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TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PATRIOT AND UNION.

We call the attention of our yearly club subscribers to the fact that their subscriptions will expire during December and January ensuing. We should like very much if our campaign and yearly subscribers would renew their subscriptions and use their influence to extend the circulation of the WEEKLY PATRIOT AND UNION.

In view of the existing state of affairs, there will be an exciting time at Washington, and it is not unlikely that we shall have a lively time at the State Capital. At the former we shall have a reliable correspondent, and at the latter competent reporters to give the Legislative news and all other occurrences worthy of note.

Our friends will make some exertions to extend the circulation of the paper, either by clubs or otherwise. We call attention to the

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G. BARNETT & CO., Harrisburg, Pa.

President's Message.

Extras containing the President's Message will be furnished to country papers, at one dollar per hundred. The cash in all cases to accompany the order.

The Views of Senator Mason.

Senator James M. Mason, of Virginia, whose fidelity to Virginia and the South no one can dispute, in a recent speech, referring to the contingency of Lincoln's election, declared that he should take his seat as a Senator to support and defend the Constitution, the rights and integrity of the State, and when they could no longer be maintained, he should render back to her the high trust reposed in him by Virginia, trusting to her wisdom and patriotism in that exigency to do the best.

Political Festivity.

A number of prominent Republicans of Philadelphia having tendered ALEX. M. CLURE a public dinner, in grateful appreciation of the "energy, ability and fidelity" which have marked his course as Chairman of the People's State Committee during the recent campaigns, Mr. Clure "cannot disregard" their invitation, and so he will be dined and wined this evening at the Continental Hotel. To add interest to the occasion it is confidently anticipated that the Hon. ANDREW G. CURTIS, Governor elect of the Commonwealth, will be present.

It is to be hoped that they will all have a good time at the Continental, and that no disagreeable reflections concerning the consequences of the victory of the Republican party will be suffered to mar the festivities of the evening.

It would not add much to the hilarity of the occasion if the guests at this banquet should pause over their wine to ask each other, seriously, what is all this great victory worth?

Will the country be any better for the services of Mr. McClure, and has he really rendered services to the State worthy of recognition?

Serious reflections such as these would be out of place at a meeting appropriated to festivity and rejoicing, and we trust that the spectre of care will not intrude upon the banquet.

Of course we have not the least objection that leading Republicans of Philadelphia should give Mr. McClure a dinner. In a party point of view we no doubt he has earned at least that much. But there is a tendency among party leaders to assume too much credit for a successful campaign.

Mr. McClure and his friends may think that the triumph of Curtis and Lincoln in Pennsylvania was mainly due to his skillful management, just as FORNEY took to himself all the credit of carrying Pennsylvania for Mr. BUCHANAN in 1856.

There is a vast amount of humbug in such pretensions. An efficient Chairman of a State Committee is a very valuable personage during a campaign; but he can have little influence in producing or controlling the currents of popular opinion, which are often as mysterious in their origin and course as the viewless winds. It is very easy to manage a campaign when it really requires no management—and just as easy to appear at the close as the sagacious operator who has set all his wires in successful motion, when in fact he only floated upon a current which was uncontrolled and uncontrollable.

But, on the other hand, the most acute and sagacious political manager may contrive, and plan, and correspond, and arrange, and tug at the political machinery in vain, if the tide of popular opinion is against him. His labors are as useless as those of Nereus to bind the sea with fetters.

It is well known that Mr. McClure demands a more substantial feast than a single dinner, and that his appetite will not be appeased under a term of six years in the U. S. Senate. It is also well known that MORTON M. MICHAEL has

his eye fixed upon the same place, and that the name of HENRY C. CAREY—whose essays on political economy are read only by men of steady nerves and inexhaustible patience—has been "suggested" as a proper one for Senator. Well, Messrs. M. MICHAEL and CAREY head the list of names attached to this dinner invitation, so we may conclude that the banquet is not intended to promote Mr. McClure's chances for the Senate. On the contrary, it looks more like a movement to kill him with kindness, or perhaps it is merely the means of bringing about a consultation between the leading politicians of the Republican party, under the eye of the Governor elect, for the purpose of adjusting rivalries, distributing the offices, and settling matters generally without the concurrence or intervention of another chief; who, if rumors are true, has excited the jealousy and apprehension of the Governor elect and his renowned Committee man.

The Vermont "Habeas Corpus Act" of 1850, and the "Personal Liberty Law" of 1858, seem likely to get pretty thoroughly overhauled before the close of the session. Even the Republicans are waking up to the importance of doing something. Soon after the introduction of Judge Thomas's Repeal Bill in the House, a Committee was appointed by the Senate (all Republicans save one member) to inquire and report whether the above laws were in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States. Whatever may be the result of this movement, it is understood that a majority of the House Committee will make a strong and elaborate report in favor of repeal. The report, it is said, will discuss the whole question, in all its legal and constitutional bearings, and will leave the Legislature without a shadow of excuse, if they do not immediately repeal the odious and worse than useless laws at which the report is levelled. The report, and the action upon it, are awaited with the deepest interest in all parts of the Union.

Peaceful Secession.

Some of the Republican journals think that South Carolina is the only State that will secede, and they say "let her go in peace." The Tribune thinks that the Cotton States all intend to secede and form a Confederacy. "They should and would be allowed to do so," for to coerce them to remain would be "contrary to the principles enunciated in the immortal Declaration of Independence—contrary to the fundamental ideas on which human liberty is based," says the Tribune. Truly the Tribune is a secession paper with a vengeance. There is a simple and honest and honorable way of preventing any of these troubles, and that is, a return by the free States to the Constitution, the repeal of unconstitutional enactments, the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law, and the recognition of the doctrine of the equality of the States.

ENGLAND AND COTTON.

From the Baltimore Exchange.

For nearly three quarters of a century, the East India Company, acting under the auspices of the English Government, have made continual and persistent efforts to extend the cultivation of Cotton in India; but they have never succeeded in growing it upon a large scale, and now, after more than a million and a half of dollars has been expended in the opening up of Cotton plantations, and in experimenting upon the best mode of raising Cotton economically, the attempts have been finally abandoned. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce, in announcing the fact, states that in only one solitary instance has the enterprise been attended with success, but the area cultivated was small—every other attempt to grow merchantable Cotton, of a quality and at a price which should bring it into competition with the American staple, having resulted in heavy losses. It is not a little singular that, whereas the cultivation has been tried everywhere—in South America, in the West India Islands, in Turkey and Algeria, and on the African Coast—it has either been wholly given up or remains in a languishing condition, yielding little or no profit to the planters and exhausting government subsidies without realizing the expectations of the manufacturers. The Manchester Association for promoting the culture of Cotton in the tropics, is not, however, content to relax its endeavors. It has lately called recently for a subscription of a million of dollars, to be expended in further experiments. Dr. Livingstone's explorations of the interior region of Africa, and especially the accounts which he gave of the luxuriant growth of Cotton on the alluvial soils through which the Zambesi river flows, aroused public attention in England to that country as a source of Cotton supply, and induced the British Government to lend its aid towards fitting out a new and better appointed expedition, for the purpose of forming settlements among the wild African tribes, and of stimulating them, by the prospect of gain, to abandon their indolent and improvident mode of life, and settle down to habits of industry. But it has been found there as well elsewhere that the negro, when left to his own guidance, has no notion of steady, persistent work, and that when his immediate wants, which are few and simple, are satisfied, he is disposed to take his ease, and to leave the future to take care of itself. Dr. Livingstone's recent letters to his English friends indicate very clearly that the Cotton problem is not yet solved, and that those who hope for supplies from African plantations are destined to be disappointed. That section of country where the climate and soil appeared to offer all the same time, facilities for transport to the seaboard, he found to have been devastated by wars between the inhabitants and the neighboring tribes. These feuds of long duration are scarcely capable of a peaceful adjustment, for the only law known there is the law of the strong hand, and the temptation, as respects the more powerful tribes, to prey upon their weaker neighbors, is, therefore, irresistible. A campaign is to them what the ingathering of the harvest is to us. They go to war for the sake of the spoils of conquest—for flocks and herds, for grain and ivory, and for slaves to sell on the coast, or to cultivate their own fields. It may be safely asserted, then, that many years must elapse before Cotton for the English market will be floated down the Zambesi, or the exertions of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association will meet with a prosperous issue. In the meantime, the demand for raw Cotton is annually extending with unexampled rapidity, and the United States is almost the only source from which manufacturers can derive their supplies. The material prosperity of England is based upon the activity of her Cotton mills. Cotton and iron have become her staple articles of export, and so largely classes of society, that the former affect all a single failure of the Cotton crop, or the Southern States, would, either directly or indirectly, deprive nearly five millions of the comforts of Great Britain of all but the most meagre means of subsistence. It is no wonder, therefore, that the English people watch with anxiety the annual yield of Cotton in our Southern States, or that they should seek to fortify themselves against the possible peril which would befall them in the event of a war with us, or of a production elsewhere of this important element of commerce. How little prospect they have of succeeding in attaining their wishes, we have already conclusively shown.

CATACOMBS OF PALERMO.

In a late number of the Independent, George Allen Butler thus describes one of the strange sights at Palermo, the Sicilian city which has just come into possession of the victorious legions of Garibaldi: "The strangest of all the strange sights at Palermo are the catacombs of the Capuchins. We are all familiar with the character of the Tombs and Neapolitan catacombs, underground excavations, remarkable for their great extent, and for their associations with the history of the early Church. The Palermo catacombs have a frightful peculiarity of their own. You descend from the little church, just outside the walls, not into deep, subterranean passages, but into a succession of vaults, well lighted, and of no greater depth than an ordinary cellar. These vaults are long and narrow corridors, on either side of which, in niches cut out of the wall, ranged in ghastly ranks, are preserved the bodies of the dead, not confined out of sight, but each in the garb appropriate to it while living, or else in a long robe or winding sheet. Below these niches are wooden coffins, with windows at the sides to show the faces of the occupants. Overhead near the ceiling, are skeletons of children sitting, or of men reclining; all perfectly preserved, some with the skin still covering the bones, others having nothing left but skull, and shoulders, and rib bones, with the arms in front piously crossed. Some peculiarity of the soil prevents the ordinary decomposition, and men buried nearly two hundred years ago still survive in this skeleton company. Strange to us on the 24 of November in every year, the four des morts, or festival of the dead, their relatives flock to this dismal place, the well-known mummies are taken out of their glazed coffins and dressed in gala costume. They number not less than six thousand in all; and I know of nothing more fearful than for a living man to find himself, as I did, among this army of dry bones.

"The most horrible feature of the whole exhibition is, that nearly every face wears in its fossil decay and ruin a dreadful, ludicrous and comical expression. The lack-lustre eyes, which gaze down upon you, have a sort of a grim vitality of their own, and through the entire array it seems as if there was a dumb intelligence—a mute correspondence and sympathy—in the sinister and almost wicked way in which they return the curious stare of the intruders. Yet you cannot help starting in spite of all this, and the eye wanders from one group to another with a strange and morbid fascination.

"Some are large-limbed, thick skulled, comely in their successful preservation; others with thin, careworn, rosy cheeks, as if tired of such stiff, careworn companionship; others who seemed to have twisted and wriggled their joints loose, and must stand perpetually still or fall to bits; others with their ruined heads hung down, as if in contemplation of their ended earthly life; others indifferent and idle, some indignant, like the ghosts that Dante saw in hell, with scowls and grins sarcastic—all silent, sepulchral, almost infernal.

"One such sight suffices for a lifetime. As I write, I recall those spectral forms with a thrill of horror—the monks and priests in scarlet and blue, the children in full holiday garb, the women, most hideous of all, in caps and shawls, and satins."

The wife of a very wealthy and venerable lawyer in Cleveland, Ohio, recently made application for a divorce from her husband; and, upon showing cause why her prayer should be granted, developed the following fact: The delinquent husband was a lawyer, and a very respectable man. This very respectable citizen of Cleveland is worth half a million of dollars. He formerly officiated as elder in a Presbyterian church, and progressed from that into "perfection." That is to say, he came to look upon himself as a very respectable saint, and all other men as irredeemable sinners. His state of mind proved highly refreshing, and led to that stratum of opaque philosophy known as spiritualism. He believed in "spirits of just men made perfect," and became so fond of table talk with invisible "spoons" that he neglected his family and business. When a very respectable man gets that deep into spiritualism he is very apt to forget that he lives in a world where laws are the conditions of virtue, and go vigorously into some absurd theory having the complete subversion of a man's distinctions for its object. Our very respectable citizen, on the other hand, being on speaking terms with the spirits of Andrew Jackson and St. Paul, does not believe him of all worldly responsibilities. The fact that he is so very respectable may not militate in his favor.—Exchange paper.

ACCIDENT AT THE CAPITOL.

One of the Large Pictures Damaged.—The workmen at the Capitol for a few days past have been engaged in the construction of a temporary covering over the Rotunda, several feet above the old roofing, which is to be removed as soon as the new building is completed. On Thursday last while hoisting one of the main joists, just as it had been elevated a few feet beyond the lower roof, it slipped from its fastenings and fell in a perpendicular direction, until it reached the lower roof, passing through which it slid off obliquely, striking the lower corner of the beautiful picture of the "Embarkation of the Pilgrims," damaging the same considerably. We are happy, however, to be able to state that a son of Mr. Wier the artist, has visited Washington, and says he has no doubt but that his father can repair the injury, and so as not to make it at all perceptible. In consequence of this accident, a substantial covering has been placed over each of the pictures suspended upon the walls of the rotunda, for their protection.—Wash. Star, Nov. 28.

ANOTHER RICH MAN CUTS OFF HIS DAUGHTER FOR MARRYING WITHOUT HIS CONSENT.

—BURIS Skidmore, of New York, worth nearly half a million dollars, recently deceased, left a will bequeathing one hundred dollars to his daughter, and the remainder of his property to his son. In 1856, the family of Mr. Skidmore consisted of a wife, son and daughter. The daughter, Marrian L., was wooed and won by Simon Camacho, at that time Venezuelan Consul, and now Secretary of Legation of Venezuela, under Gen. Paez. Mr. Skidmore was opposed to the match and the daughter married without his consent. During his lifetime the parties were not reconciled. Mrs. Skidmore, however, who has since died, related and became friendly to her daughter, but the hostile feeling of the father was unchangeable. The will is to be contested.

A TRAGEDY IN PADUCAH, KY.

A bloody tragedy occurred in Paducah on Saturday morning last, opposite the St. Francis Hotel, which resulted in the immediate death of one of the two citizens of that place, named Capt. Pigg. An old steamboatman, and a Mr. Pryor, had a controversy about some old affair, which soon became of an angry character, leading to threats to shoot on the part of Pryor. Both drew revolvers and fired. Pigg was shot on the side of the neck, the ball ranging round the head and lodging in the brain, killing him instantly. Pryor was shot in the fleshy part of the thigh, making a dangerous wound; the second entered his abdomen and lodged in some part of the body, the wound, no doubt, proving mortal before this time.

GENERAL NEWS.

SWINDLER IN SYRACUSE.—A confidence man has been operating in Syracuse, N. Y. His manner of procedure was to drop into a hotel or store in a quiet, easy way, and approaching the proprietor in a friendly manner, would say to him he was a clerk employed by some one of the leading business firms of our city, and having use for a small sum of money before morning, when he would obtain it of his employers and repay it, was compelled to ask the loan of \$25, to secure which he would leave his gold watch, worth at least three or four times that amount. The watches left as security, appear by gaslight to be quite showy and elaborate time-pieces, in fine gold hunter cases; but when exposed to daylight, they are found to be poor things, the works next to worthless, and the cases of "Philadelphia gold." The highest appraisal of their value is eight dollars. The imposition was discovered very soon after it was perpetrated in each instance, and the police notified of the occurrence, but nothing has been heard of the "spruce young man," who "would surely pay the borrowed money early in the morning."

A MEXICAN NEGRO.—As a specimen of the revolting cruelty of Miramon, we quote a paragraph from the latest Mexican correspondence of the New York Herald: A few days back a historical play was put on the stage, at which Miramon and his family were present. In this play an appeal was made to a monarch by his subjects to grant to him the blessings of peace. The audience rose and appealing to the President, depicted in heart rending tones the miseries of the Mexican people, begging him also to confer upon his country that boon so earnestly demanded of the monarch in the piece. Will it be believed that this unfortunate supplicant was dragged to prison by order of Miramon, by the head of police, and was sentenced to receive five hundred lashes at day-break the following morning? 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