Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 1868.

Puffing Geary.

The toadies of John W. *Geary* seem resolved to force him upon the Republican party as a gubernatorial candidate, in spite of the fact that the best men of the party are completely disgusted with him. A paper in *Erie*, which is controlled by a member of this "humbuggedest" Governor's cabinet, goes off into a strain of the most extravagant eulogy. It blows its trumpet after the following sonorous fashion:

Let our gallant Boys in Blue rally around the banner of the Chevalier Bayard of our State.

He has ever been without fear and without reproach, as the hosts of freedom will acknowledge.

No American—least of all—no Pennsylvanian need be told of the military record of our gallant Geary. Wherever the foe was to be found, there did our noble leader appear to head the combat with all the vigor of his giant nature. In Mexico, in California, and in the grand arena of the rebellion, he ever appeared in the front rank, always crying "Come on," and not "Go boys," like some we might name.

It is almost a pity to spoil so nice a picture, but regard for truth compels us to do so. It is an established and incontrovertible fact that Geary acted the part of an arrant coward in Mexico. At the storming of Chapultapec this Chevalier Bayard, took to the chaparal, and hid his precious carcass until all danger was over. Then he came sneaking out with a cock and bullstory about having encountered as many men in Buckram as Falstaff did; but his tale was as absurd as that of the fat Knight and as little credited by his comrades. So incensed and disgusted were the soldiers under his command that immediately after the return of the regiment, meetings were held by its members in Cambria and Fayette county, in which resolutions were passed denouncing John W. Geary as "an arrant coward." These meetings were publicly assembled in the Court Houses of the two counties, and the proceedings were published in the local Whig papers of the day.

During the late war Geary kept a Bohemian about his head-quarters, whose business it was to manufacture lies for circulation through the columns of a sensational newspaper. This fellow once had a report published of a purely imaginative battle, at an out of the way place in Virginia, in which Geary was represented as performing prodigies of valor. When the matter was examined into, it was found that there had been no engagement with any enemy, and the terrible cannonading, which was said to have taken place, must have been a mere pounding of the empty air, if any such thing there was. The capture of the old "Spittoon," at Harper's Ferry, was magnified into the grandest kind of an achievement.—Snickerville became historic under the pen of Hans Wurst's reporter, and lies thus glibly retailed, covered this poor charlatan with a lacquer of reputed military renown.

Geary came out of the war ready to serve any party which would give him an office. He was never choicy about positions. After returning from Kansas (when he let a fellow half his size spit in his gubernatorial face, without daring to resent the indignity, and pardoned the man who shot his insulter) he was content to descend to the business of taking the census of two or three townships in Westmoreland county, thus accepting the pettiest kind of an office under President Buchanan. Simon Cameron, wanting as candidate for Governor some weak fellow whom he could own completely, picked upon Geary, and, being then in the zenith of his power, the Winnebago Chief forced the nomination of his purchased tool, against the earnest protests of the best and purest men of the Republican party. Since his election Geary has made a fool of himself whenever he has appeared in public. His silly speeches have made him a laughing stock wherever he went.

We hope Geary may be made the Republican nominee. If he is the Democrats can beat him easily, by putting up a really distinguished soldier, or some able and popular civilian. Covode's "humbuggedest" Governor can't be re-elected.

Bribery.

The *Inquirer* of this city is a Radical newspaper. It has advanced with the extreme men of the party, keeping pace with them all the time. It is the organ of a wing of the Republican party in this county, which is not regarded as being any purer than it might be. Yet, strange to say, even this journal is constrained to cry out against the infamous system of bribery which, being introduced into our politics by the Republican party, has grown to be almost universal. The *Inquirer* evidently feels no sense of shame in confessing the wide spread corruption which prevails among public officials who have been elevated to power by its party. That seeming callousness is scarcely to be wondered at, however. It has come to pass that the people are fully conscious of the fact that the Radical members of our State Legislature form a ring at each session, for the express purpose of extorting bribes from all corporations and other bodies applying for legislation. There is not a moderately well informed man in the Commonwealth who does not know that the votes of a majority of the Radical members of our Legislature have been constantly put up at auction for several years past, to be knocked down to the highest bidder. The open sale of the high office of U. S. Senator to Simon Cameron is only an instance in point. The same kind of thing has occurred on a smaller scale almost every day of each session. And so common has the thing become, that it has almost ceased to excite comment. The people know that members of the Legislature are constantly seeking and accepting bribes, and yet it seems to be regarded by a majority of them as a comparatively trivial matter. The public conscience has been seared, as with a hot iron, by the almost universal prevalence of official corruption.

We are glad to notice in the article of the *Inquirer* some evidence of a proper appreciation of the great dangers to be apprehended from this great source of evil. It says:

It is idle to suppose that an evil of this character, and one that has grown to the proportions that it has of late years been assuming, can be suffered without producing the most disasterous results. The vampire that sucks the life-blood of its victim, in order to contribute to its own sustenance, is not more fatal to that victim's life and health, than is *Bribery* to the life and health of popular government. It withdraws the fountain of power from its true place, in the hearts of the people, and transfers it to the pockets of those who possess and are willing to use money to purchase influence and power.

With an apparently clear consciousness of the disgraceful state of affairs which prevails, the *Inquire* seems to be unable to suggest any remedy. The truth is, it is like a surgeon who is called upon to remove a cancer which has already sent its poisonous roots deep down into the vital organs. He sees at a glance that the patient must die unless the knife is applied, but is at the same time fully convinced that death will inevitably ensue if an operation is attempted. The corruption which alarms the *Inquirer* has become so wide spread and so deep seated in the very heart of the Republican party that it cannot be removed. The only thing that can be done is to allow the diseased thing to die, and the sooner it is buried out of sight with all its loathsome corruption, the better it will be for the country.

The Hill Murder.

After long delays, caused by the repeated challenges for cause, a jury has been impanneled in the Hill murder case, in Philadelphia, and George Twitchell is now on trial for his life. His wife will be tried separately.

Negro Suffrage in Pennsylvania.

Horace Greeley well said that he had no great respect for the "insects whom an inscrutable Providence permits to edit the country Republican papers," but we have less respect for the ignorant insect who publishes the following in the *Honesdale Republic:*

"1682 William Penn promulgated "The Frame of Government" of Pennsylvania, under authority of the charter granted him by King Charles II. In this document the right of suffrage is given, without restriction, to "*the freemen* of said province."

In 1701 Penn granted what is known as the "Charter of Privileges." By this instrument the right of suffrage was broadly given to "*the freemen* of each respective county."

The first Constitution of Pennsylvania was adopted in 1776. The convention that framed this instrument was presided over by Benjamin Franklin. It gave the right of suffrage to "every freeman of the full age of 21 years." The men of the Revolution, while asserting their own rights and liberties against proscription, were careful to stand fast by the cardinal idea of the political equality of all men.

In 1790 a new constitution was framed. Thomas Mifflin presided over the convention that made it. This instrument gave the right to vote to "*every freeman* over the age of 21 years."

In 1838 the Constitution was revised.—John Sargent presided over the convention. The basis of suffrage was changed, so as to include only "every *white* freemen over the age of 21 years."

For one hundred and fifty-six years, blackmen, if black they were, voted in Pennsylvania, on precisely the same condition as white men.

In 1682, not 1662, the "Frame of Government of Pennsylvania" was promulgated. The right of suffrage is thereby granted to "the freemen of said province," but who shall be such freemen is not carefully defined. Certainly negroes were not included, because it is extremely doubtful if there were any in the province at the time, the first importation of Africans having been to Virginia, in 1620, and if there were any such in the province, they were certainly slaves.

That the "man and brother" was not then considered a legitimate depositary of political power is evident from the Statute of 1726, which "denominated the African race an idle and slothful people; which directed the Magistrates to bind out free negroes for laziness or vagrancy; which forbade them to harbor Indian or Mulatto Slaves on pain of punishment by fine, or to deal with negro slaves, on pain of stripes; which annexed to the interdict of marriage with a white, the penalty of reduction to slavery; which punished them for tippling, with stripes, and even a white person with servitude for intermarriage with a negro."

Notwithstanding the "Charter of Privileges" of 1701, the negro had no right to vote in Pennsylvania, and it is altogether incorrect to say that he did not vote under it.

The negro never voted under the Constitution of 1776, and when the new Constitution of 1790 was framed, the words "every freeman" over the age of twenty-one years," which define the right of suffrage, still excluded the negro.

In the year 1795, it was decided by the Court of Errors and Appeals of this State, that under the Constitution of 1790, the negro was not entitled to vote.

The same question was before the Supreme Court of this State in July, 1837, and it was decided that the negro had never had the right to vote in this State. See opinion by Gibson, C. J., Hobbs et. al., vs. Fogg; 6 Watts, 553.

Our Fathers, who believed in the principles of the Declaration of Independence, understood the true laws of Government too well, and valued their liberties too highly, to endanger every thing by placing the ballot in the hands of an inferior and degraded race.

Pilfering and Poisoning.

The New York *World* has created a profound impression in that city by exposing the short weight given by retail grocers and the adulterations of many of the articles they sell. It sent reporters to numerous stores, and they found that the goods which were sold in pound packages almost invariably lacked an ounce or so in weight. But it regards this pilfering as a petty thing when compared to the wholesale adulteration of commodities which is practiced. Tea, which is sold for the genuine Chinese article, was found to be a villainous compound of "tea leaves once used, sloe, oak, willow, elm, poplar and hawthorne leaves, with various poisonous colorings, and catechu and sulphate of iron for taste." Such a mixture as that is calculated to make each particular hair on the head of a tea-loving old maiden stand on end. The *World* insists that the same sort of adulteration, to a greater or less extent, is applied to nearly every article. Sugar is an exception. The popular stories about using sand in it seem not to be true. The cheating in that commodity must be in the weighing or moistening. But, says the *World*, "in other articles, almost all articles, great numbers of our retailers deliberately and successfully swindle their customers."

That is a sad picture, indeed, and we cannot help pitying the victims of the vile arts of the grocers of *Gotham*.

The startling revelations made by the *World* have set us to wondering whether the grocers of country towns are entirely free from the vices of their Metropolitan brethren. We suppose our grocers sell their goods as they buy them. But are we sure they have not been sadly adulterated before they came into their hands. It is said to be a well established fact that pure spices can scarcely be found. This question of adulteration is one which directly affects the health of the people, and it needs to be looked to.

Negro Carpet-Baggers.

It seems that the South is not only to be afflicted with the swarm of lean and lantern-jawed Yankees, who are pushing themselves into every vacant office they can find, but that the Negro Congressmen from that section are also of the carpet-bagger species. The mulatto who is now hanging round the lobby of the House, waiting for a recognition of his claims as a Representative from Louisiana, is not a Southern negro. He emigrated from Ohio since the war, where it seems he voted for Lincoln in 1860, contrary to the laws of that State. Now this vagrant Northern Negro pops up as a Representative of the negro voters of the South. In the name of the barbers, the boot-blacks, the waiters, the black mechanics and the field hands of the South, we protest against this as unfair. Let them send men of their own class, if we must have Negro Congressmen from the South, and not black carpet-baggers.

The Supreme Court.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to increase the number of Judges on the Bench of the Supreme Court. When Andrew Johnson came into power, a law was passed reducing the number, in order to prevent him from filling a vacancy. The proposed increase at this time is admitted by the New York *Tribune* to be in consequence of the conservatism of some of the Judges appointed by Mr. Lincoln. That amounts to a distinct confession, that the Radicals intend to pack the highest Judicial tribunal of the land with pliant tools, who will decide according to the demands of their party. How long can liberty continue to exist under any government when such an outrage is openly committed.

THE Somerset *Herald and Whig*, the organ of the Republicans of Somerset county, advises Congress to go slow upon the negro suffrage queston. Its editor is Radical enough, in all conscience, but he sees symptoms of mutiny among the "frosty sons of thunder." The mountaineers of Pennsylvania are not ready yet to endorse negro equality. They have too much pride of race for that.

The Legal Tender Act.

The intimation that the Supreme Court is likely to discharge a plain duty in a conscientious manner, by declaring the Legal Tender Act unconstitutional, has caused a terrible commotion among the smaller fry of Radical newspaper editors. Horace Greeley takes the thing very complacently. He seems to admit that the law is unconstitutional, and apprehends no serious difficulties, if the Supreme Court so decide. Other leading Radical Journals take the same view. They do not expect chaos to come even if the truth is promulgated from the highest judicial tribunal of the land. But the Philadelphia *Post* and the Lancaster *Express* have been thrown into violent convulsions. The *Post*, in the most frantic style, calls upon Congress to abolish the Supreme Court. The *Express* paints the most appalling picture of the woes which it asserts will follow an opinion adverse to the constitutionality of the law. We have not seen such a commotion among the Radical minows for a long time, and, considering the composure of Greeley, and other tritons of the school, we are quite surprised at the splutter into which the diminutives are thrown.

Let these "insignificant creatures" (we believe that is the term Greeley once applied to them) read the leading Democratic and independent journals of the country, and there will be an abatement of their agonies. The Philadelphia *Ledger* is regarded as first-class financial authority in this section, and it says:

If the decision of the Court shall be of the character intimated, it will no doubt be right, and be a large stride towards an early resumption of specie payments. If Congress had no power to pass such a law, it is void from the beginning, and "greenbacks" are not, and never have been, in law, a legal-tender for the payment of debts, public or private. But it is said and believed that "all contracts made since legal tenders became the money of account by the customs of trade, will be held by the courts bound by that custom.

The courts of the country would hold that all debts contracted within the greenback era might be legally discharged by a tender of the commodity contemplated, and not, as the *Express* foolishly declares, "that every creditor would have the power to demand, and every debtor be forced to pay in specie." In past suspensions of specie payment, bills of exchange and notes of hand commonly expressed so many dollars "in currency," and this precaution was a bar to recovery in specie. In all transactions which have taken place since the passage of the legal tender act, "greenbacks" have been universally recognized as the medium of payment, on the well established principle that an existing law is part of the contract.

There is no such danger to be apprehended from a correct decision by the Supreme Court as certain small Radical newspapers would undertake to make their readers believe. The duty of the Court is plain. If the law was in conflict with the Constitution, as is now generally conceded, the Judges must so pronounce it. They have no choice in the matter.

A Lesson from the Indiana Lynchings.

We publish elsewhere full particulars of the horrible lynching case in Indiana. This terrible deed was done in a Northern State, in a thoroughly Republican State, in the State which is the home of the Radical Vice President elect, in a State which professes to be able to take care of itself, and which would fiercely resent any meddling by Congress with its domestic affairs. Yet we find in no Radical paper any hint that this monstrous assumption of the right to dispense with Judge and Jury, and to punish by death cowed and helpless prisoners of the State, who have incurred the hatred of a crazy mob, is any blotch upon the fame of Indiana as a State, or that it proves the savage instincts which underlie the smooth, civilized skins of the citizens. The majesty of the United States Government was spit upon and defied by these lynchers; for the Renos and their comrade Anderson, were surrendered by the Canadian authorities to the United States, on the solemn pledge of our national representatives that the men should have a fair trial, and, if found innocent, should be returned to Canada. Yet, no Radical member of Congress has moved for the appointment of a committee to investigate the matter, and no Radical newspaper has advised the government to hunt down and punish this gang of lynchers, or to put Indiana under martial law.

Had the same thing occurred in any Southern State a general howl would have gone up from one end of the land to the other. There would have been a highly exciting scene in Congress. Sumner would have ranted, and the smaller fry would have echoed his ravings in full chorus. Every Radical newspaper in the country would have insisted that the State in which such a thing could happen was only fit to be ruled by military force, and that its white population had been completely barbarized by the existence of slavery.

The Franking Privilege.

Post Master General Randall, in his report, again calls attention to the gross abuses of the franking privilege. He says three dollars will buy the *fac simile* frank of any member of Congress, the stamped impression of which, under the present condition of the law, exempts from postage all mailable matter. Now that this fact is given such wide publicity, it is probable the frauds will be more extensive than ever. Cheating the government being winked at by the popular code of morals, the sale of stamps is likely to fall off, and the receipts of wood engravers to increase immediately. Three dollars for unlimited mail facilities during two years is exceedingly cheap.

Even leaving such swindling out of the question, the expediency, or rather the justice of abolishing the franking privilege is unquestionable. Public functionaries should pay the postage on their private correspondence like other people. That required for their official business should be paid by the government, but the expense should fall, not upon the post-office, but the particular department, legislative or executive, to which they belong. If this were done, the post-office would be found to be nearly, if not entirely, self-sustaining, the present deficit being occasioned, in a great measure, if not altogether, by its gratuitous services to other departments of the government.

End of the Jeff. Davis Matter.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald* says, the case of Jeff. Davis will never be called up for review in the Supreme Court of the United States, where it now reposes. If that statement be true, and we see no reason to doubt it, there is an end of a matter which has given the Radicals an immense amount of trouble. The cry for vengeance upon Jeff. Davis has ceased, and the song about the sour apple tree is no longer sung.

THE popular vote in England gives the Liberals a majority of 172,000—more than 14 per cent. of the whole number of votes given. The Scotch, however, who are certainly the most impartial judges of the leading question, which was justice or no justice to Ireland, gave an overwhelming vote for justice, that is, for the Liberals, being 5 to 1 in the boroughs, and even in the counties a majority of about 20 per cent. on the total county vote. Taking Great Britian as a whole, the majority on the popular vote is about 232,000 in a total vote of 1,278,000, or more than 16 per cent.

Governor Geary announces that the State debt of Pennsylvania has been reduced $2,414,000 during the past year.

If the Radicals in the Legislature had been less corrupt and extravagant, the reduction would have been considerably greater.

What Constitutes a Republican Form of Government?

The Harrisburg *State Guard* publishes the following noticeable paragraph in its editorial columns:

Has the State of Maryland a republican form of Government? is a question now under consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. The investigation to answer this question is slowly progressing, and from the laws framed by the late Legislature of Maryland, it is claimed that the Committee will be able to show that that State is without a republican form of government.

Plain people may not all have learned as yet what the Radicals deem necessary to constitute "a Republican form of Government." On that subject the leaders of the Republican party in Maryland have kindly undertaken to enlighten the world. They have just had a meeting of their State Central Committee to consider the very question to which the *State Guard* alludes. They adopted a series of resolutions to be presented to Congress, the first of which reads as follows:

Resolved, That it is the duty of Congress, under the national constitution, to protect the equal voting rights of all loyal American citizens, regardless of their complexion, for the reason that to admit the right of a State to limit the franchise to one class admits its right to limit it to any extent—an abuse effectually guarded against by the constitution in requiring that the United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government.

That is certainly sufficiently explicit. It defines the Radical idea of a Republican form of government exactly. We are therein taught that no State which prevents negroes from voting and holding office has "a Republican form of government." What kind of a government that of Pennsylvania is considered to be by these modern Solons we know not. The fathers of the Republic no doubt thought they had succeeded in establishing "a Republican form of government," but it seems they were entirely mistaken, and we have been living under some sort of despotism, if the Radicals are to be believed, ever since the establishment of our National independence. How ignorant all our great statesmen of the past must have been, to be sure. What fools our former Fourth of July orators must have made of themselves. How silly must all the boasting of former generations about our Republican institutions be considered.

To what extent is the folly of these Radicals destined to go? When will their experiments end? What new form of madness will follow their present crack-brained schemes? How much of the wise and benificent government bequeathed to us by the fathers of the Republic will be left if they have their way a while longer? There are serious questions, which ought to be seriously pondered by all good citizens, without respect to party.

Investigating the New York Election

Not content with deciding elections in the Southern States to be legal or illegal, valid or invalid, just as suited their purposes, the Radicals in Congress have now undertaken to investigate the conduct of the State elections in the North. Moved thereto by a petition of "narrow minded blockheads" of the Union League of New York, an Investigating Committee has been appointed to inquire into all the exaggerated rumors which have appeared in the Republican newspapers of that State. The examination is not to be confined to the city, but is to be extended to the rural districts. The Democracy of New York have no reason to fear any fair and open investigation. The charges with regard to fraudulent naturalization can be easily refuted. But this movement is fundamentally wrong. It is the assumption of a right to interfere with State elections by Congress, for which there is no warrant. If such a precedent is once established, we can readily see that it will end in depriving the States of all control of their domestic affairs. We shall have State elections set at naught by a decree of the Central directory, and State officers deposed by a partisan vote of Congress. Are the people of the different States prepared for that?

The probabilities are that Congress will not go quite so far at present, as to attempt to depose Gov. Hoffman. The Radicals will likely content themselves with setting a precedent from which they can make an advance in the future, if they should deem it safe to do so. They will summon hundreds of willing and unscrupulous witnesses before their Investigating Committee, and will publish a partisan report, made up from the cock and bull stories of ward politicians, to pay for which a hundred thousand dollars or so will be abstracted from the national treasury. These investigating committees have come to be a source of enormous expense, and hundreds of thousand of dollars are uselessly wasted upon them annually.

Abuse of the Franking Privilege.

It is currently reported, and generally believed, that Horace Greeley will be made Postmaster General under General Grant. Widely as we differ from the editor of the *Tribune* politically, we can not help hoping he may be appointed. He is the inveterate enemy of the franking privilege, which has caused so great an increase in the cost of the Post Office Department. Mr. Greeley estimates that not less than one million dollars were expended during the late campaign for the circulation through the mails of political documents. Since the Radicals have invented stamps for marking the names of Congressmen upon mail matter, this evil has greatly increased. Every committee and subcommittee has one of these convenient articles on hand, and all political letters and documents are sent to their destination, free of postage. Whether many private letters are mailed in the same way we know not. We occasionally receive missiles of that character. The Union League of Philadelphia has been doing a large franking business, under the stamped signature of Congressmen O'Niel and others. They sent out a large issue of a lengthy and useless report since the election. It is certainly high time there was an end of this thing. Let the franking privilege be abolished, both in Congress and in our State Legislature. It has grown to be a grievous burthen which ought no longer to be borne.

Cost of Eulogies on "Old Thad."

We do not like to sum captions about the cost of eulogizing our deceased Congressmen, but when we notice that no less than thirty thousand copies have been ordered to be printed we can not help thinking that is drawing a little too strong. The cost of these things will be over a dollar each. From thirty to fifty thousand dollars is too much to pay for printing eulogies, even upon such a prominent Radical as Old Thad. But, then, the toiling masses pay it, you know.

Speculation in Breadstuffs.

The Chicago corner in corn has culminated, and resulted in repudiation by about two-thirds of the "shorts." The number of bushels repudiated was about 100,000, the difference was about $25,000. The people naturally inquire how much these speculations and attempted "corners" are attributable to the abundance and depreciation of the currency, which, through the influence of banks, centre, in the hands of reckless and unprincipled men, who will not permit even the necessaries of life, breadstuffs and fuel, to escape their avarice and thirst for gain.

WHERE was the colored representative in Congress from Louisiana when the drawing of seats took place on Wednesday? He appears to have been left out of the list. Can it be that Senator Sumner will submit to this insult, and have nothing to say in regard to the rough treatment of his brother of the African race?

A TRIP TO THE SOUTH.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lynchburg appears to be a thriving place; though how a town could grow to be of any importance when planted on such a site is a mystery hard to solve. It lies upon the bank of the James on as broken and uneven ground as the country can furnish. The steep declivities of its streets demand much care to tread them in safety, and when the sleets of winter cover them, broken legs must be the rule and not the exception among the citizens who are enterprising enough to venture forth upon them; and when a slide is once commenced, there is ample cause for apprehension that the race from the cradle to the tomb is about to end in a rapid "burst" down the homestretch to the foot of the hill. Providence, R. I., has a street wherein it is said, the attic windows of each house are on a line with the Stoop of the house immediately above it; but it may with equal truth be said of Lynchburg that the chimneys of adjoining houses rise in a continuous line towards the skies, the roof of the house below forming a convenient garden plat for the house above. This is to be sure something of an exaggeration, but still Lynchburg is a very hilly town as the well developed ankles of its fair inhabitants testify. Hillside perambulation, you know reader, is well adapted to the exhibition of pedal beauties.

The town derives its name from one Lynch, who formerly owned its site, at which there was a ford or ferry over the river. To it the produce of the back country was carried, as it afforded the only convenient place for crossing, which the River presented for some distance along its course. The primitive mode of conveying tobacco to this point in olden times, was to nail a slab across each end of a hogshead, to which a pair of shafts were attached in such a manner as to allow the hogshead to roll; and a mule furnished the power to haul this novel carriage to market.

The chief trade of Lynchburg is in tobacco, and it manufactures probably the best smoking and natural leaf chewing tobaccos in the world. The bright golden-leaved tobacco is selected to make the first grade of smoking tobacco, and the "Lone Jack" is the most approved brand, though very many others are nearly equally as good.—This bright tobacco, smoked in a Powhatan red clay pipe, weaned nearly all our party from the use of cigars throughout our trip

We attended a ladies' fair held in the Baptist Church for the benefit of its Pastor; and if the ladies at the tables were fair samples of the beauty of the women of Lynchburg, we confidently assert that this Virginia town will take the palm for pretty women from all the cities of the country; we are of those who believe that very few ugly females were ever born into the world, but still there are degrees of beauty, and the majority of the ladies at this fair were positively pretty; but what beggars they were! Good Heavens! it makes each particular hair on one's head stand up, even at this hour, to think of the desperate assaults of fair battalions that we encountered. The charge of the six hundred was nothing when contrasted with the impetuosity of the charge which six of the fair venders of merchandize made on us; but it had a different result; we were slaughtered and they victorious; but the brave Col. Dechert, our captain, carried off as a trophy of the evening's engagement, a magnificent doll three feet high, and the rank and file bore off enough pound cake to provision the entire command through the next day's march.

The Norvell House, at which we stopped, spreads a table which cannot be excelled; its cook is a master of his profession. Throughout our trip we found the Southern Hotels uniformly well kept, and especially in the matter of servants, do they merit the travellers' praise. The waiters, universally colored, are abundant and good, and your selection from the bill of fare is placed before you promptly; Northern landlords, take notice.

The country behind Lynchburg we judged from our observations was not, as a general rule, very fertile, though we noticed in some parts of our ride around the suburbs land which looked very well. A couple of our party went in a conveyance ten or fifteen miles to the southward and returned not very well pleased; though we did not place explicit reliance on their report, as we knew by experience that they were captious enough to have turned up their noses at the land of Canaan, if they had taken a buggy ride through that milk and honey region in the olden time; the milk would have been sour and the honey full of decaying bees!

We left Lynchburg on the morning of Thanksgiving Day, going East on the South Side Railroad, intending, at Burkesville Junction, to take the Richmond and Danville Railroad Southward. We passed through Campbell, Appomattox and Prince Edward counties, and did not see any fine agricultural lands. The Railroad was mostly bordered by timber and the land seemed thin, as was indeed to be expected, since the road passed along the top of a ridge. This by the way is universally the case with Southern roads; instead of seeking as with us, the valleys, the railroads occupy the ridges; this renders it impossible to get a fair idea of the country by traversing its railways, as the rich and cultivated lands are found in the valleys. The South is a sparsely populated country, and is consequently still covered over its major surface by forests. The rich lands and the valleys are in cultivation, but as a rule the poorer uplands and ridges have been left to their native wildness, the necessities of population not requiring their fertilization and culture. We passed within a mile and a half of the scene of Lee's surrender, near Appomattox Court House, and ceased to wonder that in this desolate region the General had concluded that it was time to quit fighting for such "sacred soil."

About noon we arrived at Burkesville Junction, but to our disgust learned that the Danville road was keeping thanksgiving day, and that no trains were running South. We therefore passed on to Richmond, intending to take the train back in the morning. A half-dozen of us, however, securing a letter of introduction from General Imboden to Mr. Jefferson, a nephew of Thomas of that name, residing near Amelia Court House, got off the cars at that station to spend the night with him. We found a large crowd at the Court House and the county court in session. An auctioneer was standing on a wagon engaged in selling a tract of 700 acres of land, by order of trustees. It was going at $5 per acre, and we understood was a good farm; its cheapness so much astonished ears that were accustomed to hear land sold at $200 per acre, that we came near losing our balance and buying it at a venture. Just think of it—a good farm of 700 acres, near the railroad, and only 40 miles from Richmond, with improvements, for $3,500.

You are aware, reader, that the Court Houses in Virginia were not generally located in towns, but were built at some convenient cross-roads near the centre of the county, with the expectation probably that towns would spring up around them; but the cities in most cases declined to spring, and as a result, we find the Court Houses standing now nearly alone in their glory, in the midst of the woods, with very few buildings indeed around, to keep them company. The Amelia Court House has at its back the Presbyterian Church and the Jail, on its left a dwelling or two, and on its front two stores, a shoemaker's shop, the railroad depot, and no tavern. This is about the sum total of the village. The Court House itself is quite a handsome and spacious building, stands in a beautiful enclosure, and is approached by a pleasant walk beneath the overhanging and interlacing branches of majestic forest trees. The County Court, which is composed of all the Justices of the Peace in the county and meets regularly once a month, was in session when we entered the court room. The Justices, nine or ten in number, sat in chairs on a raised platform along the opposite or back end of the room, occupying its entire width and having a desk in front of them which seemed to afford a convenient resting place for their feet. Two ladies sat with them, who we ascertained were witnesses in the case then on trial. Before them sat the Jury, the Bar and the prisoner, in a space enclosed by a railing; outside of which was gathered a large and motley crowd, all negroes, of every shade of color and of both sexes, who seemed to be intensely interested in the proceedings. A negro boy was on trial for stealing a trunk, and it being a felony, a jury had been empanneled in the case; crimes of less grade, we understood, were decided without their intervention, by the Justices alone. The counsel for the defence was speaking and endeavoring to make the most out of a bad case; he besought the Jury to give the prisoner the benefit of any doubt which might be in their minds and they could not be without doubt, although the lady who lost the trunk identified the prisoner; for how could she be certain when all negroes looked so much alike? We wished much that we held the pencil of an artist, so that we might sketch to the life, the striking scene which this Court Room presented, and give to others the amused feeling which we experienced in observing the open mouth, the fixed blank eye and the wrapt attention with which the dusky sons of Africa gazed upon the orator as they leaned, one upon the other, far over the railing of the Bar, apparently lost in admiration at his eloquence, not understanding what he said, but wondering greatly how he got his words so fast and where he got them from. The boy was found guilty but recommended by the Justices for some reason, to be pardoned. We found Mr. Jefferson, who was a Justice attending Court, and accompanied him to his residence some two miles off.

EDITORIAL NOTES—IV.

Burkesville Junction is about half way between Lynchburg and Richmond, and the country from a short distance west of Burkesville to within fifteen or twenty miles of Richmond presents on the railroad a good agricultural appearance. As we approach nearer to Richmond we run into pine timber lands and into a coal field; the country there has a desolate look, although every now and then we meet the smoke of an engine engaged in working a valuable vein of coal.

Amelia county is not intersected by the rich bottom lands of rivers, except upon its eastern border, along which runs the Appomatox; yet its gently rolling farms strike favorably the eye examining the country for its agricultural advantages; and its lands, being cheap, near market and capable of great production when properly farmed and fertilized, it offers tempting inducements for settlement to Northern farmers. A Holland colony has already settled in it and has secured the refusal of a tract of 12,000 acres of land commencing some four miles from the Court House, at ten dollars per acre. A number of the large landholders, seeing the advantage which would result to this section of the country by the settlement of a white colony of this kind, agreed to sell to its agent a portion of their tracts, so as to enable the colony to obtain 12,000 acres of land lying all in one body; a condition which was a *sine qua non* of their settlement. Mr. Jefferson, for instance, allowed them to have a thousand acres off of his plantation on very favorable terms of payment; and the colonists are now at work, each one diligently improving the small section of land which has been allotted to him. Mr. Jefferson himself is a very good farmer, and has a magnificent plantation. He purchased it, in separate tracts, some years ago, when the land was comparatively poor; but he has now brought it to the highest state of cultivation, and assured us that he had raised on it *fifty* bushels of wheat to the acre. Can Lancaster county beat this? We ourselves counted in one place on his plantation twenty-five large stacks of grain. There was no room to doubt the great fertility of this farm, and we had every reason to believe that any of the land in the county could be brought, by careful farming, to the same degree of fertility. Good farms, with substantial improvements, can be bought in Amelia at ten or twelve dollars per acre. The white corn is grown here as it is in all the Southern country, although we found no one who was able to tell us why it was preferred to the red, which we grow at the North, considering that it yields the largest product. The kindness which we experienced and the cordiality with which Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Chaffin and others urged us to linger with them and at our leisure view the farms of Amelia and make the acquaintance of its planters, caused us to leave this county on the morning after our arrival with much regret; but we were obliged to join our party in the continuation of our Southern tour, promising ourselves to return at some future time to the pleasant scenes we were leaving.

Passing southward from Burkesville Junction through Prince Edward, Lunenberg and the upper part of Charlotte counties, the land looks pretty fair; but it is when, at the border of Charlotte and in Halifax, you meet the Staunton, Bannister and Dan, branches of the Roanoke, that you see the rich bottom lands lying in the valleys of these rivers, whose fertility and beauty are such as to fill the farmer's soul with joy. The railroad crosses the valleys of the Staunton and the Bannister, but runs up that of the Dan for a number of miles, crossing at Danville, on the border of Virginia and North Carolina. The Bannister is a tributary of the Dan, and the Dan and the Staunton, running together in Mecklenberg county, a few miles from the border of Halifax, form the Roanoke, which thence flows down, a majestic river, into Albemarle Sound, through one of the richest valleys in the world; with this draw back to its fertility—that as it nears the coast, it becomes unhealthy, passing into a region which the fever and ague claims as its sovereign domain.

As there were a number of farms lying in the valleys of the tributaries to the Roanoke, which our party desired to examine, we broke up into several parties and got off the railroad at different stations, agreeing to meet again at Goldsboro, N. C. A number left us at Drake's Branch, in Charlotte co., and placed themselves under the guidance and embraced the hospitality of Col. Carrington. We stopped with a party at Clover, and met at the station Mr. Sims, whose plantation of 4,000 acres, lying upon the Staunton we had just traversed on the railway. Four of us accepted his kind invitation to make his house our home during our stay, while the remainder under the guidance of Gen. Imboden, stopped with the Rev. Mr. Clark, whose plantation of 4,000 acres on the Staunton, adjoining that of Mr. Sims, was offered for sale. We had a pleasant walk of two miles, to the residence of Mr. Sims, under the guidance of Major McPhail, a most kind and agreeable gentleman of about our own age, who is engaged in managing the plantation of his father in this vicinity. We may not say how agreeable an evening was that which was in store for us; but if the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Sims in making us feel perfectly at home and the brightness and beauty of three young ladies, their delightful conversation and enchanting music could cause an evening to pass away most agreeably, then surely no superlative too strong can be used to describe the pleasantness of this one of ours, as it floated off into Time.

We had observed as we crossed the R. R. bridge over the Staunton a large earthen fortification near its Southern end; we now ascertained that this was on Mr. Sims plantation and that it had been thrown up to protect the bridge against the forays of Union Cavalry. A portion of the Southern army had been encamped here for some time towards the end of the war, for the protection of this bridge; as it will be remembered that while our army besieged Petersburg, the Richmond and Danville Rail Road formed Lee's only direct means of communication Southward, and its preservation was therefore of vital importance to him. A large Union cavalry force under Wilson reached this Bridge, a short time before the close of the war but was driven off by the Confederate force stationed at this fort. So great a discomfiture as our forces met with at this point can only be explained by giving full credence to a legend which is circulating in the neighborhood, that at the decisive moment of the battle, a young lady of the vicinity seized a Confederate Standard and leaping boldly upon the rampart of the fort, inspired the Confederate garrison to fight with more than mortal courage and desperation; and at the same struck deep terror into the hearts of their foe. Certain it is, that just then the Union line broke and the whole attacking force passed in full flight up the valley.

This whole country has been drained of its horses. We mourned with our young lady friends the loss of their favorite riding horses. The troubles of this region came after the surrender and after the war was over; for then the army of Sherman marched through it to the North and left nothing in the shape of a horse in the whole country. Singular as this statement seems to be; incredible as it appears that after the termination of the war, such wholesale robbery should have taken place, yet the fact cannot be controverted. The stealing may not have been ordered, but it certainly was permitted; and the soldiers of that vandal army of Sherman scattered in small bands along the whole line of march, and the inhabitants had reason to congratulate themselves if they lost nothing more than their horses and their stock. Of these they were completely stripped; we could not hire a horse in the whole country during our stay in it, and we necessarily saw it, therefore, in "views afoot." We shall have more to say of this army of Sherman when we get to the Carolinas; we have been over a good portion of his blackened trail. Suffice it now to say that the conduct of his troops was disgraceful to the civilization of the age; it is an infamous slander upon war to call their action warlike; upon warriors, to call these men soldiers.

How Forney was Bribed.

The investigations in regard to the Alaska purchase show that Forney accepted a bribe of $3,000 for advocating the measure in the Washington *Chronicle*. The Philadelphia *Post* tells how the matter was managed as follows:

It is a fiction in Philadelphia that the legislation of Congress is dictated by the *Daily Chronicle*, as it is a fiction in Washington that the politics of Philadelphia are dictated by *The Press*. These two fictions formerly made a fraction of a fact. But the first of them is forever exploded by the fact that the *The Chronicle* was paid three thousand dollars for printing Robert J. Walker's communications, and kindly praising them editorially. No paper that is paid to advocate a purchase can have influence, and its opinions are not worth buying. When the Czar paid three thousand dollars in gold to have the Alaska bargain puffed in the *Chronicle*, the poor man wasted his money; three hundred dollars would have been more than enough, but Emperors are proverbially liberal. The whole affair is a very pretty one. Mr. Walker said to Mr. Stoeckel that the *Chronicle* had been very kind, and Mr. Stoeckel said to Mr. Walker that he thought so too. Mr. Walker said to Mr. Forney, the editor, that his editorials were very fine, and worth three thousand dollars; Mr. Forney said to Mr. Walker that he didn't know anything about it. Mr. Walker said to Mr. Forney, the publisher, that he thought the articles were worth three thousand dollars, and Mr. Forney said he thought so too. So the money that the editor refused the publisher accepted, and *The Chronicle* got paid for the job.

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