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NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 19, 1862.

New Orleans Bee.

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 19, 1862. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol XXXVI.—Whole No 12,486.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By Hanlon & McLean, at 11 o'clock, at No. 49 Constance street, household furniture.

By B. F. Montgomery, at 10½ o'clock, at the foot of Thirteenth street, calomine, alum, shoulders, moss, lard, hominy, &c.

Russia.

A short time since, in taking a glance at the present political condition of Russia, we confessed that we had nothing before us sufficiently strong to induce us to form any positive opinion as to the actual motive for the attempts at reconstruction and wide-spread note of incendiarism, to which we directed attention. We pointed out the improbability of the proprietary, the owners of the emancipated serfs, being the perpetrators or the instigators of such deeds. We little thought, however, that we should thus early be warranted in ascribing them to the serfs themselves. This we believe we see. Elsewhere we publish an extract from a London paper of the 23d ult, in which will be found statements on which we base our judgment.

From that article it will be seen that the Emperor Alexander had received on celebrating "the birthday of Russia," as it is styled, by presenting his subjects with a Constitution. What are the provisions of the charter was unknown. But it is understood that the emancipation of the serfs was the basis on which those provisions were to stand. It is not necessary to our present purpose to discover what they are, and we are therefore spared the gruesome task of speculating on the subject. But whatever they may be, they cannot stand, if the very foundations on which they were intended to be erected be destroyed or seriously impaired.

The statement that the most serious opposition to the emancipation of the serfs comes from themselves, implies at once that the political outrages which have been lately so prevalent in Russia, had their origin with that portion of the population, and that they are very likely, if not certain, to render the proposed Constitution as impracticability.

To some it will doubtless seem strange that the serfs to be emancipated should object to the measure. To us, it is not, for we have heard in the West Indies more than one of the free negroes solemnly wish that "slavery time come again." All there, no such sentiment existed as does in Russia. The negro in the West Indies most indeed to be allowed a piece of land near to his own home; but it was not the attachment or fancied right to that which led to such regrets for the abolition of slavery as we refer to; it was the distress which the ruin of the white proprietors had necessarily entailed upon the freed negro. We do not mean to say that the latter never had any attachment to the land he tilled for himself, the cottage he lived in, and the graves of his people. But at the period of which we speak, the time had long passed when these feelings operated, and they were never so strong as they are in the serf. "People, he says the Russian economist, Tegoborski, are very apt to fall into error with regard to the ideas which the Russian peasant attaches to his serfage and state of dependence: the feeling of indifference about his possession is very far, indeed, from being so marked as many persons are disposed to believe; everybody that has come into contact with your peasants must have had occasion to perceive that though they no doubt consider *themselves* as the property of *their masters*, yet each of them at the same time regards the land labored for himself as *his own*, or rather as part and parcel of the property of his community which has fallen to his own share *by right*." Having these views, the serf is of course much more strongly attached to the soil than the negro slave ever was; but not only that, is outraged at the idea of being deprived of what he conceives to belong to him, as he of course will be as soon as emancipated. This makes the opposition of the serf to the proposed political changes in Russia quite intelligible.

Whether that opposition is wise or not in principle, and what is likely to be the result of it, are very interesting questions; and not likely, perhaps, to admit of any satisfactory solution. With regard to the last, we shall perhaps have better grounds for forming an opinion in two or three weeks hence; by which time we shall be informed of the nature of the constitution to be accorded to the Empire, and of the manner in which it has been received. It will therefore be better to defer its consideration. As to the other we have no hesitation in avowing the conviction that the abolition of serfdom will prove destructive to the prosperity and progress of the country, in exact ratio with its extent. If unconditional and complete, and freed from subsequent re-establishment or from the substitution of some form of compulsory labor, the country, we are satisfied, will rapidly and universally retrograde. This, too, seems to be the opinion of the most eminent writers on the country. The writer from whom we have above quoted, says: "M. Haxthausen observes with perfect justness, that the emancipation of the peasants in Russia ought to be regarded rather as a local question than as a general and political one." M. Tegoborski himself elsewhere remarks: "In consequence of the disproportion which exists in a great part of the Empire between the number of the population and the extent of the soil, we find ourselves, as respects the relative value of land and labor, in a totally different position from any other country. Elsewhere, the land is usually more valuable than the labor; with us the labor is usually more valuable than the land. In valuation of real estate it is not the extent of productive soil, but the number of peasants that serves as the basis of estimation. The fertility of the soil centers, no doubt, into the estimate; it is this which renders the peasant in our Government more valuable than the peasant in another; but it is always a secondary, never the primary element of the price."

Now if the serfs be emancipated, of what value will the lands be? Evidently a new standard of valuation will have to be established. Will it be possible to find such a one as shall eliminate the consideration of the command of labor? Is that consideration ever ignored in estimating the value of lands in any country? We cannot see how it is possible to avoid answering these two questions in the negative: for although it may at first blush seem to a superficial observer that in densely populated countries, the question of the command of labor is not taken into calculation in estimating the value of land, there is no doubt that it indirectly is. In such countries, the command of labor is certain, at such rates as will not interfere with profitable returns from judiciously tilled land; what the returns will be expected are, is calculated from the fertility of the land and the average prices of its produce, at which rate of returns its high enough to pay for cultivation, or it would no longer be cultivated. As long as it does pay, the rate of wages, though not an essential one, is therefore, a standing element in the calculation. We must therefore have in Russia, as well as elsewhere, some means of ascertaining the rate of labor before we can estimate the value of lands. It certainly cannot be fixed as it is in densely populated countries. How can it be ascertained? It is impossible to be ascertained, it is impossible to regulate it, in a sparsely populated regions without some form of compulsion. Without this the abolition of serfdom, we therefore hold, cannot fail to produce disastrous effects.

And is it not a most remarkable thing that the serfs themselves should be the only apparent opponents of the scheme, and that they should be so peculiarly situated as to resort to such desperate means as they have, in pursuance of their opposition?

The attention of produce dealers and grocers is specially invited to R. T. Montgomery's sale, this day, the 19th instant, at 9½ o'clock, punctually, of a choice assortment of shoulders, Miss Nelson cured hams, extra quality moss beef, choice pickled beef tongues, bolognas, potatoes, apples, onions, eggs, lemons, browns, salt and pickles.

The above is now landing ex steamer Savannee, foot of Bienville street, are extra and choice lots, and offers an admirable opportunity to the entire trade to replenish their stock with a large variety of choice goods, and at prices that cannot fail to give satisfaction, as they are to be closed without reserve.

See advertisement.

Hanlon & McLean will sell 16-day at 11 o'clock, at the house 49 Constance street, a fine lot of household furniture, consisting of mahogany and walnut furniture. Also, a superior Pianola piano. See their advertisement in another column.

RESTRICTION OF TRAVEL REMOVED.—*Philadelphia*, September 6, 1862.—United States Marshal Millward to day attempted to put a stop on all railroad travel by requiring every citizen who wished to get to New York and other cities to procure a pass from him, for the trouble of preparing which his clerks charged each person two dollars. As soon as the Washington authorities heard of these proceedings, orders were sent to the Marshal to remove all such restrictions upon free travel, and all persons can now go where they please without fear of interruption.—*New York Herald, 7th inst.*

News from the South.

Under this heading the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of the 6th instant, publishes copious extracts from late Southern papers received at that place. We copy below some of the most interesting items:

ATTACK ON FORT BEAUREGARD.

An officer from Sullivan's Island reports that one or more of the blockading fleet commenced shelling Fort Beauregard on Thursday evening, in retaliation, as is supposed, for the execution of Berger, which they could scarcely have failed to witness, as the prisoner was shot in an open space within sight of the fleet. No damage was done to the battery. Some of the shells fell and exploded beyond the Moultrie House. Fort Beauregard replied slowly. Upon acquiring the range of the enemy's vessels with our rifle gun, one shot caused them to leave in a very hasty manner for their old anchorage.

[*Charleston Courier, Aug. 27.*

THE REACTION IN NEW YORK.

A gentleman who has arrived at his home in the South, after a sojourn of about six weeks in New York—having been taken with a captured rebel, on his passage, at the Rip Raps—describes the reaction for peace, as making swift through silent progress.

Meetings of mere organization and parties were held nightly. One of the parties, said to comprise a very large number of the most influential citizens, have put forth the following tangible propositions for the termination of the war:

1. A cessation of all hostilities, or armistice.
2. Each party to pay its own debts.
3. The relinquishment or recession of Abraham Lincoln, and a new election in all the States for a new President.
4. All the rights of the South to be guaranteed by special amendments to the Constitution and a reconstruction of the Union.
5. Putting in the above, a general convention to be held; and terms of compromise agreed upon, with a twenty offensive and defensive.—*Charleston Courier.*

PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR LETCHER.

By the Governor of Virginia—A Proclamation.—Under a special act of the Legislature, on the 27th of July last, I was authorized to call out a State force of ten thousand men, to be commanded by Major-General John B. Floyd, to be employed chiefly in the defense of Western Virginia. In compliance with this, a force which had previously volunteered for service, and of the additional number called for by the conscription act, the amount asked was not more than promptly supplied.

I, therefore, on the 5th instant, issued orders calling for the militia between the ages of 35 and 45 years, from the counties of Washington, Smythe, Grayson, Carroll, Floyd, Pulaski, Wythe, Montgomery, Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig, Alleghany, Greenbrier, Monroe, Giles, Bland, Tazewell, McDowell, Wise, Buchanan, Lee, Scott, Russell, Raleigh, Wyoming, Logan, Boone, Wayne, Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Mason, Clay, Nicholas, Braxton, Braxton, Webster, Pocahontas, Randolph.

Surely it is not necessary to appeal to the people of these counties to rally to the standard raised by their own kindred, to drive back a foe. Surely Virginians will prefer a draft made under the constitution and laws of Virginia to one made by him who is the tyrant now usurping the Government of the United States. Our object is to expel from our soil its invaders, who are waging against us a warfare of desolation, of robbery and of robbery, with a bitterness and fury rendered desperate by defeat, and by the enormous expenditure which flows from their attempt at our subjugation.

It is our duty to effect our purpose in the shortest possible time. The enemy is raising an immense force to overwhelm us if possible. We must meet him with adequate resistance. While the Confederate Government is gathering its energy for the general defense, it behooves Virginia not only to contribute her quota for that object, but to put forth her special exertion to free her population and their homes from the desecration of an unexpulsed foe.

I, therefore, once more call upon the people to obey the orders which have been issued. I appeal to the officers of the militia to the men mentioned to exert their energies in summoning forward the detachments under their command without loss of time. That the General assembly of the Legislature may be afforded an opportunity speedily to take the field and to strike the enemy with rapid and efficient blows.

I emphatically call upon all officers of the State, civil and military, to give the necessary aid to expedite the raising of these troops, and to contribute whatever may be proper to render them effective.

I appeal to those in Western Virginia, and particularly in the Northwest, who are liable to be called under the Confederate Government, to come out from among the common enemy and unite themselves, as become true sons of Virginia, to the force here called for, under the firm hope and belief that by rallying to the standard of your