The Press.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1865.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence is solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

Reorganization.

By the Fourth of July, Provisional Governors will probably be provided for the three remaining States which are still exclusively controlled by military rule, viz: Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina. President JOHNSON has already appointed Governors for North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas, and recognized Gov. PIERPONT as Governor of Virginia. Loyal civil governments were established in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana, before the death of Mr. LINCOLN. Thus the unexpected rapidity with which our armies have done their work thoroughly. A Washington correspondent reports that a member of a Southern delegation remonstrated with the President a few days ago against immediate emancipation, urging that the slaveholders should have time to adjust their interests to such a momentous change. His reply settled that question with very few words. It was: "Do you know which side was victorious in the war?" The inevitable answer to this question must carry with it an acknowledgment that the North was bound in honor and justice, as well as by its repeated public declarations, to signalize its triumph by instantaneous liberation of every slave upon our soil. Slavery and secession were killed by the valor of our troops. No new issues that may arise can resuscitate those defunct monsters, and this fact is as clearly recognized by every clear-headed politician in the South as it is by the people of the North.

Every rational consideration that influences the human mind is impelling the sensible men of the rebellious States to repent their past errors and follies, and to become loyal citizens. Thousands of them are suing for pardon, and their hopes of obtaining it must, of course, depend in a great measure upon their behavior, and upon the spirit displayed by the States in which they reside. If they wish to regain political rights they must show that they deserve them. If they wish to choose their own rulers and to share the power and glory of the giant Republic that has crushed their wicked revolt, they must prove that they are sincerely devoted to the Union. If they wish to re establish industry, and to obtain the necessaries and comforts of life, they must assist in good faith in organizing a free-labor system, for they understand that the days of enforced servitude have passed away forever. If they do not wish strict justice to be enforced against all the leaders who misled them, they must show that no disposition to generate a new revolt exists. By persisting in acts of hostility and bad faith, they have everything to lose and nothing to gain. Some time will probably be required for the fierce passions aroused by the rebellion to subside. Revengeful and passionate men will, it is to be feared, occasionally vent their baffled rage in unlawful and desperate outrages. But we retain an army amply sufficient to check angry ebullitions. There is nothing left for the seceding States but submission, and all their clear-headed inhabitants are at this moment pondering the problem of how they can best make a virtue of necessity, by accommodating themselves to the great social and political revolution that has overwhelmed them. "Time, at length, sets all things even," and master and slave, loyalist and rebel, will find in the end that our glorious country is productive enough to provide for all who exert a reasonable degree of energy, and its Government sufficiently powerful to vindicate its authority and protect its faithful citizens. Rebellion has been tried for four long years—it has been tested more fully than any people ever attempted to test it before—and it has proved the most complete failure that history records. The victims of this tragical *fiasco* can have no disposition, as they have no power to repeat their disastrous experiment.

The Capacity of the Negro.

While many of the freedmen are necessarily ignorant on account of the stringent laws forbidding their education, and the rigorous policy of their masters, there are a number of instances in which they have shown very considerable business capacity. As a body, the slaves were compelled to be infinitely more industrious than the whites of the South, and not a few are skilful mechanics. The following extract from the report of Lieut. Col. EATON, Inspector of Freedmen for the State of Arkansas, shows how an opportunity for managing a cotton plantation—the one great art in which the rebel leaders were supposed to excel—was improved by a "full black:"

"That the negro is not wholly without ability to realize his property, there is convincing proof in the life of a full black at Pine Bluff, well known as 'Uncle Reuben.' He was born in Georgia, and fell to a master who had but few slaves. He discovered such energy and tact, as well as complete devotion to his master's interests, that he entrusted everything to his management. The slave raised him from poverty to wealth. The master was enabled to buy a large plantation in Arkansas, and stock it with negroes. As his circumstances grew easier, his habits became extravagant. His estate became involved, and, being overwhelmed with indebtedness, he died. The widow, helpless and without resource, called Uncle Reuben, told him that she had no one to rely upon but him, and placed all in his hands. He swore by his master's memory this touching confidence. He became more ambitious than ever to bring the first bales of cotton to town, and to annoy still more the men who had been his driving planters. The number of bales grown on the plantation increased every year. The children were sent North to school. His success was so remarkable, that the white overseers around became jealous of a negro's outstripping them. They complained the neighbors to a white, resident, planter, who, if he was not, however, interfered with, until the young masters returned from the North. The fact that a negro slave had educated them, and by his own prudence and energy had amassed for them a fortune of nearly one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, was not a lesson to them of humility and thankfulness, however, always treated him as kindly as she dared. On the approach of our armies, he remained till all had left but himself and young family. Being assured by our officers that the President's proclamation was true, he also quietly came in. Spirited and proud, he is the model man of all. He refuses to sit in the presence of whites, and touches his hat to you at every address."

The Fair Montana.

This new Territory has proved as attractive as the beautiful name with which it has been graced. Although both northerly and elevated, its climate is more genial than more eastern regions lying in the same latitude, because of its exposure to the gentle influences of the soft Pacific breezes that modify the winter into mildness, and bestow a uniformity on the whole circle of the seasons.

A new offspring of the Republic, born in the war, it is a sturdy man-child, hearty and thriving. In an existence of only three years, it has gathered into its borders an earnest, working population of fifty thousand whites, who may be fairly presumed to be that indefatigable and energetic race who people our new Territories, where land and wealth are within the grasp of all, yet can be only won by industry, valor and enterprise.

The tide of emigration, which we have taken occasion to mention repeatedly as continuing to a limited extent during the last few years, notwithstanding the obstacles arising from the war, is now tending towards the beautiful hillsides and fair valleys of this mountain land. The giant peaks of the great Rocky Mountains are included in this territory, but also the fertile valleys of the Upper Missouri and the Yellow Stone. Fine forests adorn its surface, broad rivers irrigate its vales, while beneath the soil lie treasures of gold and silver ready for the hand of the seeker.

Large bands of emigrants are now preparing to take their share of these coveted prizes, and win some of the advantages of this golden opportunity with the efforts of their sturdy arms, strong hearts, and keen and cultivated intellects.

The range that raises this Territory to so lofty an altitude, and has given it so beautiful a name, is the grand backbone of our mighty continent, and it may be indeed expected that at some future day the States that will cluster around its peaks may assume their station as the backbone of our mighty Union, and become a new centre from which life and vigor will be sent through the vast body of our grand Republic.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, June 19, 1865.

The closing scenes of the trial of the conspirators have revived the universal interest excited at the commencement of the sittings of the Military Commission. The argument of the eminent counsel on the part of the Government will probably be written, and the intense desire to hear Mr. Holt, the Judge Advocate General, will therefore be disappointed. As the examination proceeded, the complicity of the leaders of the rebellion, who held their court at Richmond, with the authors of the horrible tragedy of the night of the 14th of April, 1865, if not with the bloody deed itself, was made more and more clear. The yell of rebel and tory rage which greeted the reward for the capture of these leaders, offered by the proclamation of the President, was but the natural expression of bitter despair at the capture of Jefferson Davis; but there will be a rare renewal of it when the case of the Government against the assassins is made up from the mass of testimony and laid before the public. The celebrated report of the Judge Advocate General on the subject of the secret associations in the West, known as the Sons of Liberty, or Knights of the Golden Circle, made to Congress more than a year ago, showed, conclusively, the existence of a wide-spread organization, bound by the most solemn oaths, and pledged to the most revolutionary objects. Some of the parties engaged in these clandestine cabals, were arrested, tried, convicted, and punished; and in the investigations which established their guilt, some of the scenes which led to the murder of Mr. Lincoln, were clearly foreshadowed. Fully to understand the forthcoming analysis of the evidence taken before the Military Commission, the main features of this report should be read. From that it will be seen that the conspiracy took its rise more than three years ago, and included hundreds of bad men in both sections. The great riot in New York, in the spring of 1863; the resistance to the draft; the attempt to set fire to the New York hotels and theatres, were the beginnings of that which was intended to be a most destructive catastrophe. The links in this long chain of crime may be traced with startling fidelity, with the aid of the report and the files of the daily newspapers. That nearly every step in the dark procession was taken in the interest of treason, and with the knowledge of Davis, will, I think, be made most indubitably to appear. We dare not be surprised at anything after the assassination of our good President. That sacrifice, with the attendant incidents of barbaric horror, makes all other offences, or attempts, no matter how exaggerated or unnatural they might seem to be in any other light, strangely probable and real. And yet while this theory is sufficiently conclusive, it is as common to hear the guilt of Davis denied and his release demanded, as if he had never drawn his sword in rebellion, and had never consented to the starvation of our prisoners; and as if his tools had not attempted to fire our cities, and had not deliberately murdered President Lincoln! We shall now have another opportunity of comparing the truth, as it has been obtained before the Military Commission, with the facts collated in other printed documents, and, of contrasting both with the appeals and arguments of the pro-slavery rebels, and the tories of Great Britain. OCCASIONAL.

An Interesting Leaf of History.

HOW THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION WAS WRITTEN.

The New York *Independent* of this week contains an interesting article from Mr. F. B. Carpenter, giving the history of how the emancipation proclamation was written. Mr. Lincoln gave the history to Mr. C., and the latter quotes Mr. Lincoln as follows:

"It had got to be," said he, "mid-summer, 1862. Things had gone on from bad to worse, until I felt that we had reached the end of our rope on the plan of operations we had been pursuing; that we had about played our last card, and must change our tactics or lose the game! I now determined on the adoption of the Emancipation Proclamation; and, without consultation with, or the knowledge of, the Cabinet, I prepared the original draft of the proclamation, and, after much anxious thought, called a Cabinet meeting upon the subject. This was the last of July, or the first part of the month of August, 1862." (The exact date he did not remember.) "This Cabinet meeting took place, I think, upon a Saturday. All were present excepting Mr. Blair, the Postmaster General, who was absent at the opening of the discussion, but came in subsequently. I said to the cabinet that I had received upon this step, and had invited them together to ask their advice, but to lay the subject matter of a proclamation before them, suggestions as to which would be in order, after they had heard it read. Mr. Lovejoy," said he, "was in error when he informed you that it excited no comment, excepting on the part of Secretary Seward. Various suggestions were offered. Secretary Chase wished the language stronger in reference to the arming of the blacks. Mr. Blair, after he came in, deprecated the policy, upon the ground that it would cost the Administration the fall elections. Nothing, however, was offered that I had not already fully anticipated and settled in my own mind, until Secretary Seward spoke. Said he: 'Mr. President, I approve of the proclamation, but I question the expediency of its issue at this juncture. The depression of the public mind, consequent upon our repeated reverses, is so great that I fear the effect of so important a step. It may be viewed as the last measure of an exhausted government—a cry for help; the Government stretching forth its hands to Ethiopia, instead of Ethiopia stretching forth her hands to the Government.' 'His idea' said the President, 'was that it would be considered our last *shriek* on the retreat.' (This was his precise expression.) 'Now,' continued Mr. Seward, 'while I approve the measure, I suggest, sir, that you postpone its issue, until you can give it to the country supported by military success, instead of issuing it, as would be the case now, upon the greatest disasters of the war!' Said Mr. Lincoln: 'The wisdom of the view of the Secretary of State struck me with very great force. It was an aspect of the case that, in all my thought upon the subject, I had entirely overlooked. The result was, that I put the draft of the proclamation aside, as you do your sketch for a picture, waiting for a victory. From time to time I added or changed a line, rounding it up here and there, waiting the progress of events. Well, the next news we had was of Pope's disaster, at Bull Run. Things looked darker than ever. Finally, came the news of the battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think, on Wednesday, that the situation was on our side. I was then staying at the 'Soldiers' Home,' (three miles just of Washington.) "Here I finished writing the second draft of the preliminary proclamation; came up on Saturday; called the Cabinet together to hear it, and it was published the following Monday.

"I was somewhat remarkable for a fact," he continued, "that there was just one hundred days between the dates of the two proclamations, issued upon the 22d of September and the 1st of January. I had not made the calculation at the time."

At the final meeting on Saturday, another interesting incident occurred in connection with Secretary Seward. The President had written the important part of the proclamation, in these words:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom." "When I finished reading this paragraph," resumed Mr. Lincoln, "Mr. Seward stopped me and said: 'Hold, Mr. President, that you should insert after the word 'recognize,' in that sentence the words 'and maintain.' I replied that I had already fully considered the import of that expression in this connection, but I had not introduced it, because it was not my way to promise what I was not entirely sure that I could perform, and I was not prepared to say that I thought we were exactly able to 'maintain' this.

"'But,' said he, 'Mr. Seward insisted that we ought to take this ground; and the words finally went in.'"

Mr. Lincoln then proceeded to show me the various positions occupied by himself and the different members of the Cabinet on the occasion of the first meeting. "As nearly as I can remember," said he, "the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War were here at my right hand—the others were grouped at the left."

Mr. Chase stoutly maintained at the cabinet meeting, immediately after the battle of Antietam, and just prior to the issue of the September proclamation, the President entered upon the business before them by saying that "the time for the enunciation of the emancipation policy could no longer be delayed. Public sentiment," he thought, "would sustain it. Many of his warmest friends and supporters demanded it—and he had promised his God he would do it!" The last part of this was uttered in a low tone, and appeared to be heard by no one but Secretary Chase, who was sitting near him. He asked the President if he correctly understood him. Mr. Lincoln replied, "I made a solemn vow before God that, if General Lee was driven back from Pennsylvania I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves!"

PETERSBURG LIBRARY BOOKS GOING NORTH AS MEMENTOES.—The following paragraph speaks for itself. It is a verbatim extract from a letter from a gentleman in New York to a friend in Petersburg. It needs no other comment than an expression of contempt for those who have purloined these books, and of regret that the Library has been robbed of them:

"On board a steamer last week I saw in the possession of some gentlemen three volumes of books from the "Petersburg Library," which they were carrying off as mementoes of a visit to your city, and as an evidence of the destruction made by shells during the late siege. I remonstrated at such vandalism; they replied that others were doing the same. Such transactions are shameful, and I wish to request of you, if no one has yet appointed to take proper care of the books of that library, that you will have them *boxed* up, or otherwise secured, so that they cannot be removed except by *authorized* persons, and I will pay the expense. Your attention to this may save the library and prevent further depredations. I have no interest in the matter further than a detestation of those who would commit such a wrong upon unprotected property."—*Petersburg Express, 16th.*

Fire at Pittsfield, Mass.

BOSTON, June 19.—A fire in Pittsfield village, near Hampton, yesterday, destroyed Drake's hotel, together with the stable and outbuildings and a dwelling-house adjoining. The loss amounted to $10,000.

WEST POINT.

THE EXAMINATION OF 1865

The Board of Examiners—The Academic Staff.

Peculiar Views of the Board of Visitors—Conflict of Jurisdiction.

THE MATTER REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

THE PROBABLE FIVE.

WEST POINT, June 17th and 18th, 1865.

The annual examination of the cadet classes is now in progress. Visitors appointed by the Government are here, and with sharp eyes watch, and with no unwholesome ears listen carefully and attentively to the proceedings of [illegible] the entire country. The board, as appointed by the President, is as follows:

1. Capt. D. H. Brigham, Alabama.
2. Rev. A. W. Campbell, West Virginia.
3. Col. Fred. A. Conkling, New York.
4. Dr. Thomas Dollman, Louisiana.
5. Lieut. Gov. C. C. Cox, Maryland.
6. Hon. John F. Driggs, Michigan.
7. Col. John M. Fessenden, Massachusetts.
8. Ambrose P. Kelsey, Esq., Maine.
9. Right Rev. Bishop Lee, Iowa.
10. Hon. J. D. Lyman, New Hampshire.
11. Dr. A. G. Mackey, South Carolina.
12. Senator J. W. Nye, Nevada.
13. Col. Alfred P. Rockwell, Connecticut.
14. Major Gen. Robert C. Schenck, Ohio.
15. Ex-Gov. D. L. Swain, North Carolina.
16. J. B. Thomas, Esq., California.
17. Hon S. M. Wilkinson, Minnesota.
18. Wylley Woodridge, Georgia.

These gentlemen, some of whom are graduates of the academy, are entitled to no compensation, receiving only payment of their expenses for board and lodging, and an allowance of eight cents per mile for travelling, by the shortest mail route, from and back to their homes. The friends of the board claim that for the first time in many years, the people, *par excellence, et potiori* themselves, are represented therein, and as in the minds of thousands the academy is regarded as exclusive, aristocratic, and too luxurious, it is determined that the examination of this year shall be one not virtually, but literally and exactly. On Saturday, the 3d day of June, the sessions commenced.

The military and academic staffs, with the superintendent of the Military Academy, and commandant of the post, Brig. Gen. G. W. Cullom, conducted the examination of the cadets in the presence of the board of visitors. The latter were permitted to question the cadets, examining them in every possible manner, after which, by a series of calculations based on arithmetical data, the standing of each was determined. Nothing can be more fair or just than the method of determining this standing. No collusion between the Professors and his class is possible. The whole is reduced to a mathematical nicety, and, as such, becomes of inestimable value to the cadet, their friends, and the nation at large.

But aside from attending the examinations of the cadets, the board of this year deemed themselves charged with other duties, and among them the investigation of

EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY

connected with the Point, the academy, and the cadets. They chose, too, to do their investigating in their own way, and thus came in conflict with General Cullom, who, as commandant of the post, somewhat singularly conceived the notion that he should be first consulted in regard to matters of unusual, which the board proposed to examine. He very properly demanded that the board should acquaint him with its intentions, or, if not, at least, confine themselves to the routine as prescribed in the rules and regulations of this and all other well-regulated posts. To this view of affairs the board objected, and, after a lengthy consultation, passed the following

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolved, That this board, deriving its existence and authority by appointment of the President, under the provisions of a law of United States, is charged by that law, and by the instructions of the appointing of Congress, "the duties, instruction, discipline, administration, and general good order and economy of the Military Academy," and that the information sought for by the board bears upon the discharge of their duties, inquiry and research, for written or other communications from the members of the academic and military staff, or from any other officers or persons within the command at West Point, is of the nature of military duty, and this board does not recognize the right of the superintendent of the academy and commandant of the post to supervise the said testimony, either in written or oral, or to require the same to pass through his hands, but denies the propriety of his claim to such supervision or inspection.

Resolved, That the secretary immediately communicate a copy of this resolution to Brigadier General Cullom, the superintendent of the academy.

This resolution was sent to General Cullom, who replied that he had forwarded it to the Secretary of War, endorsed with his disapproval and censure of the action. Considering that Mr. Stanton recently issued an order directing that no information should be given by the officers of the post concerning cadet transgressions, it is not at all probable that he will permit the board to question the cadets, without extending the courtesy to the superintendent which she academy is regarded as exclusive, aristocratic, and too luxurious, it is determined that the examination of this year shall be one not virtually, but literally and exactly. On Saturday, the 3d day of June, the sessions commenced.

The military and academic staffs, with the superintendent of the Military Academy, and commandant of the post, Brig. Gen. G. W. Cullom, conducted the examination of the cadets in the presence of the board of visitors. The latter were permitted to question the cadets, examining them in every possible manner, after which, by a series of calculations based on arithmetical data, the standing of each was determined. Nothing can be more fair or just than the method of determining this standing. No collusion between the Professors and his class is possible. The whole is reduced to a mathematical nicety, and, as such, becomes of inestimable value to the cadet, their friends, and the nation at large.

But aside from attending the examinations of the cadets, the board of this year deemed themselves charged with other duties, and among them the investigation of

EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY

connected with the Point, the academy, and the cadets. They chose, too, to do their investigating in their own way, and thus came in conflict with General Cullom, who, as commandant of the post, somewhat singularly conceived the notion that he should be first consulted in regard to matters of unusual, which the board proposed to examine. He very properly demanded that the board should acquaint him with its intentions, or, if not, at least, confine themselves to the routine as prescribed in the rules and regulations of this and all other well-regulated posts. To this view of affairs the board objected, and, after a lengthy consultation, passed the following

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolved, That this board, deriving its existence and authority by appointment of the President, under the provisions of a law of United States, is charged by that law, and by the instructions of the appointing of Congress, "the duties, instruction, discipline, administration, and general good order and economy of the Military Academy," and that the information sought for by the board bears upon the discharge of their duties, inquiry and research, for written or other communications from the members of the academic and military staff, or from any other officers or persons within the command at West Point, is of the nature of military duty, and this board does not recognize the right of the superintendent of the academy and commandant of the post to supervise the said testimony, either in written or oral, or to require the same to pass through his hands, but denies the propriety of his claim to such supervision or inspection.

Resolved, That the secretary immediately communicate a copy of this resolution to Brigadier General Cullom, the superintendent of the academy.

This resolution was sent to General Cullom, who replied that he had forwarded it to the Secretary of War, endorsed with his disapproval and censure of the action. Considering that Mr. Stanton recently issued an order directing that no information should be given by the officers of the post concerning cadet transgressions, it is not at all probable that he will permit the board to question the cadets, without extending the courtesy to the superintendent which the