

T. C. Nicholson, Editor.

S. M. Pentengill & Co.,
No. 31 Park Row, N. Y. & 6 State st., Boston.

The Beaver Seminary and Institute, under the charge of Rev. R. T. Taylor, commences on Tuesday, Dec. 9th. See advertisement in another column.

Release of Political Prisoners.

Traitors have a new cause of complaint against the Government. The Executive, through the Secretary of War, has ordered the release of the political prisoners, in other words those Northern traitors who were arrested and confined on account of their treason. We recollect when they were arrested for publishing treasonous editorials, and in other ways crippling the Government, what a howl went up from the secession press generally. Having suffered a short imprisonment, and learned that treason is punishable, these prisoners have been released by the Government, whose only fault is being too mild. Now the cry is raised that the Administration has overstepped its power—that it could not release without trial. A learned editor whose reasoning capacity is of the first order (i. e. in the progressive scale) reasons thus: "If there were actually guilty of treason the Government did wrong to release them. If not their detention was an outrage. In either case the Administration overstepped its power." This same editor was one of the most bitter in his denunciations of the Administration for its arrest, not discriminating then between those who were traitors and those who were not. Now, that his friends and co-conspirators are set at liberty, he denounces the Administration for overstepping its power. Not being capable of entertaining two ideas at once, and yet believing it his duty to oppose the Government in every measure, he expands the first idea and applies it to an offence that before seemed a virtue. He writes learnedly of *Habeas Corpus*, and regards its suspension as a terrible outrage. We will venture the opinion that he cannot tell what the writ is, and how and when applied. When the Nation is struggling between life and death its people or their representatives have a right to make use of anything and everything within their power to save it. If it is crippled in any way, no matter how or by whom, society and justice both demand the evil to be removed out of the way. Had the Government exercised a little more rigor, our condition would be better to-day. As it is, our plans of attack are revealed, and in fact everything connected with the Nation and its Armies. Some persons are to blame, and we hold the Government has a right to arrest any suspected, and hold them just as long as the exigency requires. Traitors have no rights whatever under the Constitution. Let us first save the Nation from impending ruin; and then, if in so doing some things have been done that require redress or amendment, we will have the time and opportunity to attend to it. We are compelled to believe that sympathy with treason, and hostility to the Government, is the real cause of these attacks upon the Administration. Nothing to encourage patriots and discourage traitors—not one word against rebellion do we ever see. Every editorial, every article selected in relation to our difficulties, is hurled at and intended to weaken the cause of the country.—Men whose loyalty is above suspicion have never yet suffered indignity from those in power. But the loyalty of such men as the editor to whom we allude, may justly be questioned; and to save the life of the Nation, it may be thought proper to arrest all whose sincerity is doubted. Secretary Stanton is especially assailed by these malcontents. And why? What public act has been guilty of that renders him so culpable? Nothing is alleged against him but firm adherence to the interests of his country. Because, being one of the High Priests of Democracy, he chose to stand by and support the Government. His loyalty is sufficient ground to excommunicate him, and then follow him with abuse. It is so with every Democrat who has come out for the war and the putting down of rebellion. We ask our readers if they ever seen a line of commendation of Gen. Butler, of Judge Holt, Hon. Robert Dale Owens, or Archbishop Hughes—life long Democrats. They are only mentioned by way of abuse. They forsake party for country, and that is sufficient. We are for the punishment of traitors everywhere, North or South. And these attacks upon the Administration are the offspring

Causes of the War.

Many theories have been adopted; a variety of speculations entertained; and innumerable arguments offered, as to what was the primary or moving cause in bringing on the present unfortunate state of affairs in the United States. We find many, very many, of the press of the North, representing the Breckenridge party, giving, as their opinion, "that a direct infringement, by the North, upon the slave rights of the South, and an unwarrantable interference by 'Black Republicans' and 'Abolitionists,'" with the favored institution, has involved our country, with all her benighted institutions, in civil war. Others say Slavery itself is its only cause; and yet others tell us that all 'Republican and Democratic forms of government contain in themselves the elements of their own destruction, and are therefore short-lived. But another class positively assert that man is not capable of self-government; that the Puritans left their mother country after having revolted; that they were only rebels, and the secessionists of the South have a perfect right, to-day, to destroy our government as the Pilgrim Fathers had to leave the Oppression of Old World. But without stopping to argue or answer these several questions in detail—as time and space will not permit—let us ask what is our government? What was the intention of its founders? They had but one intention or idea—that of Freedom! Did they ever ask to de-stroy the governments from whence they came? No; but they did desire to leave those Oppressions, and, per-chance their lives, came to an unknown and unimagined wilderness, that they might worship according to the dictates of their own consciences, and establish a form of government most nearly conforming to the principles of the divine precept; although other forms of government may be tolerated or recognized by divine authority, yet a republican form more nearly assimilates itself to the government divine. But when the Puritans had landed upon our shores, commenced and were carrying on the work of re-formation, a new class of beings appeared—an Aristocracy, not new to the founders of this government, for they were the same, they supposed they left behind. From the dedication of "Plymouth Rock" on down in our history, till the time of, and through the Revolutionary struggle, they were the same old Tories. A class of men who preferred a Monarchy or an Aristocracy; to the true form of govern-ment; and when they could not intro-duce all the combustible matter into our system, yet they did succeed in thrusting in a fire-brand under the mild name of servitude or slavery; and since we believe that compacts must answer for their corporate wrongs, and governments for the fol-lies and mistakes of their Rulers, if the people, as a compact, adopt those wrongs and sanction them as their own acts; yet under the Supreme Government of the Ruler of all the earth, and still entertaining our pre-ference for a Republican or Democratic form of government, we cannot even for a moment entertain the idea of the overthrow of our Constitution, and the laws based thereon. We believe that North and South have com-mitted both personal and national wrongs; and that the national compact wrongs must be atoned for in this life; that individual ones are reserved for future life; and that the God of Israel is still on our side as in times of old, opposed to wrong and oppression in every form. That when, years ago, there was a severance of the churches, north and south, the finger of the Almighty was written on our destiny as surely as it did of old upon the wall when Mene Tekel was pronounced as a sentence against wickedness in high places, and although we may be scourged in the loss of fathers, sons and brothers, we shall come forth from these tribulations, and as a nation, maintaining the principles given to our fathers and transmitted to us, satisfy the world that our cause is just. That when a southern ministry, even now, declare that they "hate a Democratic or Re-publican form of government," they only re-echo the sentiments of those "Aristocrats" who selected South Carolina as their Sanctum, and Charle-ton as their Sanctum Sanctiorum, from whence it is declared that slavery is a God-given institution, in open defiance to the great principles of the great reformer, denouncing it the "sum of all villainies."

But we believe now, as we always believed that a self-constituted "Aristocracy" has ever existed in this country from its foundation until now; that its object was no more nor less than the overthrow of our government; that wealth was to be its chief engine or means for the accomplishment of the dark design; and that whether that wealth consisted in money or human chattels, yet slavery was to be the representation of that power spread over free territory, and used to the overthrow of our free institutions. And, now, we believe that should the dark stain of Slavery be blotted out of existence with the wickedness of the Buchanan and other Administrations, our government will be again restored and remain as a beacon light to guide the nations.

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The following is the letter of Jeff Davis in relation to the shooting of ten Confederates in Missouri:—

Excourve Office,
Richmond, November 18th.
Lieut. Gen. T. H. Holt, Commanding General—Missouri, you will find a slip from the *Memphis Daily Appeal* of the 3d inst., containing an account purporting to be deriving from the Palmyra (Missouri) Courier, a Federal journal, of the murder of ten Confederate citizens of Missouri, by order of General McNeil, of the United States Army.

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The annals of history furnish no record of a parallel for the dreadful conflict in which this country is now engaged. A little while ago we were in the midst of peace, prosperity and plenty, and living under the best government ever formed by man; a government established by the people freely for their own protection and benefit, and handed down to us for our benefit; and how, above all the nations of the earth, have we been blessed in this sacred legacy, while the spirit of those who gave it to us followed it along down in its great mission, and inspired its Administration, and bound fast to its allegiance and fidelity of the recipients of its beneficence. This great government was not made to rule its subjects with the iron hand of power. It was not made for Oppression; for the dominance of the few over the many. It was created to reflect the wishes, the will, the virtue, and the patriotism of those who were to receive and be the objects of its beneficence. This government had its very constitution in its very inspiration, by the very act of its creation, an unchangeable and irrevocable claim to all that virtue and intelligence and patriotism could contribute to its perpetuation, and the full free, unobstructed achievement of its high purposes. Yet notwithstanding the greatness, goodness and beneficence of our once great and glorious government, a class of aristocrats, in wild revelry, rebellion and treason, have arisen in their madness, and seek to overthrow it, and rear in its stead a system of slavery, mastery, feudalism and villanage, for the benefit of a few slaveholding aristocrats, who, by their hereditary undertakes in their lordliness and contempt for the laboring classes, which feudal spirit their sires brought with them here, and in their distaste for the arts, their disgust for industry, their austere dominion over their dependants, seek to establish a slaveholding aristocracy, and instead of the liberty we have so long enjoyed, give us brutality, degradation, human bondage, traffic in human flesh, darkness and sorrow.

Still it be? Can it be that we, the sons of noble sires, who fought and bled, and sacrificed their all for our sakes, and gave to us, as we think, the greatest and best of governments, approve ourselves unworthy? Shall we let this grand government perish and be swept from off the face of the earth by traitors, an aristocratic few, that they may rule and revel in the destruction, ruin and slavery of the many.

Freedom and the right every where are interested in this mighty conflict. The eyes of all nations are upon us, with anxious expectation. Other Republics have been swept from off the face of the earth, and have clattered down the steeps of night forever.

If we fail, Chaos has come again, and from the untranscended throne of despotism, shouts of malignant joy will startle the world with earthquake voice of victory.

CAMP McCLELLAN, Nov. 17th, '62.

Editor Argus: Dear Sir—I wish to correct an error that was published in the *Harrisburg Patriot and Union* this morning, in regard to Capt. Donohoo's Cavalry Company, from Beaver Co. The editor, or his informant, must be very much mistaken if they think, as the paper states, that there are eighty Democrats in this company. The company is very nearly divided; and I think that they have not very much to brag on, if it is the only Democratic company from the county.

Please publish and oblige the Republicans of this County.

A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The President's Message is spoken of on all hands as the best written and best considered of any he has submitted. The radical Republicans are not particularly well pleased with his laudably argument in favor of compensation, emancipation, but occasionally sympathizing members are far worse pleased.—The quiet way in which he treats his emancipation proclamation as a thing accomplished and with which Congress has nothing to do commands much attention.

There is no telling what shape the telegraph may get the message West, but it may be well to assure your readers that as read here it is far above the average of President's Messages.

England, Vandalism and Co's. de-monstration on arrests, before the message was brought in, is regarded as the key note of their policy for the season.

There are rumors of fighting at Frederickburg in circulation, but they are wholly unreliable.

How to Go to Richmond.
The Paris Pays publishes an extract of a letter written by Gen. Chas. ...
The Paris Pays publishes an extract of a letter written by Gen. Chas. ...
The Paris Pays publishes an extract of a letter written by Gen. Chas. ...

Rebel Attack on Newbern
NEWBERN, N. C., via Fr. Monro, 1 ...
NEWBERN, N. C., via Fr. Monro, 1 ...
NEWBERN, N. C., via Fr. Monro, 1 ...

From Memphis
CAIRO, Ill., Friday, Nov. 29.
CAIRO, Ill., Friday, Nov. 29.
CAIRO, Ill., Friday, Nov. 29.

GEN. ROSECRANS'S GALLANTRY.
D. B. is Assistant Provost-Marshal ...
D. B. is Assistant Provost-Marshal ...
D. B. is Assistant Provost-Marshal ...

Won't Surrender.
The city authorities of Savannah ...
The city authorities of Savannah ...
The city authorities of Savannah ...

GEN. BRIDGES'S REPLY.
The following is a copy of a ...
The following is a copy of a ...
The following is a copy of a ...

Threatened Retaliation.
The following is the letter of Jeff ...
The following is the letter of Jeff ...
The following is the letter of Jeff ...

How to Go to Richmond.
It will not be easy for General ...
It will not be easy for General ...
It will not be easy for General ...