis had two bundles of cotton cards, etc., without permit to carry them in places where military authority demands the concession to have been obtained. The goods were confiscated.

Michael Sullivan was complained of by his Major for having taken to uncomfortable behavior in getting drunk. He was sent to prison for fifteen days to sober off.

D. Hockley, of this invalid corps, for kicking at his officer who arrested him and breaking his timepiece, was sent to the Workhouse for thirty days.

First District Court—Judge Howland.—Wm. Wetmore, accused of having robbed the prosecutor of $10, was acquitted.

Second District Recorder's Court—Chas. Leasnoet Presiding.—Wm. Moore, P. Hermans and D. Thompson, for fighting, paid $5 each. Alf Brown, for drunkenness, was fined $5, and J. H. Robertson, the same amount for stealing wood from the levee.

Owner Wanted—Officer Goerron arrested the colored boy E. Gordon with three silver spoons. One was marked H & S, another L J D, and the last one T & P.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY]

THE CITY FINANCES.—The report of City Controller Howell for the six months from July 1 to December 31, 1863, shows a balance on hand of $60,000; total receipts, $1,645,895 92; and expenditures, $1,564,561 63. Among the expenditures was the item of $1,291 80 for the education of colored children.

The Morning Press.

The *True Delta* and the *Era* remark upon the election of delegates on the 28th, and ascribe the decrease of votes from the number polled on the 22d February to the withdrawal of the Copperheads, as well as the extreme Abolition Radicals almost entirely from the contest, in consequence of which the Free State men proper, being sure of the election, did not turn out in full force.

The *True Delta* also observes that, though the primary purpose of the new Convention will be to abolish slavery, it will also devolve upon it to revise the whole Constitution, especially as regards the representative and judicial system.

The same paper referring to the Presidential question says that the war can not end during the present Administration, but must be terminated by the next, and, whether by a glorious restoration or a disgraceful abdication of the national supremacy, depends on whether the Union or Copperhead candidate is elected. But as the "here supposition" of the latter contingency is "almost treason" the question of who shall be next President is simply who shall be the Republican or Union candidate; and in the *True Delta's* opinion President Lincoln ought to be the candidate.

The *Times* criticises the offensive system of making war upon the rebellion, has no hopes of the policy of starving it out, and thinks General Grant's plan of concentrating the veterans of the West for blows at the head and heart of the rebel power, the rebel army, as the one demanded for the occasion.

Gov. Vance's Speech.

[From the New York Times, March 19.]

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE CONFEDERACY.

We have already referred to a great speech delivered at Wilkesboro, N. C., on February 22, by Gov. Vance. The peculiar position of the speaker, and the significance of his utterance, make the appended extracts from the speech of great interest. After dwelling to the suffering the people had endured in consequence of the war, Gov. Vance said:

"In consequence of this continued suffering, which experience had not prepared the people to endure with the fortitude possessed by some nations who have been reared to the stock of arms, a certain discontent has pervaded, and a funeral gloom hung over the community, engendering, if we credit a wide rumor throughout the State, a notion that it would have a counteraction—that we must separate from the Southern Confederacy; that we must repudiate the whole thing, and go back to our old Northern masters.

Our destinies, fellow-citizens, have now been cast in another Government; and although, as you all know, I regretted to go out of the former Government, and was one of the last to lay it down, and lay it down with the same mournful feelings with which I followed my dear father to the grave, I never expected, and do not now expect, to see it resurrected again. Our convention, composed of delegates fresh from the people, by the most solemn time that ever met, an honorable people to a cause, have pledged their all to its support. May God aid us in the fulfilment of this obligation in the future as in the past, to the letter. The net was a deliberate expression of public sentiment—though it may have been wrong. The Government we selected is ours, as much as we are our own children. The spirit of patriotism is akin to the love of our offspring, which God has implanted in us—the highest, holiest sentiment of humanity."

The speaker stated that he was desirous of presenting all the various aspects of the question, and said: "Now, what is it you desire shown of other presents, earthly good? [Voices—Peace, peace; we all want peace.] I know you do. Everybody wants

PEACE.

Peace blessed peace! Why, the man who does not desire peace is unworthy of existence. Peace! It is one of the highest and holiest attributes of Deity. It seems to be one of the chief thoughts, Jesus Christ, was called the Prince of Peace. The great Apostle Paul said of the highest order of peace—the peace of God—that "it passeth all understanding." Now, if you really want peace, this great blessing to repose upon our bleeding country, your one to go to war from the battle-field and take their places again in the family circle, commerce and agriculture to resume their beneficent sway, the sword beaten into the ploughshare, and industry again to stretch her magic wand over the war-beaten fields till they bloom as a garden, I suppose, as reasonable men, you are willing to take the best plan to obtain this consummation so devoutly wished. Which is the best plan? Gov. Vance then discussed the proposition to leave the

CONFEDERACY,

and showed first that under the Constitution of the Confederacy such a body could not be secured peaceably. He proceeded: "Now you see that the Constitution your delegates have sworn to support, expressly provides that the power to declare war and make treaties is invested in the President and Senate of the Confederacy; and the moment one of your delegates makes a proposition or proclaim a treaty of any kind to the enemies of his country, he is a traitor by the law, and has forsworn himself. [Applause.] That is so, not because I say it, but because it is written in the Constitution we have all agreed to support. If you do not intend to instruct your delegation to take your place out of the Confederacy, you see from the nature of the question, your convention dissembled on Monday more wrecked realizing the end to which than your Legislature or your Governor can accomplish. It can't turn a wheel.

Well, suppose you go a little further and say you will instruct your delegation to take the place out of the Confederacy, because when it is not it is relieved from the obligation of the Constitution, and rests upon a separate and independent basis. Supposing, also, that it is not your design to join the United States Government again, but only to go out as an independent sovereignty, for the purpose of securing peace to yourself and possibly affording the same desirable end for all parties.

If you went out of the Confederacy and declared yourself independent, you would have to make your position of neutrality with reference to the other belligerents; or there would be occasion for war. How could you preserve your neutrality when once announced? The only rational communication between the armies of General Lee and of General Johnston, between Virginia and the remainder of the Confederacy, is through North Carolina. You do not suppose we could, as a neutral State, permit the Government at Richmond to communicate across our territory with its South-western armies. General Lee sends some of his wounded down here, takes possession of the railroads—the very exercise of the Confederacy—and flags any body who interfere with him, and so you have two wars instead of one. There is another consideration involved. A great portion of the provisions that feed General Lee's army are collated in North Carolina. As a neutral State could not sell them, and he would be forced to take them, it is not difficult to foresee how speedily North Carolina would become the seat of war.

Suppose your State should to-morrow secede from the Confederacy, and would become of your soldiers in the army? Some would come away and come home, no doubt; but the mass of them who have followed that old battle flag through smoke and fire, into the presence of death, and waged its bloody folds upon the heights of a hundred fields of triumph, and the cheers of victory that thrill an applauding world—do you suppose that they would trample it under foot and crawl upon their bellies and eat dirt in that sort of style? [Great applause.] Who then would you have to defend North Carolina? A few old men and some militia officers.

THE STATE BACK IN THE OLD REGIME.

Suppose, as the last alternative for obtaining peace, your convention should take the State out of the Confederacy and put it into the arms of Lincoln. Some of you seem as you entered into the old Union and swore to support the Government, just so soon would you have imposed on you taxes to pay the debt, taxes, burdens of the United States. Instead of the Cossack and Kalmuck coming around to gather up Confederate currency, (of which it must be confessed there is no great lack in the land,) the Federal agent come among you demanding "greenbacks" and gold to assist in carrying on the war against the South. Instead of getting your corn back of the plough and fireside, they would be called and sent into the service of Uncle Sam, to fight alongside of black negro troops in exterminating your kindred and friends, and kinsmen of the South. Is there any thing very desirable about such a peace as this? Extend your suppositions into the future. Suppose the people of the North Carolina soldiers basely deserting their comrades in arms, in obedience to the proclamation of your Governor. Why, gentlemen, they would not come home to protect you. They would have to fight with their new friends, and would just cross from the Southern to the Northern side of the Rappahannock, and their rifles would be pointed at the bosoms of the brave men who have fought by their sides through the long years of this three years' war! Would that give you peace?

I know you would not think of the proposition. I think I can assure you to-day, with all candor and all honesty—as a dying man is dying men—in the presence of God—that any such proposition as that, I think will only involve you in a deeper and bloodier war and a longer period of war effect our people to a terrible degree; rivulets of tears are running down the cheeks of many a poor widow, and of many a mother from many a suffering child. But let us trust that the God of Battles, who gave to our ancestors through the long years of the past, a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, will yet lead us to that land where grows the fruitage of liberty, richer than the apples of Sodom, and through which flows the milk and honey of independence and nationality. [Applause.]

Let us not cease to remember that we all contributed to the war—that the Whigs and Democrats, we conceded after it appeared inevitable, and we must all stand up to it—that we must all stand up to it and throughout the length and breadth of the Southern Confederacy. We must forget, if possible, for awhile, the wrongs that led originally to this rupture, and each man take his share of the burden and the full measure of burden and responsibility, regardless of consequences. [Applause.]

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF YOUR SERVANTS?

There were four millions of them in the Southern Confederacy at the commencement of the war. They are all to be turned loose upon us! We admit this is the only terms Mr. Lincoln offers us. We admit that the North. Let us see what would be done with these millions of blacks, already indulged by the acts of the enemy; indeed, the only cry you come case, of which there are hundreds of instances, I am pointing to the same dreadful result. In the little village of Beaufort, S. C., situated in the Sea Islands, there were, when the Yankees first entered, only eight old ladies left behind. They were quietly sewing in their parlors, when a regiment of black soldiers, accompanied by a white officer, marched up to the door and asked if they might come in. The ladies consented, and the officer said to them, "Ladies, I have brought you a present of a Bible." The ladies received the Bible, and the officer said, "Now, ladies, I have brought you a present of a husband." The ladies refused to take the present, and the officer said, "Ladies, I have brought you a husband." The ladies still