

REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec., 1865. By officious crowds of reporters and through the secular press, you have doubtless received all the particulars and formalities connected with the late reassemblies at our National Capitol.

RECONSTRUCTION has been, is now, and likely to be for some months to come, the great problem in this centre of American wisdom. The President insists that the rebel States were never out of the Union.

True, all the people of these States, men, women, and children, went fiercely out of the Union—declared themselves to be out, and actually staid out for four years and more. They organized another government, elected other officers, and took other oaths of fealty.

Such profundity of reasoning and deduction are worthy of that held in an ecclesiastical body once heard of. A defunct college was to be resuscitated. Neither professors, students, building, library, or money had belonged to it for years.

in which we have at present the greatest interest, certainly the most hopeful, and, when accomplished, will prove the most enduring, is the education and consequent elevation of the Freedmen.

As a foreshadowing of this result, an association of superintendents and teachers of colored schools in the District has been formed for mutual co-operation, assistance, and improvement.

Measures for mutual improvement were also adopted. This seemed the more necessary, seeing these representatives of Northern education and religion find no countenance, co-operation, or sympathy from any former educational interests which are found here.

A. M. STEWART.

News of the Week.

THE EXECUTIVE.

Secretary Stanton has set apart the ground upon which the Fort Pillow massacre occurred for a monument to those who fell. The Spanish admiral of the coast of Chili has grossly insulted Mr. Nelson, our Chilean Minister. The entire diplomatic corps take sides with Mr. Nelson.

THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.—There is a very destructive flood on the Susquehanna. Millions of feet of lumber float down the stream past Williamsport. New York.—The Stock Exchange, of New York City, did the handsome thing recently, in voting \$5000, as a Christmas present, to General Grant.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ohio.—The State debt is \$12,900,000, less by \$600,000 than last year. Indiana.—The Indiana Legislature, before adjourning, passed resolutions in favor of hanging Jeff Davis. Illinois has increased 500,000, or 33 per cent. in the past 5 years.

Virginia.—Nearly one hundred thousand acres of abandoned lands in Virginia are being cultivated by the Freedmen, under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau. North Carolina.—The editor of the Charlotte, N. C., Times has been arrested for printing seditious articles.

Alabama.—In passing the Constitutional Amendment, the Legislature voted that it be "with the understanding that it does not confer upon Congress the power to legislate upon the political status of freedmen in this State."

Florida.—The following is part of the new constitution of the State: "All the inhabitants of the State, without distinction of color, are free, and shall enjoy the rights of person and property without distinction of color."

Tennessee.—A copperhead judge at Dan-dridge, East Tennessee, has arrested and imprisoned some Union soldiers who, under orders, had killed a guerrilla. The sheriff seized and imprisoned Gen. Thomas' messengers bearing orders for their release.

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or endorsement of the political principles or doctrines that the reserved rights of a State can, without the consent of such State, be usurped or abridged by the Federal Government, through the instrumentality of a Constitutional Amendment."

California.—The Constitutional Amendment was ratified December 18th. Cornelius Cole has been elected Senator from California, to succeed Senator McDougall.

THE CITY. The Period of Sentences passed by Judge Allison, December 12, amounted to thirty-one years and one month.

Spain.—A party has arisen in Spain in favor of uniting Spain to Portugal in one empire. Mexico.—French troops are still landing at Vera Cruz, and war materials are continually landed. The city is being fortified.

China.—Advices to the 20th of October say: "The last stronghold of the rebellion in the province of Kangsi is reported to be evacuated. The insurgents, it is added, retreated to Fukeia. The Mahomedan rebels at Fung Kau in Shensi, had surrendered, and were slaughtered to a man."

THE FREEDMEN.—In the inaugural address of Governor Jenkins, of Georgia, we find the following deserved tribute to the colored man: "Since the fiat of emancipation, although sometimes unsettled in his purpose and inconsistent in his service by contract, the natural result of a transition so thorough and so sudden, I take you all to witness that, in the main, his conduct has been praiseworthy."

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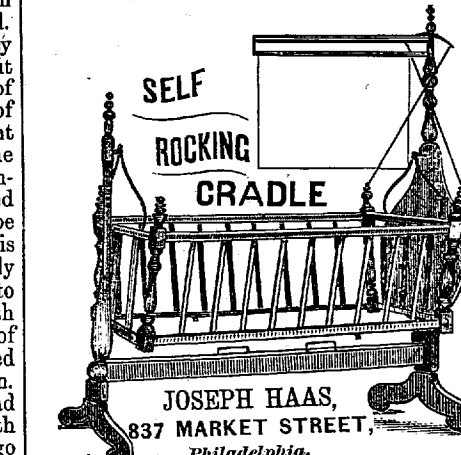
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