

## A VETERAN'S WELCOME.

GEN. JAMES SHIELDS' RETURN TO HIS HOME IN MISSOURI.

One of the Largest Demonstrations Ever Witnessed in Jefferson City—A Fitting Speech from the Old Soldier and Senator—Words of Warning Against Sectional Strife.

Special Dispatch to the Post.

JEFFERSON CITY, March 24.—General James Shields, the retiring Missouri senator, on his return home to-day, was tendered one of the grandest ovations the capital of the state has ever witnessed. Both houses of the legislature adjourned to do honor to the old hero, and the state officials and many prominent persons from St. Louis and other portions of the state participated in the demonstration. After the enthusiastic formal reception was over, and fitting speeches of welcome made, Gen. Shields, in reply, referred to his recent senatorial career, and said the same irrepressible conflict confronted him as in the days of yore, and the sectional contest between the North and South appeared to him as fierce as ever. Against this un-American policy he protested. The North and South must go together or down together. Providence has bound them together by chains forged by nature, which are as hard as adamant and as strong as iron. If, in an excess of madness, this people ever break these chains, they will all go down together. North and South, East and West, will all sink down together to the dead level of the other unfortunate republics of this continent. But there are political leaders who tell us that one of the causes of this sectional struggle is a "Solid South." It ought not to be forgotten, however, that the South has been compelled by circumstances to become solid in self-defense; that the Southern people considered it their duty to unite to save themselves and their families from what they regarded as moral, social and political degradation. Then there are statesmen, and able statesmen, too, who look upon the solid South as something honorable at this time to American character. They think it demonstrates to the world that the grand old American spirit still lives amongst the American people. They say that the spirit of 1776, which united the thirteen colonies into a solid America against the threatened injustice of England, is the spirit of 1879 which unites the Southern states into a solid South against threatened injustice from any quarter. So long as this spirit lives amongst our people so long will we be able to present a solid America against all enemies, and a solid America, if true to itself, will be always able to bid defiance to the combined powers of a hostile world. But to my notion Southern human nature is the same in all respects as Northern human nature. Insult and injury produce alienation and discontent, while kindness and confidence insure conciliation and good-will. Would it not be well, therefore, to hazard the experiment of treating the Southern people, for some time at least, with kindness and confidence, and with that which is due even to the South—common justice? The result, in my opinion, would fully justify the experiment. A historical incident occurs to me at this time, which will illustrate what I mean in recommending this policy. In 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte was chosen First Consul of the French Republic. Soon after his appointment he called his counselors together and informed them, in his frank and fearless way, that France had to prepare to make head against a coalition of all the great powers of Europe. "To fight all Europe successfully," said he, "the complete pacification of the province of La Vendee is absolutely necessary. Gentlemen, what course ought this government pursue to effect the pacification of that province?" "Pacify La Vendee," answered his counselor; "that is a task which is simply impossible."

"La Vendee cannot be conciliated. The people are incorrigible rebels, and they will seize upon the first opportunity to aid in overthrowing the republican government. We have no alternative left but to crush them. This government will be compelled to destroy La Vendee in order to save the French Republic."

"I hope not," said Napoleon. "France needs all her sons, and I will not be the man to destroy the children of France. I shall try an experiment upon these Vendees and I will have to change my estimate of human nature if it does not prove successful. I shall send for the Vendean leaders and meet them alone in the Bois de Boulogne, and conciliate them by doing them and their people complete justice."

"Meet these rebels alone in the forest?" said his counselors. "The traitors will assassinate you."

"No," said Napoleon, "there is no fear of that. Men who fight for a conviction, however erroneous it may be, are not assassins."

He sent a safe conduct to the Vendean chiefs. He met them alone in the Boulogne forest. He told them frankly what he had told his counselors before, that France had to prepare to battle against combined Europe, and that the reconciliation of the people of La Vendee was absolutely necessary to enable her to encounter the coming storm. "I might be able," said he, "to destroy that province, but I cannot reconcile its people to a republic. You can, however. You are the natural leaders of the people. You can aid France and save your native province. There is a pledge under the seal of state that you shall be left hereafter in full enjoyment of your own institutions and laws, usages and traditions, rights and privileges. The people of La Vendee shall have full power to manage their own affairs in their own way, without any interference on the part of the general government. The only return I ask for this is that as Frenchmen you will assist your country in the coming struggle."

The Vendean chiefs burst forth into exclamations of joyful surprise: "Why, this is all we ever asked for and more than we ever hoped for. The republican rulers always treated us as rebels and almost succeeded in making us forget that we are Frenchmen; but you are magnanimous, you place confidence in us and treat us as fellow-countrymen, and from this hour, fellow-countrymen we will be, and as such assist France

under any government to fight the combined powers of Europe." And handsomely and gloriously they kept that pledge; they were amongst the best soldiers of those armies that entered in the triumph afterwards into nearly all the capitals of Europe; and from that day to this they have continued to be amongst the most faithful citizens of their beloved country. This was the policy of the great Napoleon in a case very similar to ours, and my opinion is that if both political parties, Democrats and Republicans, would follow this example in their treatment of the South, the "irrepressible conflict," as it is called, would soon come to an end, and that dark cloud which now obscures the brightness of our political horizon would be sure to disappear forever.

## FITZ JOHN PORTER VINDICATED.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The decision of the court of inquiry in the case of Fitz John Porter is one of the most important judgments rendered in any case since the conflict of arms ceased between the North and the South. One of the most accomplished, skillful and tried soldiers of the army was summoned from his high command, after one of the many military disasters of the war, and accused before a court-martial of deliberate disobedience to his superior officer and perjury to his country's cause in the face of the enemy. He was tried in a flood-tide of passion, when atonement was demanded for the terrible blunders and wanton sacrifices of incompetency or worse in the direction of our armies. His case was heard with all the appearance of fairness, and he was condemned to be dismissed from the army he had adorned and made an alien to the country in whose cause he had offered his life. Indeed, with such malignant earnestness was his prosecution pressed that the court narrowly escaped the judgment of death against the accused soldier.

Sixteen years have elapsed since Fitz John Porter was dismissed from the army in disgrace and solemnly adjudged ineligible to any position of honor or trust under the national government. He was helpless and had but to bow to the harsh decision; but when the strife ended and the surges of passion began to abate, and when the evidence could be readily obtained and clearly presented in refutation of the specific accusations preferred against him, he appealed to President Johnson and next to Grant for a rehearing of his case, but both denied it. President Hayes finally hearkened to the petition of the condemned soldier for a full and impartial review of the judgment that made his life aimless and hopeless, and General J. M. Schofield, Alfred H. Terry and George W. Getty, three of the ablest and most trusted of our military officers, were selected to hear the case. They have done so with the utmost patience and their report must startle the country and the world at the measure of injustice that may be inflicted upon a faithful defender of the nation in its greatest peril by the accidental power of selfishness, jealousy and incompetence and the criminal prostitution of military authority. The chapter of our history that condemned Fitz John Porter to infamy has now been effaced from the thrilling annals of the war, and it is proven that the accusers were of those most responsible for the defeat they imputed to their abler and nobler fellow-soldier, and that not only was the chief accuser among the guilty, but that two of the members of the Court who pronounced the terrible judgment against Porter were among the authors of the military disaster for which they condemned the man who, as is now decided, was "obedient, subordinate, faithful and judicious," and who "saved the Union army from disaster" in the engagement for which Porter was condemned. Such a judgment, given after the most exhaustive inquiry and the most deliberate consideration, by such Generals as Schofield, Terry and Getty, furnishes one of the most startling records in the history of the country, and it is not wonderful that their decision is followed by the unanimous recommendation that justice requires the restoration of General Porter to the position in the army of which the unjust sentence deprived him, "such restoration to take effect from the date of his dismissal from the service."

At last, after sixteen years of exposure to the obloquy and resentments of a patriotic people, Fitz John Porter has been vindicated, and full effect will doubtless be promptly given to the judgment just rendered; but can the claims of justice be satisfied by the restoration of the wrongfully disgraced soldier to his rank and laurels, while those who falsely accused and condemned him are permitted to hold their commissions and escape retribution for their double crime against a faithful officer and an imperiled nation? This is now the important question for the army to consider, and if such a monstrous wrong shall escape the shame and punishment it has so justly earned, there must remain an indelible blot upon the military honors of the Republic.

A SUPERSTITION which is religiously observed in Bohemia is that it is unlucky for a lover to visit his sweetheart except on Thursdays and on Sundays. The saving in lights and fuel is simply incalculable, and the young women of the country, being thus enabled to get five nights' sleep every week, preserve their singular beauty for many years.

## JEFFERSON DAVIS.

SOME EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LATE "CONFEDERACY."

The Boston Herald, of March 29th, contained an interview with Jefferson Davis. After speaking of his experience in Pierce's Cabinet and the Mexican war Mr. Davis is led to express himself upon the late rebellion, saying: "It is generally believed in the North that I am chiefly responsible for that great calamity. I was but one of a vast body of the South, and no more responsible than thousands of others. The war would have taken place without me as inevitably as it did with me. It was one of the things which was sure to come in the progress of events and in solving great problems of government upon this continent." He conceded expressly that the abolition of slavery would prove an ultimate good to the country; that it was a manifest advantage to the white race, for it would lead to the development of the South and multiply her manufacturing and mechanical industries. From advantages of climate alone the future of the South is more promising than any other section of the country, but the condition of the present generation of the black race is all the worse by reason of the abolition of slavery.

Mr. Davis doubts very much the wisdom of an attempt to educate the negro, and utterly disbelieves in giving him the ballot. It was his opinion, that wherever the negro race was found it must be as an inferior and servile race, and in the long run would give way to the superior race under any and all circumstances. Mr. Davis acknowledged, however, that he had changed his mind entirely upon this one question viz., that the great staples of the South—cotton and sugar—could be produced with greater economy and in greater abundance by paid labor than by the labor of slaves. This has already been demonstrated and that fact alone goes far to prove the advantage which the abolition of slavery has brought to the whites. Referring to the political status of the negro Mr. Davis said the freedmen had naturally been misled by politicians, thinking that Northern men were their true friends, but of late years they seemed to have reached the opposite conclusion, and in the long run it would be found that the negro, having but little self-dependence, would vote in accordance with his wishes and the wishes and the sentiments of those who employed him. For this reason the negro vote would be a less important factor in the politics of the future than the Northern men supposed.

Referring to the oft-repeated charges of coercion and bulldozing of negro voters, he said that he had no doubt there were individual instances of cruelty and coercion on the part of lawless men in some sections, but he believed the prevailing sentiment among Southern men was one of the greatest kindness and good will toward the former slaves. Speaking of national affairs, he said he accepted the situation as decided by arbitrament of the sword, and that he was very hopeful of the future of the country. He did not believe there was an existing cause for sectional estrangement or that there could be any hereafter. One of the results of the war already apparent was that the South was less dependent upon the North than heretofore; for, while she could supply great staples as before, her people had begun to produce a greater variety of crops for their own use than ever before, and they would eventually compete with other sections, in manufactures and mechanical arts. In this connection he remarked that while the South was destitute of money and the value of real estate was greatly depressed, in a very short time the price of landed property would advance because of its intrinsic value in the production of staple articles of commerce. He remarked that the only disturbing elements to be discerned now were the efforts of extremists upon both sides to keep alive animosities and hatreds of the past. If Congress would pursue a moderate course, attend to its legitimate duties of general legislation for the good of the whole country, the great social and industrial questions which were now a source of so much contention would settle themselves, and the country would be at peace.

In conclusion he said: "You may assure your people that I have no unkindness in my heart to them or any of the people of the North. I am not the devil they have painted me. I have neither horns nor hoofs, and if they knew me they would find I am very much like one of themselves."

A MODEST TRAMP.—The gentle tramp mounted the landing and rang the front-door bell. "Would you be so kind," said he, as the mistress of the house came to the door, "as to exchange this piece of pie for a couple of hard-boiled eggs and a cup of coffee? I am of a dyspeptic turn, and this is the ninth quarter of mince-pie that I have tried to go through this morning. I can't stand it; it's too much of a sameness. If you accept my proposition, you can also have the satisfaction of telling the neighbors that Mrs. Robinson, across the street, uses allspice instead of cloves, and that the undercrust is very slak-baked." The temptation was great, and the gentle tramp had his eggs and coffee and a large triangle of frosted cake as a bonus.

## RIDING TO THEIR DEATH.

AN ENGINEER AND FIREMAN, BURIED UNDER THEIR MACHINE, BEGGING TO BE SHOT.

From dispatch to the Philadelphia Times.

WILKESBARRE, March 31.—An accident occurred this morning on the Lehigh Valley railroad, about one mile north of this city, which was attended with peculiarly horrible fatal circumstances. The Buffalo and Western express train from Philadelphia and New York, due at this city at 1:15 a.m., left on time. The engineer and fireman had been changed. The engine was one of the best upon the road, and the engineer, Nicholas Shillinger, one of the oldest employees of the company, had taken his seat at the lever. Henry Stevenson, for the past half-dozen years upon the payroll of the company, was in the fireman's seat.

The signal was given and the long train loaded with human freight started off at a thirty-mile run. The bed of the road between Wilkesbarre and Pittston is ordinarily of the very best and the curves are regular and long. The nine miles between stations are frequently made in twelve minutes. This morning, however, there was no special necessity of crowding the schedule time and the train was bounding along through the suburbs of the city at the usual even speed when it entered a cut at the northern boundary of the city. It has never been considered a particularly dangerous place and no watchman has ever been stationed there. The train had proceeded but a few hundred yards into the cut when, as the fireman said, "the engine began to go up and down," and in an instant later it had plunged headlong into the right bank of the cut. The engine tender doubled over upon top of the engine house, and buried in the ruins were the engineer, Nicholas Shillinger, and Henry Stevenson, the fireman. The pipes, filled with scalding water and steam, were broken and their contents turned upon the poor unfortunates lying under the engine. The baggage car of the train alone left the track, but the suddenness of the suspension of travel produced several severe contusions and great fright. Ladies fainted and men were thrown over backs of seats and upon the floor.

The voices of the engineer and fireman, crying piteously for help, almost drowned the noise of the escaping steam. Shillinger begged in the name of humanity for somebody to kill him. He was a German, and in his broken accent he pleaded: "If there be a man so kind to me will he shoot me in the heart or cut my throat?" and when he found his appeals for deliverance from his horrible position unavailing, he cried like a child until unconsciousness and death hushed his voice. The fireman was lying very close to him, but in a more favorable position. The willing hands of rescuers were, however, greatly baffled for some time in their determination to render all the assistance human power could command. The escaping steam was so dense that nothing could be seen around the wreck but the fragments, and when assistance did come the brave engineer was past all human aid. The fireman with great difficulty was extricated, but died this evening.

Your correspondent visited the families of the men. Stevenson, before his death, lay upon a bed, writhing in agony and praying for the end to come. "Why was I not killed at once and put out of this misery?" was his oft-repeated ejaculation. He said he was compelled to breathe air laden with furnace flames, while the steam had so scalded him that the flesh hung in shreds upon the upper portion of his body. His hands were burned to the bone and the finger nails dropped off. Shillinger, the engineer, is scarcely recognizable by his old comrades. He leaves a wife and daughter. Stevenson had a wife and two children.

All trains over the road have been stopped at this place by reason of the wreck, and passengers and baggage have been transferred. The immediate cause of the accident was a landslide from the left bank.

## Important to Owners of Real Estate.

Among a number of very important decisions made by the Supreme Court, a few days ago, was one of vital importance to most owners of real estate. Under existing rulings and practice, holders of properties purchased and sold "under and subject" to a mortgage, have been held personally liable for the difference between the face of the mortgage and the proceeds of the sale of the property, in case it has depreciated below the amount of the mortgage. Divested of its technicalities, an elaborate opinion delivered by the Supreme Court, reverses the rulings of the lower courts and a long existing practice, and makes the holder of the mortgage dependent wholly upon the property itself for his satisfaction unless the owner has expressly promised to be liable for any deficiency. If the property falls in value below the amount of the mortgage there is no claim on the owner beyond what is satisfied by the sale of the property itself. The ruling settles a principle of great importance to all owners of real estate upon which there is any mortgage.

Those who hope for no other life are dead even for this.

## MADAME PATTERSON-BONAPARTE.

THE WIDOW OF A BROTHER OF THE GREAT EMPEROR DYING IN BALTIMORE—HER EVENTFUL HISTORY.

BALTIMORE, April 2.—Madame Bonaparte's condition daily becomes more critical, and her death is looked for at any moment. On Saturday she was stricken with paralysis in the left side, since which time she has been unable to converse with those gathered around her bedside. She was conscious up to 10 o'clock yesterday morning, as shown by the movement of her eyes when spoken to, but since then she has been lying in a comatose condition. Dr. Mackenzie, her attending physician, states that she cannot survive this week, and expressed great astonishment at her wonderful vitality in not having already succumbed. For nearly a year she has not partaken of any solid food. Yesterday afternoon her pulse was somewhat improved, considering the patient's extreme age and debilitated condition, and although rendered perfectly helpless by paralysis, there were no signs of immediate dissolution. A small quantity of brandy was swallowed by her, but it was at once rejected. Brandy is the only stimulant she can take, and recently even this has produced nausea. Colonel Jerome Bonaparte and Mr. J. C. Bonaparte, grandsons of the venerable lady, and numerous friends of the family have remained by her bedside for several days in anticipation of her death, which, in all probability, will take place within the next forty-eight hours.

Madame Bonaparte, then Miss Elizabeth Patterson, the belle of Baltimore, married about the year 1803, when 18 years of age, Jerome Bonaparte, youngest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, then First Consul of France. For a while the pair were very happy, but Napoleon, with the selfishness that was characteristic of his life, claimed to have greater prospects for Jerome, and refused to recognize the marriage. Jerome Bonaparte pleaded with his iron-hearted brother, but to no purpose, and finally, like a poet, deserted his wife, who was then in England, not being permitted to set foot on French soil, with a babe born soon after she landed. Jerome Bonaparte was made King of Westphalia, and was married to a princess that his brother's power might be strengthened. His wife returned to Baltimore, frequently visiting Europe, however, with her son, it being the aim of her life to have the boy legitimately recognized by the French Empire, and she finally succeeded. She once met her recreant husband in an art gallery on the Continent. He turned to his new wife, remarked in an undertone, "That is my former wife," and hurriedly left the place. Madame Bonaparte became misanthropic and atheistic in her views after her great misfortune. She is now 94 years old.

Madame Elizabeth Patterson-Bonaparte, the subject of the above sketch, died at Baltimore on Friday last.

## The Negro's Friends.

Thomas A. Hendricks in April North America.

In the periods of provisional government and reconstruction Mr. Blaine has described the colored laborer as almost a slave. How is it now? He is better protected in his wages by the laws of many Southern States than is the laborer in any Northern State. By the act of April 14, 1876, the laborer in Mississippi is given a lien for his wages upon the crop he helps to raise, and for his portion of the crop when it is upon shares. The lien is prior to all others, and exists without record and without any written contract. Upon judgment for wages no property is exempt from execution. These provisions were adopted at the first session after the Democrats obtained the control in Mississippi. By the act of February 24, 1878, the laborer in Georgia is given a lien for his wages upon the property of the employer, first above any other lien except for taxes, judgments, and decrees, and a special lien upon the products of his labor above every other lien except for taxes. In North Carolina the farm laborer is given a first lien upon the crop he helps to produce. In 1865, under the provisional government, South Carolina established and so regulated the domestic relations among the colored people as to promote their morality, virtue, and personal welfare. In the regulations of labor it was provided that "wages due to servants shall be preferred to all other debts or demands except funeral expenses, in case of the insufficiency of the master's property to pay all debts and demands against him."

A CANDID OPINION.—A Detroit lawyer, famous for his wise and candid opinions, was the other day visited by a young attorney, who explained: "I was admitted to the bar two years ago, and I think I know something about law, yet the minute I arise to address a jury I forget all my points, and can say nothing. Now I want to ask you if this doesn't show lack of confidence in myself, and how can I overcome it?"

The wise attorney shut his eyes and studied the case for a moment before answering:

"My young friend, if it is lack of confidence in yourself it will some day vanish, but if it's a lack of brains you had better sell out your office effects

and buy a pick-ax and a long-handled shovel."

"But how am I to determine?" anxiously asked the young man.

"I'd buy the pick-ax anyhow and run my chances!" whispered the aged adviser, as he moved over to the peg for his overcoat.

## GENERAL CAMBRONNE.

There was a young corporal in the garrison of Nantes in the year 1795. He was a spirited young fellow, barely twenty; but young though he was, he had already learned to drink to excess, according to the too frequent custom of the day.

Brave and excitable, wine was a bad master for him; and one day, in a moment of intoxication, he was tempted to strike an officer who was giving him an order. Death was the punishment of such an offense, and the lad was condemned. The Colonel of his regiment, remembering the intelligence and bravery of the young criminal, spared no pains to obtain a remission of the sentence; at first with no success, but finally hampered with a certain condition—that the prisoner should never again in his life be found intoxicated.

The Colonel at once proceeded to the military prison, and summoned Cambronne.

"You are in serious trouble, corporal," he said.

"True, Colonel; and I forfeit my life for my folly," returned the corporal.

"It may be so," quoth the colonel, shortly.

"May be?" demanded Cambronne. "You are aware of the strictness of martial law, Colonel; I expect no pardon; I have only to die."

"But suppose I bring you a pardon on one condition?"

The lad's eye sparkled. "A condition? Let me hear it, Colonel, I would do much to save life and honor."

"You must never again get drunk."

"Colonel, that is impossible!"

"Impossible boy! with death as alternative? You will be shot to-morrow otherwise; think of it."

"I do think of it. But never to get drunk again! I must never let one drop of wine touch my lips! See you, Colonel, Cambronne and the bottle love one another so well that when once they get together it is all up with sobriety. No, no! I dare not promise never to get drunk."

"But, unhappy boy! could you not promise never to touch wine?"

"Not a drop, Colonel?"

"Not a drop."

"Ah! that is a weighty matter, Colonel. Let me reflect. Never to touch wine!—not a single drop all my life! The young soldier paused, and then looked up.

"But Colonel, if I promise what guarantee will you have that I will keep my promise?"

"Your word of honor," said the officer. "I know you; you will not fail me."

A light came into the young fellow's eyes.

"Then I promise," he said solemnly. "God hears me. I, Cambronne, swear that never to my dying day shall a drop of wine touch these lips."

The next day Corporal Cambronne resumed his place in his regiment.

"Twenty-five years after he was General Cambronne, a man of note, respected and beloved."

"Dining one day in Paris with his old colonel, many brothers-in-arms being present, he was offered a glass of rare old wine by his former commanding officer. Cambronne drew back.

"My word of honor, Colonel; have you forgotten that?" he asked excitedly. "And Nantes—the prison—my vow?" he continued, striking the table. "Never, sir, from that day to this has a drop of wine passed my lips. I swore it, and I have kept my word; and shall keep it, God helping, to the end."

## Mr. Joseph Jefferson's Fence.

New Iberia (La.) Sugar-Bowl.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson, during his recent visit to his Orange Grove Plantation, has been actively engaged in applying to practice a cherished theory—that every country possesses sufficient material for its own fences. He set to work to prove it, by erecting for each side of his fence sods three feet in width, divided into five layers, at an angle of 75°. The soil from beneath the sod exactly fills the space between the erected sods, leaving a three-foot ditch on each side. On the top of this sod-and-sod fence, which is 4½ feet at the base and 3 feet high, he plants cuttings of the Macartney rose, which are protected by a panel of boards. This fence, while within the reach of any man who will shoulder his spade and work, possesses the advantages of an impassable barrier, of permanence, of not needing repairs, of drainage, and of being a most beautiful ornament. Mr. Jefferson will soon have enclosed a section of his plantation containing 2,600 acres, and at one-half the cost of a stake fence. Without being over sanguine as to its rapid adoption, we feel safe in saying it is the most economical and useful fence in the Southern States, and destined to come into general use.

"Vestibule guards" is the latest appellation which young men received who hang around church doors on meeting evenings.