# REV. A. M. STEWART'S LETTER.

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WASHINGTON, January 13, 1866.

All efforts for the instruction and elevation of the Freedmen should be thoroughly inbued with the religion of Christ. Every such movement should be constrained by love to God. Our grand systems of common school education at the North have generally become divorced from direct religious influences. A race of intellectual giants is being reared by which mighty deeds are and will be accomplished. Great danger, however, that like the fabled giants of old, vision may be contracted to one eye Knowledge and wisdom separate ; intellect and morals, disjoined #education and religion, divorced. We are in great danger of rushing to a smash up, like an engine on a down grade without breaks. John W. Forney, notwith standing his violent hammerings at the most sacred prop of our national existence and permanent prosperity; his flagrant violation of the laws both of God and man, with flaunts and insults at the Christian sensibilities of our country; is without rebuke honored by the Senate of the United Stetes. He has defiantly separated himself from all cherished influences of the Protestant Christianity of the country, and boldly' cast himself upon its infidelity for pecuniary aid and social support. Mr. Forney is in these things no greater sinner than many others. Of late, however, matters have been approaching a climax, and circumstances have tended to give him prominence as a leader against God, against holiness and against the future stability of our country.

# RELIGION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE.

The existence of so many millions of Africa's children among us Anglo-Saxons remains to a goodly degree an unsolved alloted to us as the future conservators of true religion, and hence to maintain the stability of our free institutions. If merit the appellation. They take to it merit the appellation. They take to it has borne me triumphantly through all diffi-naturally. Their instincts are religious. culties in my legislative career since I had a in Egypt, dropped circumcision and apparently became sadly degenerated in the religious elements of Abraham's faith. In these, the now Freedmen, have those ened oppressions. Long since they had shrewdness sufficient to lose all confidence in the professions of those whose religion justified them in cruel oppresssion and multiplied wrong. Hence, the known proneness of the slaves in their efforts at worship to get, if possible, alone and in their own rude way hold such service as their rude intelligence permitted.

MELANCHOLY WORSHIP.

Sad is it for me to be present when these poor people engage of themselves After debate they were laid on the table. in holding religious service. Their doggarel and almost senseless songs drawlshouts, laughs, slapping of hads and general bodily exercise, all give tokens the time for the completion of the Burlingof long bondage. On hearing, the thoughts are carried away back to the harps moaning in the breeze while hanging on the willows along the streams of Babylon.

# Aews of the Week.

#### THE EXECUTIVE.

All Government Employes at Fortress Monroe, formerly connected with the rebel service, have been discharged, for fear of their aiding the plot to secure Jefferson Davis' escape. — Col. John S. Moseby has been arrested at Warrenton, Va., by the military, and taken to Washington. — An officer birch in command at Fortress Monroe officer high in command at Fortress Monroe has been removed for conniving at the recent blot to liberate Davis.—The Secretary of War has discharged one of his clerks for say-ing he would like to see Senator Sumner "sent to his long home."—It is said the Government has received information of Na-celeon", intention to withdraw the Eroneh poleon's intention to withdraw the French believe the report. On Friday, for the first time in American history, a colored man was paid for carrying the mails. His route is in Virginia:

## CONGRESS.

Senate.-January 16.-The resolutions requesting the President to withdraw our Minster from England and issue a proclamation of non-intercourse, were debated and laid on the table—yeas 25, nays 12. The resolution requiring the reference to the Committee on Reconstruction of all papers concerning the rebellious States, and the District suffrage bill, were debated.

January 17.—Ten thousand copies of the President's Message, and Gen. Grant's Report on the Condition of the South, were ordered to be printed. A resolution was introduced calling for information of the condi-tion of affairs on the Rio Grande. The bill increasing the army was taken up, debated and postponed. Afterwards Senator Doolittle made an elaborate speech defending the

President's reconstruction policy. January 18.—A resolution was passed or dering the distribution among the State Libraries of five hundred copies of the works of James Madison. Bills and resolutions were reported incorporating the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, and admitting Co-lorado into the Union. The resolution for the appointment of Provisional Governors in the South was debated. In the debate, Senator Wade made a noble protest against the problem. It may be, they have been attempt to overawe the sentiments and convictions of Congress by outside influences. He said: "I have never had but one polar star to my action, and that I adhere to whe-ther I am in a majority or in a minority. I any people can with propriety be called never intend to be tempted from it one single religious, this degraded race seems to inch. I have fixed my eyes upon the great principle of eternal justice and right, and it The Israelites during their long bondage seat in this body. I say triumphantly, for I in Egypt dropped circumcision and apten men to support me against the entire Senate, and when the principle I advocated was, unfortnnately, more unpopular than I announce to-day. How was the seemingly grown stronger in their length- whole Senate startled by the idea of universal emancipation ten or fifteen, or even five years ago? Talk about unpopular doctrines, and attempt to intimidate by the internation that I shall be found in a minority (among the people. I know the people better, I think. I know that I tread the great path of rectitude and right. I don't care who op-poses me; God Almighty is my guide. He goes before and strengthens me. He has never failed me yet, and I don't fear He will on this occasion." A bill granting the franking privilege to Mrs. Lincoln was passed unanimously.

January 19.—Mr. Doolittle presented the credentials of Judge Marvin, Senator elect from Florida, and endorsed his loyalty. The bill to enlarge the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau was taken up and debated by ed out in low, plaintive minor keys-the Trunbull in favor of the measure. An 1865, and by order of this Department has too often unmeaning jargon of their amendment confirming the titles to land, been and now is confined in Fortress Monroe, preachers and exhorters their groans, shouts lanche slapping of hads and under Ger. Sherman's Savannah order for three years, instead of for life, was adopted. proper authorities of the United States Gov-January 20.—A bill was passed extending ton and Missouri railroad. The bill enlarging the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau was taken up and debated. Senator Guthrie,

then they have generally commanded a large | a state of war still exists in the territory in premium.

Massachusetts.—During the year ending May, 1865, 7,249,921 pairs of boots, and 24,-620,660 pairs of shoes, were manufactured in this State.—Rufus Choate, Jr., died at Boston on January 15, from the effects of wounds received in the late wer wounds received in the late war.

Maryland.—The owner of a building in which is held a colored school at Wytheville, Md., notified the teacher of a school, a few days since, that it would have to be closed, as the laws of Maryland prohibited the education of negroes. The teacher submitted the case to Major General Howard, commissioner of refugees, freedmen, &c., who directed the teacher to continue the school as before. The House of Delegates have endorsed Gen. Grant's recent letter opposing the further withdrawal of troops from the South.

Dist. Columbia.—An unsuccessful attempt was made January 15, to murder Justice Field, of the Supreme Court, by an infernal machine, contained in a letter sent from California.——Unsuccessful attempts were made January 16, by incendiaries to burn down several of the colored churches in Washington. ----Hon. Geo. W. Julian, of Indiana, has received, at Washington, a threatening letter enclosing a large piece of a negro scalp, with the hair attached.

Kentucky.—Efforts are being made to send John C. Breckinridge to the United States

Senate from Kentucky. Tennessee.—John Bell has begun a series of letters in the Louisville Journal on public affairs. He accepts the results of the war, and recommends a warm support of the Pre-sident's policy.—The Nashville and Chat-tanooga railroad has sued its late president for \$1,000,000 damages, for permitting the rebels to use the road during the war.

Florida.-The President has relieved Provisional Governor Marvin, and recognized David S. Walker as Governor. Mr. Walker vas elected by the people.

Mississippi.—Harrangues by officers at negro meetings are prohibited by the Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau.-Gov. Humphreys has issued a proclamation declaring "the blockade of the ports of the Confeder-ate States removed."

Missouri.-The loss caused by the ice to the St. Louis steamers amounts to \$800,000. —The United States Marshall in Western Missouri has confiscated a large number of estates belonging to rebels—among them, the property of General Sterling Price.

Wisconsin.-Gov. Stone, at hil reinaugu-ration, January 11, said :-- "Sound policy can never sanction the disfranchisement of four millions of freed people, whose loyal ballots would constitute them an army of occupation to the Government in the South.'

Texas.-The order directing the disarma ment of the negroes has been revoked. veston, has produced, in four months, nearly \$631,000.

#### PAPERS ON JEFF DAVIS' TRIAL.

The following papers, submitted to Congress Jan. 10th, exhibit the policy of the Executive as far as developed in regard to the rebel President and his associates. They are of sufficient importance to be given entire. The President encloses reports from the Secretary of War and Attorney General, and at the same time invites the attention of the Senate to that portion of his annual message which refers to Congress the question con-nected with the holding of Circuit Courts of the United States within the districts where their authority has been intercepted :

WAR DEPARMENT, Jan 4, 1866. Sir: In reply to the annexed Senate reso-lutions, passed December 21, 1865, referred to me by you for report, I have the honor to state—First. That Jefferson Davis was captured by United States troops in the State of ernment.

rebellion. Until peace shall come in fact, and in law, they can rightfully be held as

prisoners of war. I have ever thought that trials for treason cannot be held before a military tribunal. The civil courts have alone jurisdiction of that crime. The question then arises, where and when must the trials thereof be held? In that clause of the Constitution mentioned in the resolution of the Senate, it is plainly written that they must be held in the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed. I know that many persons of learning and ability entertain the opinion that the commander-in chief of the rebel armies should be regarded as constructionally present with all the insurgents who prosecuted hostilities and made raids upon the northern and southern borders of the loyal States. This doctrine of constructive presence, carried out to its logica consequence, would make all who had been connected with the rebel armies liable to trial in any State and

district into which any portion of these armies had made the slightest incursion. Not being persuaded of the correctness of thought it not proper to advise you to cause criminal proceedings to be instituted against fefferson Devis or any other insurgent in the States or districts in which they were not actually present during the prosecution of hostilities.

Some prominent rebels were personally present at the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, but all or nearly all of them received military paroles upon the surrender of the rebel armies. Whilst I think that those paroles are not an ultimate protection for prosecutions for high treason, I have thought that it would be a violation of the paroles to prosecute those persons for crimes before the political power of the Government has proclaimed that the rebellion has been

suppressed. It follows, from what I have said, that ] am of the opinion that Jefferson Davis and others of the insurgents ought to be tried in some one of the States or districts in which they may be charged. Though active hostili-ties and flagrant war have not for some time existed between the United States and the insurgents, peaceful relations between the Government and the people in the States and districts in rebellion have not yet been fully restored. None of the justices of the Supreme Court have held circuit courts in these States and districts since actual hostilities ceased. When the courts are open, and all laws can be peacefully administered and enforced in those States whose people rebelled against the Government, when thus peace shall have come in fact and in law, the persons now held in military custody as prisoners of war, and who may not have been tried and con-victed for offences against the laws of war, should be transferred to the custody of the civil authorities of the proper districts, to be tried for such high crimes and misdemeanors as may be alleged against them. I think it is the plain duty of the Presi-

dent to cause criminal prosecutions to be instituted before the proper tribunals, and at all proper times, against some of those who were mainly instrumental in inaugurating and conspicuous in conducting the late hos tilities. I should regard it as a direful calamity, if many whom the sword has spared, the law should spare also; but I would deem it a more direful calamity still, if the Executive, in performing his constitutional duty of bringing these persons before the bar of jus-tice to answer for their crimes, should violate the plain meaning of the Constitution, or infringe in the least particular the living spirit of that instrument.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, JAMES SPEED, Attorney General.

THE CITY.

Judge Allison on Jan. 16 sentenced Wm Aston to pay a fine of \$1000 and undergo an imprisonment of seven years, for injuring a man by shooting him with a pistol, this being the extent of the law.—At the meet-ing of the various committees on the Steam-

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Colored Press.-The Independent makes the following enumeration of papers now conducted by colored men: At New Orleans, The Tribune, a daily, is owned and edited by colored men, and conducted with great ability. At Mobile, as one of the results of the recent convention held in that city, The Nationalist, a weekly, is just now starting, under the auspices of an association of colored men, to be edited by Rev. J. Sillsby, once of the Siam Mission. At Augusta, Ga., The Colored American, about the size of The Tract Journal, is just starting off with ability and fair prospects. At Beaufort, S C., The New South has reached "Vol. IV, No. 9." At Nashville, Tenn., The Colored Tennesseean, a very respectable paper, has issued the twenty-seventh number of its first volume. The Religious Recorder, the organ of the African M. E. Church, is published in Philadelphia, and looks not greatly unlike The Recorder of Boston. And now The Leader appears in this city.

Items.-The Emperor Napoleon receives five millions of dollars a year, and the Emthat opinion, but regarding the doctrine men-press one million. Queen Victoria receive tioned as if doubtful, constitutionally, I have about two millions. The high price of press one million. Queen Victoria receives paper, it is said, has induced the New York Tribune to import paper from Belgium. Harper's Weekly is printed on paper from Belgium. ---- The report that the wrong Winder is in custody, for barbarities to our pris-oners, is confirmed. The right one is said to be in Canada. — George Bancroft has ac-cepted the invitation to deliver the culogy on President Lincoln.—Three of the Adams Express robbers have been captured in Con-necticut, and three-fourth of the stolen money recovered. The amount stolen was \$250,-000. — Professor James L. Mapes, the dis-tinguished agriculturist, died at Newark, Jan. 10, aged 60. — Since July there have been twenty light-houses built, or rather re-stored at the guarance of the General General stored, at the expense of the General Gov-ernment. These light-houses were all in Southern waters, and went to ruin amid the

wholesale wreck which followed the rebellion. -The population of Paris is 1,667,841. -The Governmentowns 47,000,000 acres of public lands in the South.——It is said that the Falls of Saint Anthony recede so much every year, that in a short time they will be destroyed—nothing being left but rolling, tumbling rapids.—Dr. Beemis, Superin-tendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Worcester, has been for some weeks the inmate of a similar asylum at Philadel-phia.——The rebel owner of the Planter, captured so gallantly by Robert Small in Charleston harbor, has applied for the return of his "property."——It is at length ascer-turned that Ocea Lag did apple for mader tained that Gen. Lee did apply for pardon. -----The Richmond newspapers wish to turn the correspondents of Northern journals out of the city, as it is alleged they write false hoods.——The Committee on Reconstruction has begun the examination of witnesses to ascertain, the condition of the Southern States.

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#### COLORED CONGREGATIONS.

are in sufficient numbers, to gather a colored congregation, yet not usually so easy to accomplish this in connection with the undemonstrative, spiritual and scriptual order as practiced in the various Presbyterian families. Dr. Barnes, Hodge, or Tyng would hardly be as likely to collect so large a congregation of Freedmen in one of their dense settlements, as one of their own self-constituted preachers, unable, perhaps, to read intelligently a single sentence of the Bible, or properly to connect in hisnoisy address any two doctrines of redemption. No scarcity of such preachers among the colored people; yet, with such continued and without large improvement, there is apparently but little hope of permanent religious advancement among them. The thoughtful mind discovers here a difficult yet all important field for high-toned Christian effort. Representative men and women are demanded for the work. Neither male nor female teacher should be sent who cannot present, both by precept and example, a superior type of Christian character.

OUR WORK IN ALEXANDRIA.

The religious missionary was the leading object in organizing efforts among the Freedmen in this city, Nor should this leading idea ever be abandoned. Without any effort at sectarianism, religious worship is conducted in the mission according to the order of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. As it is found peculiarly difficult to draw away from their former low types of worship those whose habits have already been formed, special attention is given to the young. Religious instruction and worship is mingled with intellectual training in the week day exercises. On the Lord's day, a Sabbath-school is held with an actual attendance of a hundred puan actual attendance of a hundred pu-pils. Our four teachers find here a large field of usefulness in the Bible class, Scripture lessons, Assembly's Shorter New York January 19, reports that the Catechism, &c. A hopeful congregation | cholera was prevailing quite extensively in is this. A permanent and intelligent some parts of the city, but that the journals, foundation being laid for Church erec- in accordance with in instructions, make no ion and extension.

A. M. STEWART.

of Kentucky, opposed it. January 22.—The Committee on Reconstruction reported an amendment to the Constitution, that when the right of suffrage is denied to any class of citizens, that class A rather easy matter is it, where they shall be excluded from the basis of representation. The resolution to refer all papers relating to the South to the Reconstruction Committee was passed. The bill to enlarge the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau was considered. Mr. Cowan's amendment, to restrict its operation to the States lately in rebellion, was lost—yeas 11, nays 33.

House-January 16.-Mr. Conkling offered a series of resolutions against re-admitting the Southern States without conditions, which, being objected to, were laid over. The Committee on Reconstruction was authorized to send for persons and papers, by yeas 125, nays 35. The debate on suffrage in

the District was resumed. January 17.—The bill establishing a national protection homestead company was tabled: yeas, 120; nays, 32. The vote on the negro suffrage bill was ordered to take place to-morrow, and the bill was then debated.

January 18.-The bankrupt bill was re-A bill regulating the Freedmen's Bureau was made the order for the 23d. A report was made against paying claims for damage done to property during the war. The Dis-trict of Columbia Suffrage bill was taken up and debated. After various dilatory motions it was passed granting universal suffrage without restriction in the District. Yeas 116, nays 54.

January 19.-The Committe of Ways and Means were instructed to consider the expediency of repealing the stamp duties on written instruments.

January 22.- A resolution was offered and reterred for the trial of Jefferson Davis by a military court. The Committee on Reconstruction proposed amendments to the Constitution, providing that when the right of suffrage is denied to any class of citizens, that class shall be excluded from the basis of representation. After discussion they were laid over until Tuesday.

#### THE STATES.

Pennsylvania.-Governor Curtin arrived at New York from Havana January 17.-Mrs. Grinder, the Pittsburgh poisoner, was hanged Jan. 19. She made a confession.

New York.—Olean was visited by a most destructive fire, January 15, laying it almost entirely in ashes. Two hotels alone remain standing.—Gonzales, who murdered Senor Otero, has been found guilty of murder in

New Jersey.-The House of Assembly have passed the Constitutional Amendment, Kaneas.—The Senate have passed resolu-tions in favor of hanging Jefferson Davis and other rebel leaders.

ship fund,

crime, but has been indicted for the crime of high treason by the Grand Jurf of the District of Columbia, which indictment is now pending in the Supreme Court of the said District. He is also charged with the crime of inciting the assassination of Abra-ham Lincoln, and with the murder of Union prisoners of war, by starvation and other barbarous and cruel treatment towards them.

Third. The President deeming it expe-dient that Jefferson Davis should first be put upon his trial before a competent court and jury for the crime of treason, he was advised by the law officers of the Government that the most proper place for such trial was in the State of Virginia. That State is within the judicial circuit assigned to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who has held no court there since the apprehen-sion of Davis, and who declines for an indefinite period to hold any court there.

The matters above stated are, so far as I am informed, the reasons for holding Jefferson Davis in confinement, and why he has not been put upon trial.

Fourth. Beside Jefferson Davis, the following persons, who acted as officers of the rebel Government, are imprisoned, to wit: Clement C. Clay, at Fortress Monroe, charged among other things with treason, with complicy in the murder of Mr. Lincoln, and with organizing bands of pirates, robbers, and murderers in Canada, to burn the cities and ravage the commerce and coasts of loyal which was agreed to, and the men were or States on the British frontier; D. L. Yulee, dered down.—Recent dispatches from at Fort Pulaski, charged with treason while holding a seat in the Senate of the United States and with plotting to capture the forts and arsenals of the United States, and with inciting war and rebellion against the Gov-ernment. S. K. Mallory, at Fort Lafayette, charged with treason, and with organizing and setting on foot piratical expeditions against the United States commerce and marine on the high seas. Other officers of the so-called Confederate Government, arrested and imprisoned, have been released on parole, to abide the action of the Government in reference to this prosecution, and that for Liberals, under General Munoz. All the Imalleged offences, on their application for am-nesty and pardon. Among these are S. A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury; John A. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of War; James A. Seddon, Secretary of War; John H. Reagan, Postmaster General; R. M. T. Hunter, Senator; Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-President, and sundry other persons of less note. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War. less note.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, ] January 4, 1866.

To the President :

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from you of a copy of the resolution of the Senate of the United States of date the 21st of December, 1865. In that resolution the Senate respectfully requests to be informed upon what charges and for what reasons Jefferson Davis is still held in con-

trial? When the war was at its crisis, Jefferson Davis, the commander-in-chief of the army of the insurgents, wis taken prisoner, with other prominent rebels, by the military forces of the United State. It was the duty of the military so to take them. They have been

Second. That he has not been arraigned were reported to the amount of \$500,000. upon any indictment or formal charge of The full amount of capital required for present operations is \$600,000, and it is expected that the whole of it will be subscribed at the next meeting. The sum here mentioned is sufficent to purchase vessels enough to establish steam lines to Wilmington, N. C. Charleston, Savannah, and New Orleans -During 1865 the expenditures of the city were \$10,363,256. The city is paying

90 cents per 1000 m's for its printing, During 1865 there were 438 fires in Phila delphia, causing a loss of \$1,269,499.

Financial.-The public debt decreased from August to December, \$41,000,000.--The current fiscal year's receipts of internal revenue will be over \$300,000,000.----The Secretary of the Treasury still estimates the Southern cotton supply at 1,750,000 bales.

#### FOREIGN.

Mexico.—A letter from Brazos, of the 7th, to the New Orleans *Times*, says:—Bagdad was captured on the morning of the 5th. The attacking party consisted of sixty men. They captured nearly 300 prisoners, one half of whom turned Liberals, and formed the garrison of town on the attacking party disappearing. The Liberal loss was 4 killed and 8 wounded. The Imperial loss was 11 killed and 27 wounded. Upon assuming command, Gen. Escobado requested of Gen. Weitzel a detachment of twenty men to preserve order, dered down.—Recent dispatches from Minister Bigelow, it is reported, say the French Emperor has no intention of withdrawing his troops from Mexico.— The New York Herald's dispatches from Metamoras say that not only the French troops will withdraw, but even "Maximilian has recently unreservedly expressed himselt ready to make his exit from Mexico as soon as the United States shall demand it. Twelve thousand French and Austrian troops arrived in Mexico during Christmas week. -Toluca, the ancient capital of the empire, 36 miles from Mexico, has been taken by the perial troops at the Capital have been sent to retake the city, and Marshal Bazaine commands in person—Juarez left Chihuahua, December 9, and a large French force took possession immediately after. France.-Napoleon gave the usual New

Year's reception to the diplomatic body, and expressed his happiness that the past year had strengthened the bonds of peace, and was an augury for a long day of peace and prosperity over the world. — Count Faver-ney, Second Secretary of the French Embassy Washington, has had an audience with the Emperor.

Chili has authorized privateering against Spanish commerce.—The death of the Spanish Admiral of the fleet blockading Chili is confirmed. He committed suicide from mortification at the capture of one of his vessels by the Chilians.

Westminster Abbey. By Col. J. G. WILSON A Miracle in Court. By Rev. C. E. KNOX. Private Life of Sir Thomas Moore. Modern Languages. By Proi. WELLS, of Union College. Senator Collamer.

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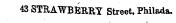
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