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Attorney General Hoar's Opinion.

One Weaver, a citizen of Texas, was some time since charged with killing a freedman. He was indicted for murder in the county where he resided, but was afterward handed over to a Military Commission at Houston to be tried. The question consequently arose whether the military authorities had any power to take him from the civil power and try him by military law, and this question having been submitted to Attorney General Hoar, that functionary has decided that they had the power under the act of Congress of March 2d, 1867, which provided for the division of the Rebel States into military districts and their government by military law. It was also enacted in the above law that its provisions should be operative until the States had respectively adopted a constitution approved by Congress, and Senators had been admitted therefrom; and as Texas had not complied with the conditions prescribed in the act at the time when Weaver was tried by the court martial—September, 1868—nor has since complied, Mr. Hoar holds that, so far as this law goes, that State is still in rebellion to the United States, and is to be treated by military commanders as such. The N. Y. *Mercury*, commenting on this opinion of Mr. Grant's Cabinet officer, pertinently remarks, "strange anomaly, that a people who four years ago laid down their arms, acknowledging the authority of the Federal Government, should still be treated as rebels, simply because they have delayed adopting a State Government according to the reconstruction programme of the Radicals. And stranger contradiction, that a country should be at one and the same time under the government of civil law and of military law, both virtually claiming supremacy."

Attorney General Hoar comes to the startling conclusion that THE WAR IS NOT YET ENDED! He admits that "it is obvious that under the Constitution, the United States Congress has no right to subject any citizen of a State to trial and punishment by military power in time of peace;" but he holds that the power vested in Congress to declare war, includes the power also to declare "how long the war shall continue and when peace is restored;" and he decides that Congress has declared that the war still exists in Texas! That we may do no injustice to his extraordinary position, we further quote his language as follows:

> The rights of war do not necessarily terminate with the cessation of actual hostilities. Can have no doubt that it is competent for the nation to retain the territory and the people which have once assumed a hostile and belligerent character (within the grasp of war) until the work of restoring the relations of peace can be accomplished; that it is for Congress, the department of the national government to which the power to declare war is entrusted by the Constitution, to determine when the war has so far ended that this work can be safely and successfully completed. The act of Congress of March 2, 1867, is, in my opinion, a legislative declaration that in Texas the war, which sprang from the rebellion, is not, to all intents and purposes, ended; and that it should be held to continue until, in conformity with the legislative will, a State government, republican in form and subordinate to the Constitution and laws of the United States, for which the act makes provision, shall have been reestablished. It is true that in several acts of Congress the suppression of the rebellion and the end of the war have, in express terms, or by implication, been recognized, but it will be found on examination that these phrases have been used in regard to special subjects, which does not seem to be inconsistent with the proposition, that for some purposes the rights of war are not ended, while in respect to captured or abandoned property, a limitation of the right to commence suits in the Court of Claims has been fixed by statute, and for the purpose of settling the question of the pay of officers in the volunteer army, the date of the President's proclamation, declaring the insurrection at an end, has been adopted to interpret the phrase, "close of the war."

There was a political necessity upon Hoar to uphold the usurpations of the military in Texas, and he is too good a lawyer not to know that they could only be defended on the ground of necessity during the state of war, when the civil courts are closed. So he was obliged to found his opinion upon the outrageous lie that the war is not yet ended. Notwithstanding the President's proclamation long ago declaring that the insurrection was at an end and its subsequent ratification by Congress; notwithstanding the fact that our own army has been reduced to a peace footing, and that not a rebel has been in arms for over four years, the Attorney General of the United States says the war is not yet over!

We trust that the Attorney General, if the time ever arrives when in his opinion the war has come to an end, will advise us of the fact; for we should like to know when we will all be unanimously of the opinion that we are once more at peace, and we presume that when Mr. Hoar concedes that the war is over we may fairly conclude that everybody is of the same opinion.

But how about the great Boston Peace Jubilee? Will its authors dare to so far disregard the views of their own lovely Hoar, as to persist in their intention of singing Peace! Peace! when there is no Peace, in a building covering a hundred acres, more or less, of ground, filling it with dulcet symphonies and voices sweet, with the music of a thousand of brass instruments? Surely no! Boston cannot go back on Hoar. The Peace Jubilee has come to an untimely end.

THAT wretched Philadelphia bummer, Mr. Charles Kleckner, member of the Legislature, who had the audacity to sue us for libel in Dauphin county, is not anxious to prove his good character in the city of his residence. The Philadelphia papers are giving him every opportunity to do so as they do not hesitate to proclaim his dishonesty. The *Dispatch* editorially puts him in a black list of Republican Legislators who have disgraced themselves and their party, and the *Post* heartily agrees with it in its estimate of these miserable jail birds. Kleckner, we presume, thinks he has his hands full, to attend to his case against us; and he is right. By the time we get through with him there will not be a grease spot left of him for anybody else to wipe out; we will finish him.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ abuses us over his own signature in a paragraph of the worst English we ever saw in print. If he were serving as a devil in our office, and he should write so ungrammatically, or let a stick of matter go out of his hands so full of gross typographical blunders, we should feel impelled by a sense of moral duty to box his ears. He had better come and serve an apprenticeship where he might learn something, if he possesses the necessary capacity.

THE *State Guard* claims that Geary has two-thirds of the delegates to the Radical State Convention instructed for him. The politicians of the OLD GUARD will please take notice of the announcement in the *State Guard*, and be governed in their votes for Governor accordingly.

A WRITER at Knoxville says Brownlow's health is very bad, and his physique much shattered, but "there is no lack of vigor in his mind." For vigor read venom.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ charges us, over his own signature, with trying to "*nipple* his temper." We deny the soft impeachment. We neither desire to "nipple" him nor his temper.

The Corruption of Radical Editors.

Wien Forney, State Librarian, and editor of Geary's organ, the Harrisburg *State Guard*, charges George Bergner, Simon Cameron's right hand man, and the proprietor of the Harrisburg *Telegraph*, with cheating the State out of thousands of dollars in the public printing. Bergner retorts by charging that Forney stole some thousands of dollars of the money appropriated for refitting the State Library. Forney, by way of replication, alleges that there are thousands of dollars worth of "pale postage stamps," the property of the State, now locked up in the private drawers of Bergner. Bergner, by way of sur-rejoinder, swears that Forney stole a push cart belonging to the State. What a beautiful pair they must be; how well calculated to teach the Radical classes morality.

The Lancaster *Express* assails the *State Guard* for defending legislative corruption. The *State Guard* replies by charging that the editors of the *Express* have "BEEN SEEN", "*with as much success in silencing its batteries as any purchasable concern in the country.*" And yet these scurvy fellows, who expose the rascality of each other in such a style, are the editors and proprietors of the three Radical organs of Central Pennsylvania.—If one half of what they say of each other be true, they ought all to be in the penitentiary together. What can be expected from the ordinary politicians of a party when its editors, those whose duty it is to control public sentiment and to denounce corruption, are convicted, on the evidence of each other, of the meanest and basest crimes. When those who control the newspaper press of a party are so utterly unfit to be trusted, it must be hopelessly corrupt indeed. That the people of Pennsylvania will rebuke it by an overwhelming defeat at the next gubernatorial election we do confidently trust and verily believe.

Economy Under Johnson, Extravagance Under Grant.

The Radical party first came into power upon the cry of "economy and retrenchment." How it economized and retrenched expenditures the people know, and are not likely to forget for many long years to come. They are continually reminded of it by the constant visits of the tax-gatherer, and the increased price of every article which they buy. The Democratic party was truly a party of economy. Its masses never countenanced lavish expenditures, and its public officials always respected the wishes of the people. Democratic Presidents lived in simple and unostentatious style, and the White House presented an appearance of Republican simplicity such as was proper and becoming.

We have some recollection of hearing vague talk about economy from the Radicals during the last campaign. With the incoming of the new President retrenchment and reform was at last to begin. Have the promises which were made been kept? Let a simple statement of affairs about the White House, which a correspondent of the New York *Herald* has been investigating, answer.

Under Andrew Johnson there was a clever official named Cushaw, who acted as usher to the President. For $1,600 a year he took charge of the White House, bore all the impositions and annoyances of countless visitors, and repaid them with uniform politeness and courtesy. How is it now under President Grant? There is Dent, full Brigadier, with a salary of $7,000 per annum; Cook receiving $1,600; Price, $1,600; young Douglas $2,500; Adams $1,600; and Simmons, a gentleman of color, $90 a month for simply bearing cards from the eminently polite Dent to the President's private office. All these officials combined only discharge the duty under Grant which Cushaw monopolized under Andrew Johnson. In other words it now requires $13,380 to accomplish the laborious business of attending to the White House visitors, while it only cost $1,600 under Johnson.

There are plenty of people in Pennsylvania who still remember the celebrated spoon speech of Congressman Ogle, which was delivered during Van Buren's administration. Ogle made a terrific outcry about extravagance in those simple and economical days, and his speech, in which he enumerated the number of silver spoons in the White House, created a furor of excitement, and gained for him the familiar soubriquet of "Spooney Ogle." Could that Old Line Pennsylvania Whig visit the White House now what would he say? He would no doubt be amazed at the advance of extravagance and luxury, and he might ventilate matters on the floor of Congress. But would he be heard? Would any speech which might be made arouse the people? We fear not. We have got used to extravagance and corruption.

The Reign of Venality.

A Radical newspaper says:

> "The country is drifting into the possession of the Tilte Barnacle family. Offices are obtained not from any considerations of eminent fitness, but because the successful men have traded with the 'ring,' 'paid down the stipulated price, and agreed to do the behests of the political Philistines. In fact, office is regularly bought, being sold to the highest bidder."

It is not often that a publication in the interest of the Jacobin party in America utters so much truth concerning the corruption of its own political associates. But things have arrived at such a pass that there is not much use, even for the most subservient partisan sheet, to attempt to disguise the facts.—The people, no matter what the party they vote with, know from their own daily observation that every charge in the foregoing is true. They have seen, with pain and disgust, a man elevated to the highest office in the land demeaning the nation he represents by "an itching palm, to sell and mart its offices for gold." The federal office-holder under the present administration who has been appointed "for any considerations of eminent fitness," no man can name. The men who have gained the highest offices are those who have crossed the palm of the appointing power with the largest price. Cases not only of eminent unfitness, but of actual incapacity to perform the duties of the office given as a reward for favors received, will occur to every one. The "ring" which represents the circumference of official patronage is a circle of gold with the inscription "Venality;" or it is the circumference of a tumbler, through which have looked the seedy crew of political vagabonds described by Senator Drake as "Grant's damned old bar-room cronies." Into the possession of such unworthy wretches the country is not merely drifting; it is there already.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ says:

> We can afford to treat such ungentlemanly *scribbers* with the contempt they deserve.
>
> You blockhead! The word scribbler has two b's in it; but you seem to be too ignorant a scribbler to know it.

WHITE men cannot vote in Rhode Island unless they are possessed of one hundred and thirty-four dollars worth of real estate, yet at the next session of the Legislature the Radicals will adopt the XVth Amendment, by which all the worthless negroes in the State can put their vote in the ballot-box. They like negroes, but despise "poor white trash."

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ has two editorials in this week's issue over his own signature. Query? Is he compelled to attach his initials to what he writes, in order that no one else may be held responsible for the murder of the King's English of which he is guilty?

Negro Suffrage and Imperialism.

At the present time when no exciting political campaign engrosses the attention of the people, they should compare the acts of the Radical party now in power with the promises made by that party, and by past experience act in the living present and prepare for the future. In the Chicago platform the Radical party declared that "the question of suffrage in all the loyal States properly belongs to the people of those States." But mark their consistency. Immediately upon the assembling of Congress the question of the extension of negro suffrage to the Northern States was agitated, provoking an almost endless discussion and causing a gross neglect of business vital to the true interests of the nation. This agitation was continued by the Radical majority in Congress until it culminated in the proposed Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which, if approved by a sufficient number of States, will establish negro suffrage in every State in the Union.

To aid the consummation of this nefarious scheme our State Legislature betrayed its trust by ratifying this same Negro Suffrage Amendment, contrary to the known will and desire of the people, and cognizant that the measure would be utterly rejected if left to a direct vote. But this action of our State Legislature was not merely in violation of the promises made in the Chicago Platform, but was also in direct opposition to laws which are immutable in their character and are recognizable by all people. It is all folly to presume that we can change the nature of the negro or alter his scale of being. The African is inferior to the Caucasian race in every respect and was so ordained by Divine Providence, whose decrees are unchangeable. The more sagacious of the leaders of the Republican party are well aware of the inferiority of the Black to the White race; they only seek to degrade the right of suffrage in order that they may the better succeed in their attempt to establish an Empire in our country, which scheme is now openly advocated by a New York journal styled "*The Imperialist*," which it is alleged is sustained by funds contributed by a brother of a member of Mr. Grant's Cabinet.

It is but seventeen years since Louis Napoleon made the celebrated declaration "The Empire is Peace" and now, in connection with this expression of Napoleon, *The Imperialist* publishes the recent significant words of Grant "Let us have Peace." Let us have an Empire—is not this their obvious meaning

And will the people stand in apathy and permit these things to pass? Will the Democracy allow this once glorious Republic, made by the immortal Washington, the illustrious Jefferson, and their compatriots, to be transformed by a fanatical oligarchy into an Empire? We think not. The people will by the ballot hurl from power the Radical Monarchists, and put in their places wise and pure Statesmen who, when in power, will carry out the grand principles embodied by the framers of the Constitution in that revered instrument.

A Sentence to be Parsed.

We do not want to be understood as disparaging the qualifications of the very learned gentleman who fills the office of District Attorney in the great county of Lancaster. We would not call him a fool for a nice sum of money, for to call a lawyer a fool is libel, though to call a preacher a fool is not. We won't say he is an ignoramus, for that might also be actionable. We would, however, respectfully suggest to the County Superintendent the propriety of giving out the following sentence to be parsed at the next Teachers' Institute:

> "Are not people *sometimes* in the habit of *always* telling things that *sometimes* ain't so?"

That is the precise form in which our learned District Attorney put a leading question to a witness the other day. It will be remembered that he undertook to control the election of County Superintendent, and rumor does say that his man would have been successful if some of the Directors from the rural districts had not got too drunk to put in an appearance. Who furnished the whiskey we know not, and it would be asking too much to request the conscientious District Attorney to inquire. We hope the County Superintendent will not forget to give notice when the parsing exercise comes off.

Repudiation in Florida.

The Radicals have reduced the State of Florida to complete bankruptcy, and after a fierce contest among themselves they have come to the conclusion to repudiate the State debt. It appears that under the Osborn dynasty bonds were issued to the extent of $500,000 to run the State government. The money was raised and conveyed into the State Treasury. The last Legislature authorized the issue of bonds at six per cent., running thirty years, to the amount of $500,000. They were to be negotiated through the State Comptroller at not less than seventy-five cents on the dollar. The present Governor, Reid, who seems to be at loggerheads with the Legislature, learning of their action, set about to manipulate the Comptroller so as to prevent the negotiation of the bonds. He not only succeeded in this, but got the State Treasurer to refuse to pay the interest on the $30,000 issued by the Gleason-Osborn faction. The result is that the State Treasury is bankrupt, and the parties who bought the first bonds are likely to lose both principal and interest. Florida is not the only State in which Radical rule is likely to reduce to repudiation.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ abuses the *Express* in a column of the worst English we ever read. The following will serve as a sample of the whole:

> He (the editor of the *Express*) says, "Of the four or five Republican papers in the county, the larger portion was given to the one Thug paper."
>
> (*Our readers are hereby informed that the term "Thug paper," this amiable by Bush whacker the Inquirer.*)

We just give the above to show how elegantly and intelligibly the "fat boy" can write when he does "his level best." We hereby offer a reward of five dollars to any one who will parse the sentence contained in parentheses and tell us what it means. A wonderfully clear head that "fat boy" of the Thug organ must have.

THE Radicals of Pittsburg have nominated a legislative ticket composed one-half of the old members and one-half of new men. The new men are said to be no better than those they displace. A resolution was passed declaring in favor of economy and reform. Radical resolves are cheap. Every Radical Convention, which has assembled since Lincoln was first nominated, has passed similar resolutions; but they have all been broken. They were never meant to be kept, and are only thrown out to gull the masses. There can be no hope of economy and reform either in National or State affairs while the Radicals are permitted to remain in power. There must be a change of parties before a change of policy can be expected. The thieves will not desist from plundering so long as they are sustained by the people.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ calls us an Aminadam Sleek. Aminadab we suppose he meant, but his mouth has been so full of "cuss words" ever since the late terrible defeat of himself and "Pap's" faction, that he can't keep the word "dam" out of his editorial columns; and so he not only prints it in monosyllables, but attaches it to polysyllables, when it is utterly out of place. For shame, "sonny"—don't swear so awkwardly and so frequently. It is terribly out of place while "Pap's" funeral is going on.

Why Grant Appointed a Negro Postmaster at Macon.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald* has exposed to the world the secret influences which induced Grant to appoint the negro Turner as Postmaster of the City of Macon. It seems that Sumner forgot his late quarrel with the President, and called at the White House with Ben. Butler to bring about this result. These two narrow-minded and vindictive men, the Radical leaders in the two Houses of Congress, told Mr. Grant that it was necessary that this step should be taken, in order to rebuke the disloyal element of Georgia. They paraded the lying reports of murders which had been published in Radical journals as a reason why their demand should be acceded to. Butler bullied Grant into a compliance with the request. He told him in plain terms that he would make his refusal the cause and the occasion for a fierce assault upon him and his Cabinet when Congress again assembled. Grant cowered before the two Massachusetts Radicals, and allowed himself to be induced to do an act which must degrade him in the estimation of the decent and right thinking men of all parties.

The stories of outrages which Sumner and Butler related to Grant have been proven to be a series of falsehoods manufactured and promulgated for political effect. It is true that two Radical members of the Georgia State Senate were shot, and every Radical newspaper in the North heralded these results as the bloody work of the Ku-Klux. But, when truth came slowly following on the track of the lie which had traveled so fast, it was discovered that one of these loyal Senators was killed by an outraged husband, and the other by the brother of a young lady whom he had grossly insulted. It was lechery and not loyalty that brought them to their death. It is true that Sumner received a letter from one Belcher, the negro Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Third Georgia District, announcing the murder of two negroes, who were with the last named Radical Senator when he was shot. Of course the private letter of this negro official was soon put into print by Sumner, and of course the sensibilities of all northern loyalists were greatly shocked. But, no sooner was the N. Y. *Tribune* received at Augusta than Belcher, conscious of the lie he had written to Sumner, published a card in the *Chronicle* setting forth that he had been entirely misinformed in regard to the matter, and that there was not a word of truth in his letter. The negro even went farther and gave an explanation which satisfactorily accounts for the unfounded stories of outrages which so frequently appear in the Radical newspapers of the North. After denying that there was any truth in the letter he had written to Sumner he said:

> "Special despatches from Atlanta to Republican papers in the North announced the murder of these two men by the Ku-Klux; but there is no foundation for the report, the outrage being worked up to serve the ends of certain parties in this State, who are fearful of being deprived of their offices under the State government."

This denial was published before Grant made the obnoxious appointment which Sumner and Butler dictated, and, if he did not know it, it was his duty to have informed himself.

After Turner had been appointed, a deputation of the white citizens of Macon waited upon the President, and protested against his continuance in office, informing him that Turner was utterly unfit for the position, that he had made himself obnoxious to all parties by his ignorance and impudence, that Mr. Washington, who had been removed to make way for this offensive and incompetent negro, was a truly loyal Republican, and had given the highest satisfaction in the administration of the office. The correspondent of the *Herald* gives the following report of Grant's reply:

> The President informed the deputation that he had nothing whatever against Mr. Washington. His removal had been made through a conviction that it was necessary to administer some sort of a rebuke to the rebel element there who had countenanced the late outrages, and he (the President) thought Turner would give them a most unpleasant dose. It was too late now to protest against the appointment. It had been made and must stand, no matter how unpalatable it might be to the people of that section, loyal or disloyal.

No decent white Republican can read that account of Grant's brutal conduct without a blush of shame. It would be charitable to conclude that he was drunk. But, drunk or sober, he can render no satisfactory excuse for the appointment of Turner. The motives which he avows are such as no man fit to be President would even allow to influence his conduct. They indicate a narrow-minded vindictiveness which is perfectly disgusting. Such ideas, so brutishly expressed, would disgrace the most despicable and ignorant ward politician. There is not a hole or corner in the State of Pennsylvania, we thank God, where any Radical stump speaker could avow such sentiments without being hissed by the decent men of his own party. Grant was elected because the people believed that he possessed both ability and magnanimity of character. The masses refused to be convinced that the man who led the Union armies to their final victory was the low, mean creature that he had seemed to be for many years of his life. They generously overlooked the shameful record of the past, and cheerfully credited him with virtues that he never possessed. They deemed his vices the infirmities which sometimes attach to high minded men, and knew not that they were the natural outcropping of a base nature.

The people believed that Grant would act upon the motto with which he concluded his letter of acceptance, and supposed he expressed the sentiment of his own heart when he said "let us have peace." Had the masses of the North known that Grant would allow himself to be made a mere willing tool in the hands of the eunuch Sumner and the beast Butler to wreak their personal spite upon the whites of the South he could never have been elected. Honorable and patriotic Republicans would have scorned to vote for him. Sensible Republicans would have seen that peace could never come under such a ruler; that the old embers of sectional passion would be fanned into a flame; and that, instead of the wounds of the nation being bound up, they would only be torn open afresh.

The elevation of negroes to office in any Northern State would be regarded as an indignity by a vast majority of the people. Grant would not dare to name one of the race as Postmaster for any town in New England. Yet he has not only appointed most obnoxious negroes in prominent Southern cities, and turned out reputable white Republicans to make place for them, but he assigns the basest possible reasons for his conduct. He openly confesses that this thing has been done to give the whites "*a most unpleasant dose.*" Is that the way to restore good feeling between the people of the two sections? Is that Grant's interpretation of his motto, "Let us have peace?" Even if the reports of murders which appeared in Radical newspapers had all been true that would not have excused Grant's conduct in this matter—for the innocent many should not be made to suffer for the crimes of a guilty few, but when the alleged outrages were shown to be false how base does the conduct of the President appear to be. If he had deliberately set to work to devise means for producing discontent in the South he could not have hit upon any surer plan than the one he has adopted. The only excuse that can be rendered for him is to be found in the fact that he has become a mere tool in the hands of such men as Sumner and Butler. But that only proves his utter unfitness for the position to which he has unfortunately been elected. He is fast sinking into public contempt, and even the more decent men of his own party despise him.

The Late Revival of Libel Suits.

The N. Y. *Herald* says:

> For some years there was quite a lull in these respects, and libel suits were rather few and far between. But lately they have been revived, and at a rate so tremendous that, in comparison with the demands made upon the press by offended honesty in former years, they were as but a moth upon the smokestack of a locomotive. The irresistible and irrepressible James Fisk, Jr., of Erie-Grand Opera-railroad notoriety, first began to have recourse to this sort of rehabilitation of wounded honor, and he opened with a libel suit for $100,000 against Mr. Bowles, of the Springfield *Republican*, and he quickly followed it up by another against Mr. Greeley, of the *Tribune*, for a like sum; then against Mr. Norvell, of the *Times*, claiming another $100,000, and finally against Mr. Raymond for the snug amount of a round million. Not to be outdone by the railway impetuosity of Mr. Fisk, Mr. John Russell Young has commenced about ten suits in different parts of the country, and two or three of them in this city, and two in Philadelphia, each at the exact figure of $100,000; a trifle less would not satisfy him. The *Evening Mirror* at Indianapolis has lately been sued for $30,000 damages for libel by one Talcott; and a case is now pending at Pittsburg, by an ex-member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, against the Pittsburg *Leader*, which journal had charged him with venality and corruption. Thus the revival of libel suits goes bravely on all over the country. There are now no less than 756 libel suits pending against editors or publishers in this country by personages who claim a plaster of gold backs for their wounded reputation, and the total amount of damage alleged to be done to these 756 injured plaintiffs sums up $47,500,000. Who will deny hereafter the power of the press?

Besides this we learn that Major Russell Errett, United States Assessor and late Senator from Allegheny, on Saturday brought two suits before Alderman Nicholson against the Pittsburg *Commercial* for libel, one for the civil and the other for the criminal offence. The alleged libel consists in publishing an article from the Harrisburg *State Guard*, in which the Major's course while Senator is severely condemned. Mr. Errett has also instituted a civil action for damages against the Directors and Stockholders of the *Commercial*, and the customary writs in such cases have been issued from the Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. Wm. R. Ford, whose name is mentioned in the same connection, intends, we understand, to commence a similar prosecution.

As our readers are aware we have been prosecuted for libel, by a member of the late Legislature from Philadelphia, named Kleckner. A true bill was found in Dauphin County Court at April Sessions, and unless the gentleman, who imagines that he has been aggrieved, should abandon the prosecution the case will be tried in August.

Our neighbors of the *Daily Express* have also just got into a libel suit. Ex-Sheriff Smith has prosecuted them for alleged libelous matter published in relation to his conduct at a delegate election.

As a general rule, parties who prosecute for libel in Pennsylvania get the worst of the bargain. It remains to be seen what fruit the new crop of cases which have sprung up will bear.

THE Columbia *Spy* is a guerilla sheet. It is Radical, intensely so, but it fights more or less on its own hook. Its editor has somehow conceived a deep seated dislike for certain members of his party, and he occasionally puts on the paint and takes to the war path. He cuts and slashes after a lively style when his temper is up, and blurts out ugly truths in a reckless sort of way. In his last issue he says:

> On Monday one of the defeated Thugs met a government official, who intimated to him that if he had his deserts he would be in the penitentiary, whereupon the defeated Thug responded, that he paid the official *five hundred dollars* (which employed by the Government to prevent frauds) *to permit a car load of whiskey to pass through Lancaster unmolested.*

The *Spy* calls upon the present Collector to investigate the charge. We second its call, and would insist upon an examination into the Hackman case did we not know that Mr. Dickey's tool, the Assessor, would be most unwilling to take any steps in that matter. The *Spy* suggests that General Grant might be induced to attend to the Collector if he does not do his duty. Could the General be induced to force our officials to clear up the Hackman fraud? Suppose the *Spy* tries to find out whether Ulysses meant anything by his boast, that he would have none but honest men in office. We would like to see the President's honesty tested as well as that of his subordinates. Let the ball be set in motion.

So perfectly was the "fat boy" of the Thug Organ convinced that he had annihilated both the *Intelligencer* and the *Express*, that he seized the first copy of the organ which was thrown off by the press, and rushed up street to read the editorials, which he had inserted over his initials, to "Pap" and an admiring circle of friends. After he had got through this exhausting exercise a school marm, who happened to be present, picked up the moist sheet and ran her eye over it. As she detected blunder after blunder the face of the "fat boy" grew pale and then 'all aflame." In a terrible state of excitement he rushed back to the press room in the "Soldiers' Monument," tore the forms off the press, removed his initials, and corrected some of the blunders which appear in the copy before us. We shall keep the sheet we have as a rare specimen of what the "fat boy" would do as an editor if left to himself. Any one may examine it who may see fit to call.

The Advance of Negro Equality.

The Radicals of Washington city are making the most desperate efforts to consolidate the negroes in support of their ticket at the coming municipal election. Not only have they divided the offices with the blacks, giving them representatives in every Ward, but the City Council has just passed an ordinance imposing a fine on any manager of a place of amusement who may make any distinction between the races. The negroes are to be allowed to occupy what seats they please, and mixed audiences are to be the rule hereafter. The blacks demanded this, and it has been granted. That is the legitimate result of negro suffrage, and the same thing will be done all over the country. Give the negroes the ballot in Pennsylvania, and it will not be a year until a Radical Legislature will pass laws declaring it to be a penal offense to set up any distinction between the races. The negroes will be put on a perfect equality with white men in every respect, so far as it can be done by legislative enactment.

Why was Hester Vaughn Banished by Geary?

There has been no little comment excited by the summary banishment of Hester Vaughn by Governor Geary. He had no right to demand that she should leave the country, or to make her speedy and secret departure a condition of pardon. There has been much speculation as to the motives which influenced him in this illegal transaction. It is stated by the Albany *Evening Journal* that the person from whose deceit Hester Vaughn suffered, and whose name she refused to give even when her life was at stake, occupies a high social and political position in Philadelphia, and that she was spirited out of the country for fear lest, under the excitement of association with those who have taken such a lively interest in her case, she might be induced to disclose his identity. If it be true that Governor Geary banished this girl to cover up the crime of some prominent Radical, what a commentary does it furnish upon the character of the men who now occupy high positions in Pennsylvania.

THE "fat boy" of the Thug Organ calls us a shallow-*plated* blusterer.—What kind of a blusterer is that? Will the "fat boy" be kind enough to lend us his dictionary. That adjective is not to be found in ours, and we use Webster's Latest Unabridged Edition.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE TO WASHINGTON.

Editorial Notes.

After more than a week of vigorous and exhilarating out door exercise we bade adieu to the pleasant acquaintances we had formed in Rogersville, and on the morning of the 3rd of May reluctantly turned our faces homeward. A more delicious day than that which witnessed our departure we have rarely seen. There was not a cloud to obscure the peculiarly bright blue sky, and the pure atmosphere was filled with the odor of flowers. The climate of East Tennessee has been repeatedly pronounced to be the very finest in the United States, and our observation convinced us that it was deserving of all the eulogies which have been passed upon it. The picturesque mountains which cut the country up into lovely valleys shield the inhabitants from the bleak winds of winter and temper the heats of summer. Spring, a bright and balmy spring, sets in with the beginning of April and extends to the middle of June. The heat of summer is not as great as it is in Pennsylvania, and with September comes a long golden autumn that stretches on into or through December. The winters are mild and during a greater proportion of them the weather is such as to tempt even invalids out of doors. As we sat here at home by coal fires in a close room, day after day in the latter part of May, we often sighed for the more genial clime we had left behind us.

Andrew Johnson got into the car we were occupying at Greenville. We got a good look at him and heard the conversation he had with a Massachusetts Yankee, who had been down in that country prospecting. Mr. Johnson looked to be in excellent health, and presented evidences of marked physical vigor. We did not intrude upon him, but sat and listened as he spoke with great vivacity of the natural advantages of East Tennessee, and the many inducements it offered to emigrants. He bestowed deserved praises upon its fertile soil, which produces abundant crops with the most negligent husbandry; of its exhaustless mineral wealth hidden in the mountains; of its magnificent water power which was going to waste, and of the capacity of the country to support a dense population. He called the attention of the Yankee to the contrast which Tennessee presented to New England, giving due credit to the industry of the latter section. In a humorous way he alluded to the scenes he had witnessed there on a Sabbath day, when he saw the descendants of the Puritans, farmers, busy carting home the hay they had cut in the fence corners along the railroad to save it from a threatened shower, and of the haycocks which stood thick in a graveyard which he looked out upon from a window of one of the principal hotels of Boston. He said a bare living was too easily made in Tennessee, and that man, being naturally a lazy animal, could hardly be expected to work when not under the spur of necessity or some other strong inducement. He asserted that all Northern men who went into Tennessee to engage in any legitimate business would be cordially welcomed. The Yankee was a fellow of good sense, and had the decency to declare that he was ashamed of the impecunious and disreputable adventurers from his section who were prowling thro' the South, for no other purpose than to secure offices which they were unfit to fill, by pandering to the ignorance and the passions of the negroes. Mr. Johnson got out at his mill, a few miles above Greenville, and we kept on our way. As the night advanced and we climbed up the western plateau of the Alleghenies it grew quite chilly, and for the first time, in Virginia, we had fire in the cars. We left the Rogersville Junction about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and daylight the next morning found us descending the Blue Ridge. We entered Lynchburg in the midst of a warm spring rain, and after a good breakfast, with plenty of time to eat it, took the Orange and Alexandria road for Washington.

The Orange and Alexandria Railroad passes directly through what is known as the Piedmont Region of Virginia, lying at the eastern base of the Blue Ridge and extending from the Potomac river to the North Carolina line. It is traversed by broken ranges of hills or mountains of moderate elevation, which run parallel with the Blue Ridge, and are distinguished by various names. This section is watered by the James, Roanoke, Rappahannock, Potomac and York rivers and their tributaries. Between the mountain ridges lie beautiful and fertile valleys, once unsurpassed in richness and still susceptible of the highest culture. Corn, wheat, rye, oats and tobacco grow luxuriantly on such of the lands as have not been exhausted. Even the soil which has been cropped for many years without manure produces grass in abundance, and can be readily reclaimed at comparatively little cost. This section abounds in valuable minerals, but limestone, which is so plenty in all the country west of the Blue Ridge is here wanting. The soil is a deep, red clay, loose in its texture, and wherever turned up to a proper depth it will bring fine clover. This is a great fruit section, all the varieties flourishing and coming to the greatest perfection. The seasons are from two to three weeks earlier than with us; the winters are shorter and much milder; and the climate is not only perfectly healthy but very delightful. Malarious diseases are unknown in the Piedmont country, and the climate being more settled and less subject to sudden changes than it is with us, throat and lung diseases are much less frequent.

The people of this section are eminently conservative and law-abiding. Most of them went into the rebellion or sympathized with it, but when the war was over they accepted the situation in good faith. There has been little disturbance of any kind in this section since the war ended. All through this country there are flourishing schools of a high character. The University of Virginia, which is located at Charlottesville, and of which we had a fine view, has long been noted as one of the first in the United States. It was founded by Thomas Jefferson, and went into operation under his supervision in 1825. The buildings which were erected by the State cost nearly half a million dollars. The University received from the State an annual endowment of fifteen thousand dollars. The library contains over 35,000 volumes, and the scientific apparatus is most complete. The University is divided into separate schools, and each student is allowed to select his own course of study. The corps of professors is very full, and they have always been men of high attainments. Besides the University there are excellent schools of less note scattered at convenient distances throughout the country. The people are educated, refined, hospitable, and society is no where more pleasant than it is in this part of Virginia.

Good lands can be bought at low prices all along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and the nearness of this section to Eastern markets, its adaptability to the culture of grains and fruits, its salubrious climate and its social attractions must necessarily draw to it a large and increasing tide of emigration. Already many persons from Pennsylvania, Maryland and other States have settled here, and the universal expression of those who have gone is one of satisfaction with the change.

For some time after leaving Lynchburg the traveler sees very few traces of the war. But after passing Orange Court House the still existing evidences of the mighty struggle begin to multiply. After crossing the Rapidan River we come to that section of Virginia which was made completely desolate. All along the line of the road the earth works still stand with their walls of red clay, which were stamped into solidity by the feet of the sentrys who for four long years paced their rounds upon those rude ramparts. For miles on either side of the road the forests were swept away to furnish fuel for the vast armies which wintered here face to face with each other. The fences and out-houses are gone, and lonesome-looking chimneys in their dreary isolation tell where fine old Virginia mansions once stood with ever open and hospitable doors.—Here you can see acres of ground still covered with the chimneys of stone which served to create a draft to the huts in which whole armies burrowed half underground for months. The Union forces hugged the line of railroad, while the rebels ranged discursively where they saw fit; and as you pass from Gordonsville northward you can see at how great a disadvantage Lee had our armies during the second Bull Run battle, under the blundering and boastful Pope. As we swept through this section of country, and looked at its wonderful capacity for defense, we wondered that the Southern people ever permitted the first step to be taken toward an invasion of the North. Had they made the war a purely defensive one from the start, and conducted it patiently upon a comprehensive policy based upon that idea, they could never have been conquered; and the Southern Confederacy would have been an existing government to-day, recognized as an independent and sovereign nation by us and all the world. The ride from Lynchburg to Alexandria by this route is full of interest, and it is well worth any one's while to go over it, just for the purpose of catching a passing glimpse at the scenes of so many memorable events. The train we were on ran slowly enough to give us a first-rate view of the country, and we found plenty of people among the passengers who could point out to us the places of interest. Some had served on one side and some on the other. Here we heard an ex-rebel describing the part his division took in the Second Bull Run battle, while just behind him sat a Northern soldier who had been in the opposing ranks. They shook hands with each other cordially. And as we looked on at the scene we could not help but wish, that all the animosities engendered by the late strife might speedily be as effectually buried, as was that which once actuated the brave men who thus casually met for the second time in their lives.

We arrived in Alexandria just at the time when General Lee was receiving his friends at a private residence in that city, but, without an intimation of the mere presence of the man on whose exploits we had been thinking all day, we took the boat for Washington, and a half hour's ride on one of the most beautiful rivers in the world landed us safely in the National Capital, where we spent a day pleasantly with friends, some of whom we had not seen for years.

We came back from our trip through Virginia into Tennessee fully convinced that all the vast West does not offer such inducements to emigrants as does the country of which our notes give but a vague description. We assure our readers, in all good conscience, and without the slightest thing to bias our opinion, that no part of the United States which we have ever seen (and we have been all over the West more than once) presents so many combined advantages as do Virginia and Tennessee. Whoever may go to either of these States, be he farmer or mechanic, can not fail to do well if he uses ordinary industry.

The Georgia Outrages.

Butler wants Georgia to be put under martial law because "loyal" men are, as he and men of his kind persistently declare, murdered for their political opinions. Now here is what a correspondent of a Radical paper (*N. Y. Times*) writes upon that subject. Recollect we are not quoting "Copperhead" or "rebel" testimony:

> "Politics have no more to do with the murders which have taken place in Georgia than the religion, dress, height or personal appearance of the victims. Ashburn was killed by the company which usually frequented negro houses of ill fame, of one of which he was an