

The Columbian.

GEORGE H. MOORE, EDITOR.

BLOOMSBURG, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1866.

MEMORIAL ON NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

At the late session of Congress, on the eighteenth of January, Ulisses Mercer voted for the following bill, which passed the House and went to the Senate.

We quote from M'Pherson's "Manual," pp. 114 and 115. It is entitled "A Bill extending the right of suffrage in the District of Columbia."

Be it enacted, etc., That from all laws and parts of laws prescribing the qualifications of electors for any office in the District of Columbia the word "white" be, and the same is hereby, stricken out, and that from and after the passage of this act no person shall be disqualified from voting at any election held in the said District on account of color.

Sec. 2. That all acts of Congress and all laws of the State of Maryland in force in said district, and all ordinances of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed and annulled.

Mercur stands upon the records of the years and says in favor of this odious bill, which was not passed through the Senate, because it was ascertained the President would veto it, and that a two-thirds vote to override the veto could not be obtained.

The following official communication to Congress from the Mayor of Washington will show the outrageous character of the proposition and the contempt manifested by its passage through the House for the interests and opinions of the people of Washington:

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL, January 9, 1866.

Hon. L. F. S. Foster, President of the Senate of the United States:

Sir,—I have the honor, in compliance with an act of the Councils of the city approved December sixteenth, 1865, to transmit through you to the Senate of the United States the result of an election held on Thursday, twenty-first December, 1865, to ascertain the opinion of the people of Washington in opposition to the extension of the right of suffrage to that class; and that its integrity may be properly appreciated by the Senate, I give the aggregate of the vote cast at the five elections immediately preceding for Mayor:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Majority. Rows: 1865 (5,640), 1866 (6,218), 1867 (6,675), 1868 (7,119), 1869 (7,500).

No others in addition to this minority of thirty-five are to be found in this community who favor the extension of the right of suffrage to the class and in the manner proposed excepting those who have already memorialized the Senate in its favor, and who, with but little association, less sympathy, and no community of interest or affinity with the citizens of Washington, receive here from the General Government temporary employment, and having at the National Capital a residence limited only to the duration of a Presidential term, claim and invariably exercise the elective franchise elsewhere.

The people of this city, claiming an independence of thought and the right to express it, have thus given a grave and deliberate utterance, in an unobscured way, to their opinion and feelings on this subject. This unparalleled unanimity of sentiment pervades all classes of this community in opposition to the extension of the right of suffrage to that class engenders an earnest hope that Congress, in according to this expression of their wishes the respect and consideration they would as individuals immediately represent, would abstain from the exercise of its absolute power, and so avert an impending future apparently so objectionable to those over whom, by the fundamental laws of the land, they have exclusive jurisdiction.

With much respect, I am, sir, your own and the Senate's obedient servant, RICHARD WALLACE, Mayor.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.

DELEGATES to this body will be chosen in the several districts in this county on Saturday, August twenty-fifth, and the Convention will meet on Monday, the twenty-seventh, for the nomination of county and district candidates.

We refer to this Convention, because the COLUMBIAN is to be a thorough newspaper, and fully up to the times. Those subjects which interest the community in which it circulates will be handled by it with freedom and fairness, and from that advantageous point of view which it holds as an independent journal.

ULYSSES MERCUR is announced in Radical circles for re-election, and he will be urged upon the people of this district for their support, in spite of the record he has made for himself at the late session of Congress, and of his position of open hostility to the President. In fact, these things will recommend him to the Disunionists and small leaders of Radicalism who would sink into insignificance with the restoration of union, harmony, and prosperity to the country. Such men thrive upon discord, turbulence, agitation, and sectional passion, but decline to their native importance in times of peace and prosperity, when the laws are in regular action, and when men are valued according to their merits, and not according to their pretensions. To them the President's policy of restoration is distasteful and intolerable, for it destroys their profitable trade of agitation, and leaves them feeble and contemptible.

Why not name a Union man to represent the freemen of this district? What interest have they to be promoted by continual disputes in the country, or by an unjust warfare upon the President? Let these questions be answered before support is asked for one who has been "weighed in the balance and found wanting."

DISPATCHES received by the Mexican Consul in San Francisco give glowing accounts of the reception of President Juarez in Chihuahua.

For Assembly—The nomination is conceded to Montour County, and Captain THOMAS CHALFAST, of the Danville Intelligencer, is spoken of as the probable candidate. Editors seem to be favorites in this Representative District, as Colonel Tate, of the late Columbia Democrat, and W. H. Jacoby, of the late Star of the North, have in recent years been selected.

For Associate Judges—No less than eight candidates are named, although but two are to be selected. Six reside north and two south of the river. They are as follows: IRAM DERR, of Jackson; E. G. RICKETTS, of Orange; ANDREW FREAS, of Centre; JACOB EVANS, of Greenwood; THOMAS J. HUTCHISON, of Fishing Creek; RICHARD FRUIT, of Madison; STEPHEN BALDY, of Catawissa; and PETER K. HERBEIN, of Locust. One candidate no doubt will be selected from each side of the river.

For Prothonotary and Clerk of the several Courts.—The only candidate named so far is JESSE COLEMAN, of Orange, the present incumbent.

For Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds.—JOHN G. FREEZE, of Bloom, and SAMUEL NEYHARD, of Centre. Colonel Freeze has held the office one term.

For County Commissioners.—SAMUEL R. KATZ and MONTGOMERY COLE, both of Sugarloaf.

We have here fifteen gentlemen upon the list of candidates, from whom six are to be selected for nomination to the several offices mentioned.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have only to say to our friends in Bradford and Montour that there is as much mystery in the acts and objects of those connected with the COLUMBIAN as there is about the question of who makes the appointments of Assistant Revenue Assessors? We know that in a legal point of view Mr. Clark has the right to appoint, but if he has referred you to others, and others have referred you to him, you must find out for yourselves. We act independent of the entire concern.—Democrat and Star.

What perplexity the editors and their correspondents are in! If we were only furnished with the names of these correspondents it would delight us to relieve their minds from all distressing anxieties. But how foolish in them to waste time in consulting the Democrat and Star for information. Who would ever expect them to penetrate a mystery. It was hardly necessary for our contemporary to assure their correspondents that "we act independent of the entire concern." This was a fact patent to everybody who had ever seen copies of the two papers. In their literary character, in their mechanical execution, and in everything that goes to make up a newspaper, the contrast is so striking as to preclude the idea that the two concerns have any connection whatever.

But it seems that our contemporary imagines there is a mystery about the question of who makes the appointments of Assistant Revenue Assessors. This is new to us. We had thought the law clear and explicit, so does the Democrat and Star, and to relieve the Assessor from all doubt on the question they proceed to inform him that in a legal point of view he has the right to appoint.

If this be true, the editors are entitled to the Assessor's thanks. All men are said to love power and patronage, and of course Mr. Clark is not so unlike other men as to turn his back upon it. But unfortunately, "in a legal point of view," the Assistant Assessors are appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury. At least the act of Congress provides for the appointment of these officers to him exclusively, and confers no power in that respect upon the Assessor. We should say, then, "in a legal point of view," the appointment of Assistant Assessors was with Secretary McCulloch, notwithstanding our high respect for the legal standing of the Junior of the Democrat and Star. Would it not be well for the conductors of that journal, especially when applied for information, before proceeding to enlighten their correspondents, and the public generally, on a question like this, to give to the act of Congress a cursory perusal at least. In this connection we affirm that one of two things must be true. Either the editors of the Democrat and Star never read the act of Congress providing for the appointment of Assistant Assessors, or, having read it, were too stupid to understand it. And in either case we would advise Assessors generally to look elsewhere for advice in the conduct of their offices.

THE CONGRESSIONAL QUESTION.

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THE CANDIDATES BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

In another column we have given a list of candidates on the Democratic side of the house, and now propose to briefly sketch them for our readers.

There is much interest manifested in the Senatorial nomination. To complicate the matter one or two candidates have appeared in Montour.

Mr. Ent, of this county, served some years since as a Representative for two sessions, we believe with credit to himself as a man of integrity and firmness. He is a man of much energy, and as such has incurred some opposition from men who were formerly opposed by him in nominating Conventions.

Colonel Tate has claims upon our respectful consideration as a veteran member of the editorial fraternity, having been connected with the press of this county for about a quarter of a century. He served as a Representative at the session of 1862, and his nomination is now pressed on the ground of past party service, and his being disengaged from active employment.

Mr. McNinch is a merchant in the ancient town of Catawissa, which has in recent years taken a fresh start in improvement. Our advertising columns will show that he is a business man, and understands the art of success. He has twice been elected County Treasurer, and discharged the duties of the office with credit and to the satisfaction of the public.

Two of the candidates are not speaking men, not having been trained to the practice of debate. Probably the editor of the late Columbia Democrat may plume himself on his superiority over them as a speaker, but he should not submit his pretensions on this score to the editor of the Columbia County Republican; he must not rely upon this point. Critics are numerous and uncharitable; and we suggest his safe plan would be to get the editor aforesaid to abuse him into a nomination, as he did on a former occasion. It is no doubt true that opposition is sometimes more advantageous than support.

Of the candidates for Associate Judge we must speak briefly because of their number. Mr. Evans, of Greenwood, is a reputable gentleman, who formerly served a term as Associate Judge. Mr. Hutchison, of Fishing Creek, has had long service as a Justice of the Peace; and Iram Derr, of Jackson, has been twice Sheriff of this county, and once County Commissioner. Mr. Ricketts, of Orange, has been a merchant, a business man, and though active in politics, has not been a nominee for office within the past twenty years. We believe he was once a candidate for Assembly, when circumstances of a local character prevented his election. Mr. Richard Fruit, of Madison, the next man on the list, has recently returned to the county from a residence of some years in Montour. He is a gentleman of reputation and social address, but has not been active in politics beyond his own neighborhood since he served as a conferee at the nomination of Valentine Best for the Senate. Mr. Freas, of Centre, is a man of much energy, a skillful farmer, ardent and active in his friendships and enmities, and once served as County Commissioner. South of the river Judge Baldy, of Catawissa, and Esquire Herbein, of Locust, contest the nomination. The Judge is a veteran in politics, and is a man most determined and persevering in the pursuit of his objects. He has served several terms as Associate Judge. His competitor is represented to have local popularity and fair merits as a citizen and officer.

For Prothonotary, Mr. Coleman, late of Orange, is without a competitor, and his nomination will be in accordance with usage regarding the office he now holds.

For Register and Recorder Colonel Freeze is named for re-election with a like claim of usage in his behalf, in connection with conceded capacity. He has recently been subjected to severe domestic affliction, which has kept him from a personal participation in the canvass. Mr. Neyhard, of Centre, his opponent, is an intelligent surveyor, a farmer, and an acting Justice of the Peace.

Messrs Kline and Cole, the candidates for nomination to the office of Commissioner, both reside in Sugarloaf. The one was formerly a Justice of the Peace, and the other is now. We are not advised as to their respective merits, but should be inclined to prefer whichever one is selected by the people instead of the Commissioner's Clerk.

We have endeavored to speak accurately and not unkindly of the several persons whose claims are being canvassed preparatory to the nominations. Whether opposing candidates will be set up by nomination, or volunteers appear on the field of contest remains to be seen. In a county so strongly fixed in its political character, the chances of course are strongly in favor of the Convention candidates, whoever they may be; but 'tis an old saying, "There is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip." We shall hope, however, in the interests of the public, that the best men will be selected.

LARGE numbers of Southern gentlemen, delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, are daily arriving. They represent a good state of feeling in the South, and a general anxiety that the Philadelphia Convention shall be the means of bringing the two sections to a better understanding of each other. The Southern delegates all express a disposition to go into the Convention solely for the purpose of harmonizing the conflicting elements in the country. They have no demands to make, and are ready to accept any reasonable platform having any claims to nationality in its character. They expect an unqualified endorsement of the policy hitherto pursued by the President, and will be satisfied should nothing else be adopted.

JUDGE LOVELAKE, of the Supreme Bench of Missouri, died in his residence in Danville, Missouri, on Saturday last.

GENERAL PRESS DISPATCHES.

THE New Orleans delegation here are highly pleased with General Sheridan's course in regard to the late riots. They feel confident that had Sheridan been in the city when the disturbance did occur there would have been an outbreak. They express perfect willingness to leave the whole matter to his arbitration.

A. P. Gorman of Maryland, for four years past Postmaster of the Senate, has been removed from that position and discharged by Sergeant-at-Arms Brown. Gorman has been for fifteen years connected with the Senate in one capacity and another. Lately dissatisfaction has been expressed at his course by certain Radical Senators clamorous for his removal. It was charged that he went after Senator Dixon to vote on the Civil Rights Bill, and that all along he has been friendly to the President. Cresswell charges that he has been working in Maryland against him. Finally Cresswell, backed by Chandler, Howe, and Howard, threatened Brown that if Gorman was not immediately removed they would have him, Brown, removed at the next session. Fearing a threat, Brown dismissed him on Thursday last. A successor has not yet been named.

Brigadier General W. A. Nichols has been assigned to duty as chief of staff to Gen. Sherman.

Charles O'Connor is still here endeavoring to secure the release of Jeff Davis on bail or parole. He has met with but little encouragement as yet.

The Union Central Committee of Virginia, meet to-night at Alexandria to perfect the organization of the Radical party to prepare the way for the selection of delegates to the September convention, and to make appointments for speakers, who are to visit the States North that the solicitation of Local Leagues and Union organizations.

Governor Humphry of Mississippi reports to General Howard that the Insane Asylum of that State is so crowded that he is daily compelled to refuse admission to white citizens, and is therefore unable to provide for the imbecile blacks. The reverses of the war, subsequent to the bankruptcy of the people and present sufferings for food and clothing, are thought to be the reasons for this increase of idocy.

A letter received last Monday by the President from a very influential and wealthy citizen of Louisiana, after a general review of the late riots and the causes thereof, contains the following paragraph: "The present Constitution of this State has some features in it which we would be glad to be rid of, but we have formally and legally adopted this instrument as our organic law, and we will stand by it until another Constitution shall be adopted by our citizens, in a legal and constitutional manner." Such is the universal sentiment of the substantial and respectable men of the State.

The Secretary of the Treasury has directed that hereafter in all cases where a person is appointed Collector or Assessor of Internal Revenue, he shall take office on the first day of the succeeding month after his commission is delivered to him. This rule is made to prevent any disturbance of the practice of making regular monthly statements of accounts.

Brigadier-General William A. Nichols, Assistant Adjutant-General in the War Department, is named as Lieutenant-General Sherman's Chief of Staff.

The following named officers have been temporarily detailed for duty on the staff of Major-General Hooker Commanding the Department of the East: Brevet Colonel R. H. Jackson, Captain First United States Artillery, as Acting Assistant Inspector-General; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Loomis L. Langdon, Captain First United States Artillery, as acting Judge-Advocate.

In the bill passed at the last session of Congress, authorizing the payment of additional bounty, the seamen who rendered such good service seem to have been overlooked entirely. The Fourth Auditor receives daily a very large number of letters from sailors, who suppose, with reason, that the act granting additional bounty applies to them as well as to the soldiers. The only reply that can be made to them is that nothing can be done toward equalizing the bounties received by them under this act of Congress.

In a recent case in which all the parts of two iron steamers were constructed in Glasgow, and there put together, and again taken to pieces and the sections imported into Galveston and duties levied upon the parts so imported at that place, it was decided by the Secretary of the Treasury that the collection of the duties constituted the section of the steamer American property, and that marine papers may be issued to such vessels when again rebuilt in this country.

A few days ago the President forwarded through the Post-Office to William F. Johnston, well known throughout the country as an ex-Governor of Pennsylvania, a commission as Collector of the Port of Philadelphia. By the collusion of the Postmaster at Philadelphia this letter was delivered to an unknown person named William F. Johnston, of Philadelphia, who saw fit, doubtless under inspiration from the Philadelphia Postmaster, D. D. Forney, and others, to write a highly insulting reply to the President declining the office. The impudence of the business is apparent. There could be no mistake in the address of the letter, and if there were this person knew when he opened it that it was not intended for him, but for ex-Governor Johnston. Forney appears in the Press with a copy of this fellow's insulting letter to the President, which, for insolence and consummate wickedness, eclipses the famous Jamison scurril letter. In the same connection Mr. Thomas, now holding the office of Collector, at Philadelphia, appears in print with a letter disputing the right of the Executive to remove him during the recess of Congress, and intimating a purpose to hold on to the office at all hazards.

Doubtless he will soon be brought to his senses, as a new commission has been forwarded to ex-Governor Johnston, which will probably reach its destination with no further interference. A full investigation has been ordered into the circumstances attending the delivery of the former epistle to this man Johnson, and probably the Postmaster who permitted such flagrant tampering with official correspondence, and conspired to effect it, as he unquestionably did, will lose his office in consequence.

A CAVALRY BATTLE.

THE following graphic account of a street fight between Prussians and Austrians is calculated to strengthen the impression that it is not merely in the needle-gun that the Prussians have the advantage over their Austrian rivals. It is from a correspondent of the London Times: "The monotony of the march was relieved by a spirited cavalry skirmish in the little town of Saar, which is about six miles to the west of Neustadt. Last night the Austrian hussars of the regiment of Hesse-Cassel held Saar. The Prussian cavalry was to proceed to-day to Gammny, about a mile in front of Saar, and the Eleventh Regiment of Uhlans formed its advance guard on the march. The Austrians intended to march to-day to the rear toward Brunn, and the hussars were actually assembling for parade previous to the march when the first patrols of the Prussian Uhlans came rattling into the town.

"In the market-place an exciting scene at once began. The celebrated cavalry of Austria was being attacked by the rather depreciated horsemen of Prussia, and the lances, the 'queen of weapons,' as its admirers love to term it, was being engaged in real battle against the sword. The first Prussian soldiers who rode into the town were very few in number, and they could not attack before more came up. This delay of a few minutes gave the hussars a short time to hurry together from other parts of the town, and by the time the Uhlans received their reinforcements the Austrians were nearly formed.

"As soon as their supports came up the lancers formed a line across the street, advanced a few yards at a walk, then trotted a short distance, their horses' feet pattering on the stones, the men's swords jingling, their accoutrements rattling, and their lances borne upright, with the black and white flag streaming over their heads; but when near the opening into the broader street, which is called Market-place, a short, sharp word of command, a quick, stern note from the trumpet, the lance points came down and were sticking out in front of the horse's shoulders, the horses broke into a steady gallop, and the lance flags fluttered rapidly from the motion through the air, as the horsemen, with bridle hands low and bodies bent forward, lightly gripped the staves, and drove the points straight to the front.

"But when the Prussians began to gallop the Austrians were also in motion. With a looser formation and a greater speed they came on, their blue pelisses, trimmed with fur and embroidered with yellow, flowing freely from the left shoulders, leaving their sword arms disencumbered. Their heads well up carried the single eagle's feather in every cap raised in the air; their swords were straight, bright and sharp, ready to strike as their tiny little horses, pressed tight by the knees of the riders, came bounding along, and dashed against the Prussian ranks if they would leap over the points of the lances.

"The Uhlans swayed heavily under the shock of the collision, but recovering again, pressed through only at a walk. In front of them were mounted men, striking with their swords, parrying the lance thrusts, but unable to reach the lance; but the ground was also covered with men and horses, struggling together to rise; loose lines were galloping away; dismounted hussars, in their blue uniforms and long boots, were hurrying off to try to catch loose horses, or to avoid lance points. The Uhlans appeared unbroken, but the hussars were almost dispersed. They had dashed up against the firmer Prussian ranks and they had recoiled, shivered, scattered, and broken as a wave is broken that dashes against a cliff. In the few moments that the ranks were locked together it seemed that the horsemen were so closely jammed against each other that lance or sword was hardly used. The hussars escaped the points in rushing in, but their speed took them so close to the lancers' breasts that they had not even room to use their swords. Then the Prussians, stouter and taller men, mounted on heavier horses, mostly bred from English sires, pressed hard on the light frames and smaller horses of the hussars, and by mere weight and physical strength bore them back and forced them from their seats to the ground, or sometimes, so rude was the shock, sent horse and man bounding backward, to come down with a clatter on the pavement.

"The few Austrians who remained mounted, fought for a short time to stop the Prussian advance, but they could make no impression on the lancers. Wherever a hussar made a dash to close three points bristled couched against his chest or his horse's breast, for the Austrians were now in inferior numbers in the streets of the town, and the narrowness of the way would not allow them to retire for their reserve to charge. So the Prussians pressed steadily forward in an unvanquishable line, and the Austrians, impatient to stop them, had to fall back before them. Before they had gone far through the town, fighting this irregular combat, more Prussian cavalry came up behind the Uhlans, and the Austrians began to draw off. The lancers pushed after them, but the hussars got away, and at the end of the town the pursuit ceased. One officer, and twenty-two non-commissioned officers and privates taken prisoners, with nearly forty captured horses, fell into the hands of the Uhlans as trophies of this skirmish. Some of the

UNFOLDING OF THE PLOT.

A PAPER was circulated in this city yesterday evening, purporting to be a proclamation of Governor Wells ordering elections to be held in certain parishes to fill vacancies in the convention of 1864.

We suppose it to be a genuine document, although it purports to be signed "under my hand, at the city of New Orleans, this twenty-seventh day of July, A. D. 1866," when the Governor is known not to be within many miles of this place. It also wants the attestation of the Secretary of State, who has, we learn, refused to countersign it or attach the seal of the State, as is customary, if not material, to the paper.

Not one of the State officers, we believe, elected at the same time as Governor Wells, and on the same ticket, forming with him the State administration, agrees with him in these extraordinary proceedings.

The paper was, however, doubtless issued by the Governor, and is in that respect a genuine production; but it is one he has not a shadow of authority for issuing, and is of no more legal force than it would be if it had been issued by any other person, in or out of the State.

It has been demonstrated, over and over again, that the convention of 1864 has no legal existence in 1866. It expired by the conclusion of its labor and the adoption of the constitution it made. It attempted to prolong its own existence by providing that it might be reconvoked by the presiding officer.

This authority to convolve the defunct body was in itself a usurpation; but it was a conditional authority, vested in a particular person, to be exercised in a single event, and there was no provision made for the intervention of the Governor at all. That person was the President of the convention, and that event the failure of the people to ratify the constitution. The President of the convention was directed to call it together if the constitution was rejected. It was only in that event that the provision to fill vacancies should come into force in that way. "Then and in that case" he (the President of the convention) might call on the proper officers to cause elections to be held. The case never occurred; the constitution was ratified; the President of the convention decides the body to be constitutionally extinct; and the pretended authority, which was a usurpation, lapses by its own terms, and leaves not a vestige of title or authority anywhere, or in anybody, to fill vacancies in the body alive or dead.

Nevertheless Governor Wells has issued this paper, ordering and commanding elections to be held to fill the vacancies which the very authority he recites declares are only to be filled in the event that the constitution should be rejected.

It is the plainest possible case of the use of a power which those who bestowed it had no right to give, for a purpose different from that to which they expressly limited it, and in a manner entirely different from that which they prescribed.

The Governor bases his proclamation on the report of Judge Howell, as President pro tem. of the convention, when Judge Howell, only represents a small majority, which irregularly excluded the true President—if there be a President at all—and is a mere pretender to authority, without the support of more than a fourth of a quorum of the body he affects to speak for, but which the Governor accepts as the sovereign authority of the State in perpetual session.

The proclamation does not call elections to fill vacancies in the convention as it existed when it adjourned in 1864, but to bring in new members to the number fifty-one, from parishes which were not represented in that convention at all. There is no notice taken of vacancies which have occurred among the members actually chosen and taking part in its proceedings.

The real fact we suppose to be that a majority of the surviving members of the convention is not to be had in support of the executive and his partisans, and that it is designed to bring in by the new elections, in which it is thought that no citizen of the State, not in the Governor's clique, can consistently take part, enough to get a majority who will sanction everything done, however irregular, and depend on the executive and a partisan judiciary, which is in confederacy with him, to overthrow a unanimous Legislature, all the State officers elected by the people, and impose a new government on a disfranchised people.

How this revolutionary scheme is to be met and baffled peaceably, and within the terms of the law, is a subject for the most serious consideration of the people of the State. That there are means we cannot doubt, nor can we doubt that those will be taken with a deliberation befitting the gravity of the occasion, and carried through with the firmness which such high duties, in such emergencies, require of patriotic citizens.—New Orleans Picayune.

AN IRON-BREAKER.

LOCKED up in a cell in the Henrico County Jail, in Virginia, is a man named Chastain Hampton, who has been sent on by the justice in a charge of horse-stealing. Hampton was fastened to the floor with an iron ankle, chain, and ring, but in some mysterious way he managed to get the ankle as if it was only a woman's garter. He was ironed again with the same results as before; and so for seven times in succession did this thing happen to the great bewilderment of the blacksmith who made them, who swears by hammer and anvil that Hampton must be the cell by which the smashing could be done, unless they were concealed in his clothes, which we believe have not been searched. The Clerk of the Court, as soon as Hampton is left to himself, can

hear the sound of his work in casting off his rinds, which, by the way, it appears he does in derision of his keepers, and not with any view of making his escape.

NAPOLION UNDOING THE WORK OF HIS UNCLE.

THE emancipation of Venice is a grand event. A Bonaparte, be it acknowledged freely, has been a prime mover in undoing one of the worst political crimes which history records against the great founders of his house. The handing over of Venice to Austria stains the first Napoleon as much as the partition of Poland darkens the renown of Frederick the Great. Since the Congress of Vienna settled it on Austria, it has clung around her neck worse than a dead weight—a perpetual irritation and danger. Blood has been shed to maintain that heritage of evil enough to flood the great Place of St. Mark and the Doges of the painters and poets. Great hearts have uselessly broken in the effort to tear from Austria that which she gives up to-day. Splendid intellects have worn themselves out in the same futile struggle; patriots whose purity and genius might have glorified a nation have died in prison and in exile for that cause—in vain. The courage of the soldier, the intellect of the statesman, the wiles of the conspirator, have for generations been wanted to gain that end which the world hears with amazement has been so suddenly conceded to-day. Manin and Cavour and D'Azeglio should have died hereafter—they should have lived to see this great step achieved in the independence and unity of that Italian race for whom they dared and suffered so much. So far as this great boon has been obtained for Italy by the intervention of the Emperor of the French, we are not disposed to share the fears of those who dread that its acceptance may involve some compensating sacrifices. We do not look for the development of any such sinister designs. The part taken by the Emperor of the French is, we trust and believe, but the fulfillment of his pledge that Italy should be free from the Alps to the Adriatic. Whatever territorial questions may have to be settled between him and others, we do not believe it possible that an attempt will be made to induce an Italian ministry to barter away a rood of Italian soil. If this be so, the future of Italy grows at once calm and bright. The dangers and difficulties which chiefly beset her disappear as suddenly as the clouds sometimes lift from the sides of one of her own Alps. Her strife with Austria over her sole cause of foreign dispute away, she may set herself firmly and faithfully to the accomplishment of the task of domestic consolidation and improvement from which hitherto she has been so much distracted. She may resort to the most modest proportions her huge army, stop her work in naval armaments, apply herself with all her heart to the repair of her shattered finances and the full development of her splendid resources. Nor, indeed, does Austria gain much less than Italy in losing Venetia. But for that ill-omened bequest, the Emperor Francis Joseph would not now have to see his place in Europe threatened, his ancestral leadership in Germany gone. Over the cessation of Venetia, come as it may, all Europe has cause to be glad. Of the other events which are to accompany this great change, it will be time enough to judge as they arise. Thus far Europe stands like Shakespeare's "Henry V." at Agincourt, and scarcely knows if war be done or no.—London Star, July 6.

DESPERADOES.

WE learn from Thomas T. Brown, of Washington County, who was in town last week, that on Saturday, the second instant, a man arrived in Fayetteville in the stage and informed the sheriff and two other persons that there were four men who would be in town shortly from Missouri, who had killed an old man, had raised a store and a grocery, and that he had raised a company and pursued them, but failing to overtake them he had taken the stage and came on ahead. Pretty soon the four men rode into town, got off their horses, hitched them, and one went into the store of Mr. Stone and the three others went into a grocery to take a drink. Before they had time to take a drink the sheriff, the clerk of the court, Mr. Wing, postmaster, and Colonel Gunter went into the grocery to arrest them. Mr. Wing said to them, "Gentlemen, you may consider yourselves prisoners." With that one of the men called out to the others to "shuck themselves," and with that each of them drew two revolvers and commenced firing. Mr. Wing, the postmaster, was shot dead, and the man who came in pursuit was shot under the chin, in the throat, and he died in a few minutes, and Colonel Gunter was shot in the arm, shattering the bone. The three men retreated out of the door, still firing as they went out; and by this time the citizens had collected to arrest the desperadoes, but as they were armed, and most of the citizens were not, they all made their escape. A posse of men immediately started in pursuit of them. They found one of the men sitting leaning against a tree, having been shot through the abdomen. The party told him they would bring him an ambulance and take him to town, but when they returned they found him dead, he having cut his throat and stabbed himself in several places. The other three men were heard of in the neighborhood of Elm Spring, one being badly wounded in the knees. Our informant did not state who shot these desperadoes, but we presume some of the party must have been alarmed and fired on them, or perhaps some of the citizens fired as they were retreating. Colonel Gunter's arm is shattered above the elbow, and it is thought, will have to be amputated.

GENERAL POPE and staff arrived at Fort Union, New Mexico, on the fifth instant, and left for Santa Fe and Albuquerque.