

Spirit of Jefferson.

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, Editor.

CHARLESTOWN, VA.

Tuesday Morning, March 26, 1867.

THE WAIL OF THE SOUTH.

From the starving thousands of friends in the South, the piteous wail for bread comes up. Will it be properly heeded by our people, upon whom God in his mercy has bestowed an abundance, and whose granaries are filled with corn? Now is the time for action. PROMPT, EARNEST, ENERGETIC ACTION! Defer not the bestowal of your charities, but come to the rescue at once, and those who are now suffering the pangs of famine, may find relief in your generosity. Remember, "The Lord loveth the cheerful giver," and that "he who giveth to the poor, leadeth to the Lord." Step not to ascertain how much your neighbor has subscribed, but give to the utmost of your ability, of whatever you have to spare, whether it be of CORN, BACON, CLOTHING, or MONEY! Reflect ten minutes upon this matter. Imagine yourselves in the condition of these suffering sons of want—surrounded by famishing and dying wives and children, with nothing to assuage the pangs of hunger or relieve the gnawings of starvation—and then act for the relief of those who are precisely in this condition.

Elsewhere we publish the proceedings of last Saturday's meeting. Our people are becoming aroused to the importance of acting in this sore crisis, and good old Jefferson county will do honor to herself in the liberality of her contributions. "That thou doest, do quickly," is all we mean to urge. Send in your contributions as designated by the Executive Committee, who are charged with the duty of providing facilities for the prompt transmission of your donations to the objects of your charity. Time is precious, when starvation is in the household!

A word to our Christian Association. You have a concert announced for Friday evening. You have announced as the object of that concert the raising of funds for the improvement of your Library. Does this come within the scope of a charity? We wish your association well, and acknowledge its claims upon the community, but cannot the means raised on Friday evening be appropriated to the more important matter of feeding starving women and children. Let your library alone for the present, and appeal to the people of the county, who have hundreds of books unused, lying upon their shelves and in their parlors, and let the proceeds of your concert be sent to feed the hungry and clothe the naked."

Women of Jefferson! proud daughters of Virginia! have you heard the cry of your suffering Southern sisters, whose sons, your brothers, and whose husbands sleep in your cemetery, and over whose graves you have scattered flowers and dropped the tear of womanly affection. The living daughters, and sisters, and wives, of these dead heroes, now claim your aid, and the spirits of the departed, as they hover around you, urge you to give relief. You have not yet known want—through the trying ordeal of war you have gone, but the war cloud has passed, and the God of plenty smiles upon you. Is there not a work for you to do in this hour of sorrow to the needy? We know you will prove worthy of the exalted name you acquired during four years of war. We make no further appeal. Do your duty in the present, as in the past, and God will abundantly bless you.

THE SITUATION.

The people of the five military districts, formerly known as ten States of the Union, have had a very bitter dose prescribed them by the congressional doctors; but bitter as the dose is it is their duty to swallow it, if by so doing they can save their States from the ignominy of being ruled in the future by the miserable hands of white men who are seeking political power at the expense of personal honor.

The mere representation in Congress is not a right so imperatively required as to induce the Southern people to accept the dictation of Congress; nor is the fear of military government exercising the worst tyranny the world has ever known. But the question is starting in the face that if this dictation is not accepted, the whole character of their State governments will be changed by the dishonored "loyalists" of the South, into those hands these governments will certainly pass, in case of inaction by the masses.

We have no fear of any material injury following the grant of suffrage to the negro, so far as Virginia is concerned; nor do we see anything degrading in the mere fact of giving the negro this right, especially as it is done under compulsion. Indeed the negro is already beginning to open his eyes to find out who his real friends are; and they cannot fail to see that the radicals north and South are only taking them by the hand for selfish purposes. In many places in the South the negroes are holding their meetings, and are calling upon noted "rebel" leaders, their former masters, to advise them upon political matters, and they will follow the advice of such men as General Hampton and General Echols, against that of a thousand such whining, stinging creatures as Hunnicutt and Underwood.

As the Southern people cannot fight again, for the want of resources of all kinds, they must do the next best thing in their power to save their governments from the hands of those who will not only trample these governments under foot, but heap all sorts of degradations and outrages upon the great Southern masses. To save the gallant men who fought for our rights—such men as Lee and Johnson—from the malice of the Hunnicutts and Underwoods, is the duty of every true man, even though it require a sacrifice of feeling.

If this can be done by acting under the infamous military bill, then every man should act; and this question is one which every

Southern man not disfranchised, will have to decide for himself. As for ourselves, we greatly fear that the radical Congress will not stand by their pledged faith, unless the Southern States are reorganized upon an entirely radical basis; and that none but radical men will be allowed to enter Congress, or to hold the State offices.

REFRESHING.

Some of the radical members of the House of Representatives have been doing some things in the last few days that are delightful to the hearts of Southerners—not in their legislative acts, however, for in that respect they are as hard on us as ever—but in their mode of treating that detestable old bloated beast, Ben Butler. Whenever this miserable wretch is snubbed by members of his own party we cannot help chuckling over it, and silently thanking those who do it.

In the debate upon the bill, appropriating a million of dollars for the relief of the Southern districts, Butler took a prominent part against the bill, and was constantly on his feet flinging his sneers and mean insults to those whom he had robbed during the war, to the utter disgust of some of the more generous and gentlemanly of his party—especially of Mr. Woodbridge, of Vermont, and Bingham, of Ohio. The former told him, in words as plainly spoken as the rules of the House would permit, that he was a liar, and that no one knew it better than Butler himself. Mr. Bingham told him that he would not give tongue for his opinion. The learned modern Athenian took no fighting notice of either of these positive insults.

Even our generous friend, the warm-hearted Thaddeus, gave him a severe dig in the course of a speech he had read the other day, which, it is said, brought blushes to the cheek of the Beast—although he was not directly named. We confess to a regret that we were not there to see this remarkable exhibition of bringing the red rosy red to the puffed cheeks of our "fat friend," which we were thinking could not be colored by any other process than the constant large application of brandy to his inner man.

Then, again, while walking on the avenue he was approached by a gentleman, who insulted him in the most marked manner, but "the hero of Fort Fisher not taken," as Mr. Bingham styles him, fell back in good order, without the loss of anything except his honor—and that he did not have with him, it having been yielded up many years ago—"Hit him again—he has no friends."

THE COUNTY SEAT.

The horrible state of the roads during the past few weeks has rendered the county seat almost inaccessible—entirely so for every kind of wheeled vehicle. The people of Harper's Ferry had to trudge through mud up to their horses' knees for ten miles, those of Charlestown for eleven miles, and those from Kabletown and the country beyond for eighteen to twenty-five. The people of Smithfield are the only ones favored with a turnpike. This condition of the roads has demonstrated, to mind and body, the absolute necessity of returning the county seat to Charlestown—there can be no excuse in these times of peace. We are surprised that the people have permitted it to remain there as long as it has. It accommodates none save the few of that ancient and finished town; and even many of the residents there, and thereabouts, are in favor of doing justice to the mass of our county folks by having it relocated at Charlestown.

The repairs necessary to put the old court-house and jail in good order would not cost a very large sum—certainly not larger than the tax-payers would be willing to provide for, and steps should be taken at once towards that end. The Board of Supervisors, we are satisfied, have the right to locate the county seat of Jefferson, just as those of other counties have. The act of the legislature of a year ago locating it at Shepherdstown permanently, is not in the way at all; and should not deter the Board from moving in the matter. We would suggest to the members of the Board, then, to take some action in reference to the removal, at their next meeting. Let them direct a poll to be opened at the May election to obtain the sense of the registered voters, and we will guarantee that there will be a large majority in favor of returning to Charlestown, even among that favored few to whom the laws of West Virginia give the right of suffrage. And then the Board should at once order the removal, and while the old buildings were being repaired, rooms could be obtained in this town far more suitable to court and clerks than those now in use at Shepherdstown.

QUARRELING.

Our Richmond contemporaries have been snarling at each other ever since the military reconstruction abolitionism was made into a law, very much as was their way in the good old Whig and Democrat days—indeed while we are reading their editorial tilts we are moved to forget our present troubles, and imagine ourselves "going it again" over the resolutions of '98, the tariff of '42, the national bank and pitching promiscuously into Clay and Calhoun, Wright and Webster, Letcher, Goggin and all the other big folks of the by-gone times. We get elated and hurrah for Jackson, Polk, Dallas, and that tariff of '42, and grow happy—all, however, to wake up to the fact that we cannot shout for anybody, and that everything is a high tariff; and this is so depressing that we are forced to remonstrate with our Richmond friends, and to suggest to them to stop their wrangling, and quietly take whatever Old Thad chooses to send them.

ANOTHER VETO.

President Johnson has returned to the House of Representatives in which originated the act of Congress known as the supplementary bill, which was designed to put into effective operation the Military Reconstruction Bill. The message was received too late for our paper this week.

Sunshine yesterday; the first we have had for five days.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

To Committees in the School Districts.

The gentlemen who are appointed in the School Districts, to wait on the citizens of the county and solicit contributions for the relief of our destitute friends in the South, are informed that they are empowered to enlarge their committees whenever they think it advisable; and also, that there will be placed in the hands of agents, at the following Depots, by Thursday next, bags for distribution among those who will contribute corn, viz:—

- Kearneysville,
- Duffless,
- Ballialon,
- Charleston,
- Chancellor,
- Summit Point.

Those, therefore, who have bags to give, can find bags at these depots to contain it.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

OUR LABORERS.—The recent winter has been one of the hardest and most difficult our laboring population, white or black, have encountered for many years. Its early part was so severely cold, that our outdoor labor had to be suspended, and its latter part but a succession of snow and rain, sleet and mud.—The same also applies to most of our outdoor working mechanics, many of whom have been unable to work more than a week consecutively since the middle of December. The expense of living is enormous, and if we should meet some four or five times in one week, it would not be strange in these cash times, (to the poor at least) for their children may have gone cold to bed and awoke in the morning crying for bread. To those to whom Providence has allotted enough and to spare, a kindly reflection as to the possible need of his neighbor, might be opportune.

LUMBER.—The need of this article to repair our waste places, is common to all localities in the South now, and any improvement or effort made for its supply is a general good. The Portable Steam Saw Mill, introduced into our community by Mr. LEWIS CASTLE, has been of much service in this particular, and we hope will be duly appreciated by those of our farmers who have been fortunate enough to have had any timber left, from the general destruction of the invading horde. This mill was planted near Evans in June last, on the farm of L. H. B. Davenport, and notwithstanding interruptions of various kinds, and an entire suspension during the recent protracted cold, wet and miserable weather, its energetic manager has succeeded in sawing over 275,000 feet of all kinds of lumber, out of oak, walnut and hickory. L. D. Along has had sawed 175,000 feet, 50,000 of which was walnut, and sold for \$100,000, the mill is to be removed in a short time to the farm of Thos. H. Willis, Esq., where the farmers of that heretofore so finely timbered region, the "Rich Woods," can secure its advantages, if the insatiable woodman's axe has spared a tree.

A GENERAL CRASH.—We are informed by GEORGE W. MILSTEAD, who resides on the "Cat-tail" farm of James Roper, that when he went to his stabling on Friday morning last, he found it a mass of ruin, as also the large barn and corn-house adjacent, though neither building connected. On removing the debris of the stable, he found that a valuable colt was killed outright, and two young and superior brood mares so seriously injured, that recovery is doubtful. This with the other losses of Mr. M., is quite a drawback on a general crash, other than the complete undermining of the foundations, by the incessant rains of the last month, though it is certainly somewhat singular it should all have occurred the same night.

The large barn on the "Mount Hammond" farm, also the property of Mr. Roper, toppled from its base on the same night, destroying what implements and stock, (though there were fortunately no horses,) under its shelter.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—Mr. Thomas Johnson having resigned as one of the School Commissioners recently elected for the Charlestown Township, Nathaniel Myers been appointed in his stead. At an informal meeting on Saturday, the Commissioners determined if possible to put the Schools in operation and Officer Sheetz was appointed to register the minors of from 6 to 21 years, that the Township might receive the amount due of the present year's tax, which is estimated to be about \$2,200. A tax will have, however, to be laid and collected for building School houses, for negroes as well as whites, before the School can go into operation, but unless the matter is hastened we fear so long a time will intervene before consummated, that the good old county school fund and all, will be left out in the cold, as in the long charities of West Virginia, as Jefferson will be soon set, when the royal roll is made up.

REGISTRATION.—The farce of "Registration" is now going on in our own county, as well as throughout West Virginia, preparatory to having matters all right for the ensuing May election. In this township, J. J. Sanborn having declined the appointment of Registrar, W. W. BURTON has been appointed in his stead, and gives notice that he may be found at his shop opposite the Court House that was, on every Saturday until the latter part of April, for the purpose of recording the faithful. If the new test oath be as rigid as we have heard it represented, we fear unless some concessions are stretched a little more than even yet done, there will scarce be enough found to save this modern Sodom from destruction, if Radical rascality and malignant hate can accomplish it.

THE CROPS.—The general prospect of our growing wheat crop is represented as most promising, and it should be the earnest hope and prayer of all that its full fruition may be realized. But as to the coming corn crop, the prospect ahead is exceedingly gloomy.—Our farmers are already a full month behind, without a furrow turned, or when it will be, exceedingly problematical. We regret to learn also, that of the large amount of this grain raised last year, most of it is yet remaining in shock, and has been greatly injured by the continuous rains.

TAYLOR HOTEL.—This popular Hotel in the days of good "aud lang-sye," has gone into the hands of Major W. W. Goldsborough, formerly of the "60-called" Confederate army, but more recently the founder and editor of the Winchester Times. In these troublous times, the Major will no doubt find it more agreeable to cater to the whim or caprice of the inner man, than to awaken the conscience or enlighten the brain of the mad fanatic who now rule the hour.

THE FLOODS.—Our exchanges from all directions in Virginia, no less than South and West, bring the most appalling accounts of the destruction of life and property, by the recent unprecedented snows and continuous rains. Thus far our people have comparatively escaped any serious damage, but as the earth is now thoroughly saturated with snow and ice, and already thoroughly saturated with water, we may be just at the beginning of the end. A heavy rain of sudden thaw must certainly raise our water courses to an alarming extent, and it would be wise in all, to guard as far as possible against the destruction which must follow.

SALES.—Our columns still contain a number of large and important sales of Real and Personal Property. By reference to advertisements, full particulars will be found, as the list is too numerous for recapitulation. If we were to give the prices brought at some that have recently come off, as advertised through the Spirit, we fear our distant readers would labor under the delusion that greenbacks, either in hand or expectancy, were plenty as blackberries in July, which we can assure them is not the fact, if we are permitted to speak from our own experience.

BERKELEY COURT.—The spring term of the Circuit Court of this county commenced its session on Monday last, Judge Hall presiding. The most important cases disposed of last week, were the following, as we gather from the Martinsburg New Era:

Thomas Byers, Adm'r vs. S. and C. Slyer. An appeal from a Justice's Judgment and tried by a jury. Argued by Chapman for Appellant and Blackburn for Appellee.—Verdict for Appellant.

Thomas H. Myers vs. Shimp and Keescker. Motion for judgment on forthcoming Bond. Affidavit made of disloyalty of plaintiff and counter affidavit of plaintiff. Mr. Hoke asked for a jury to try the issue of loyalty. This was resisted by Mr. Faulkner on the ground that the law authorized no such issue to be made in this case. The views of Mr. Faulkner were sustained by the Court and judgment entered on the forthcoming Bond.

The Grand Jury brought in a number of indictments, amongst which were E. Randall for forgery, &c.

The indictments against Col. E. H. McDonald and some others which have been pending for some time growing out of acts done during the civil war were dismissed by the Prosecuting Attorney with the assent of the Court.

PROMOTED.—Captain CHARLES BOARMAN, of Martinsburg, so long and favorably known to many of the older citizens of our county, has been promoted, after a service of near 40 years, to be a Commodore in the U. S. Navy.

POSTPONED.—We are requested to announce that Dr. McCOMBICK has postponed his visit to this place, on account of the inclement weather, until the 8th of April.

Southern Relief Meeting.

On Saturday last, in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the previous meeting, a number of the citizens of Jefferson, met at the Lecture Room of the Presbyterian Church in this town, and the meeting called to order by ANDREW HUNTER, Esq., the Chairman of the meeting. In the absence of Dr. L. C. CORDELL, the former Secretary, WM. C. SHEERER was appointed Secretary pro tem.

A report was submitted from the Executive Committee to the effect "that having communicated with parties in Baltimore, the committee have ascertained that Bags (three bushels) can be obtained, and will be distributed at any point necessary, for bagging grain contributed by the people of the county." The Committee appointed to prepare an Address to the people of the county, reported that they had discharged the duty assigned them.

The District Committees, who were charged with the duty of soliciting contributions, were then called, but in consequence of the inclement weather, and the wretched condition of the roads, but few of the districts were able to make any response. From those which reported, however, the indications are, that a liberal and generous response will be made to the appeals of the suffering South.

A. W. Cramer moved that when this meeting adjourn, it adjourn to meet again on Saturday, April 6th, at 11 o'clock, A. M., in the Lecture Room of the Presbyterian Church, which motion was agreed to.

On motion of B. K. Beall, the district committees were authorized to increase their number, and to invite the co-operation of any persons in their several districts who may be disposed to assist them in their work.

On motion of Wm. H. Travers, the District Committees were requested to report at the earliest day practicable.

On motion of A. W. Cramer, the Shepherdstown Register was requested to copy the proceedings of this meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Simmons, Hopkins, Shepherd and others in regard to the adoption of measures to secure the proper distribution of the contributions of the citizens of this county. After full discussion, it was determined to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive Committee.

The meeting then adjourned, after a most impressive prayer by Rev. T. B. Shepherd.

ANDREW HUNTER, Chm'r.

WM. C. SHEERER, Sec'y.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

We give the following as the quotations in Baltimore on Saturday last:—

GOLD—1344.

FLOUR—Extra Shipping, \$11.75 to \$13.25; City Mills Super, \$11.00 to \$11.50; Standard Extra, \$11.50 to \$12.25; Welch's Family, \$17.50.

GRAIN—Wheat offered but sparingly.—Sales of red at \$2.90 to \$3.00; choice would bring \$3.30. No white offered. Corn was sold at \$1.08 to \$1.10 for white, and \$1.05 for damp yellow—prime was held at \$1.10.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette, says that in the Senate, last week, Mr. Drake of Missouri, said he felt himself personally reflected upon by an allusion of the California Senator to those gentlemen who desired to protect the session of Mr. Conner against the gentleman that he was not within the compass of his thoughts; but if upon entering the Senate chamber the gentleman had put a chip on his head and daily thus dared Senators to knock it off; or, if he was very desirous of somebody trading on his tail, he would have been long since shot by the body men before long find his position in that body an exceedingly uncomfortable one. Mr. Drake subsidised.

CONFISCATION.

Speech of Thaddeus Stevens.

Not having room for the entire speech of Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, made in the House of Representatives yesterday, in support of his confiscation bill, we make extracts enough to show its animus.—After some preliminary remarks, he announced his purpose as follows:

The punishment of traitors has been wholly ignored by a treacherous Executive and by a sluggish Congress. I wish to make an issue before the American people and see whether they will sanction the perfect impunity of a murderous belligerent and consent that the loyal men of this nation, who have been despoiled of their property, shall remain without remuneration, either by the rebel property or the property of the nation.

To this issue I desire to devote the small remainder of my life. I desire to make an issue before the people of my own State, and should be glad if the issue were to extend to other States. I desire the verdict of the people upon this great question.

He thus discourses on the right: But I will briefly review some of the arguments in favor of the right. We are treating the belligerents simply as enemies, and their property as enemies' property now in the possession and power of the conqueror. By the law of nations in its most stringent provisions all the property, liberty and life of the conquered enemy who has treated to make a treaty, is at the disposal of the victor. Modern civilization will seldom justify the exercise of the extreme right. The lives, the liberty, and in most cases, the real property of the vanquished are left untouched. The property, however, of the vanquished is held in some shape liable to pay the expenses and damages sustained by the injured party. If peace be brought about by treaty, it is usual to stipulate that the expenses and damages shall be paid by the defeated belligerent. As such remuneration must be levied as taxes on the subjects, it does subject all their property to this burden. Where there is no government capable of making terms of peace, the law-making power of the conqueror must fix the terms. This gives them sufficient right to take just such property as they may deem proper. Where the subdued belligerent is composed of traitors, their personal crimes aggravate their belligerent offence and justify severer treatment, just as a tribe of savages are treated with more rigor than civilized foes. * * * * *

We might make the property of the enemy pay the \$4,000,000,000 which we have expended, as well as the damages inflicted on loyal men by confiscation and invasion, which might reach \$1,000,000,000 more. This bill is merciful, asking less than one-tenth of our just claims.

We could be further justified in inflicting severe penalties upon this whole hostile people as "a fierce and savage people," as "an obstinate enemy," whom it is a duty to tame and punish. Our future safety requires stern justice.

What more "savage or fierce people" than they who deliberately starved to death sixty thousand prisoners of war; who shot or reduced to bondage all captive soldiers of the colored race; who sought to burn our cities through secret agents, who sent infected materials into our most populous towns to destroy non-combatants, old men, women and children, by the most loathsome and fatal disease; who assassinated the mildest of rulers and the best of men? If this be not a "fierce and savage enemy" whom we have a right to reduce to absolute submission and dependence, point me out one to which the language of Vattel will apply. You would do great injustice to those mild savages who owed us no allegiance by pointing to those who perjured themselves by the most solemn oaths, to the Canaanites or the wild Indians of the West, or the fierce tribes of the Orinoco—and yet you seize their lands and expel them from their native country.

But it matters not what you may think of the efficiency of the act of July 17, 1862.—The laws of our sovereign power; by a law now to be passed. We have a subdued enemy in our power; we have all their property and lives at our disposal. No peace has been made. No terms of peace or of reconciliation have been yet proclaimed, unless the proclamation of the President can make peace and war. The Constitution denies him any power in either case. Then, unless Andrew Johnson be king, the terms of peace are yet to be proclaimed. Among those terms, as we have shown, we have a right to impose confiscation of all rebel property—to "impoverish" them, as Andrew Johnson has told us, to "divest their large farms, and sell them to industrious men." This is strict law and good common sense. Now, then, without reference to any former act, we have a right to seize the property named in this bill, and ten times more. You behold at your feet a conquered foe, an atrocious enemy.—Tell him on what terms he may arise and depart, or remain in our power. But do not embrace him too hastily. Be sure first that there is no dagger in his girdle.

He thus treats of the treatment of the negro:

Withhold from them all their rights, and leave them destitute of the means of earning a livelihood, the victims of the hatred or cupidity of the rebels whom they helped to conquer, and it seems probable that the war of races might ensue which the President feared would arise from kind treatment and the restoration of their rights. I doubt not that hundreds of thousands would annually be deposited in secret, unknown graves.—Such is already the course of their rebel murderers; and it is done with impunity.

We question whether modern literature can furnish a passage rivaling the following:

Have they not a right to it? I do not speak of their fidelity and services in this bloody war. I put it on the more score of lawful earnings. They and their ancestors have toiled, not for years, but for ages, without one farthing of recompense. They have earned for their masters this very land and much more. Will not he who denies them compensation now be accused, for he is an unjust man? Have we not upon this subject the recorded decision of a Judge who never erred? Four million Jews were held in bondage in Egypt. Their slavery was compared with the slavery inflicted by Christians.—For of all recorded slavery—Pagan, heathen, or Mahomedan—Christian slavery has been the most cruel and heaviest, and as such, the worst. God, through no pretence, in true Moses, led them out of bondage, as in our case, through a Red sea, at the cost, in our case, of the first born of every household of the oppressor. Did he advise them to take no remuneration for their years of labor? No! He understood too well what and whom to borrow from their confiding neighbors' jewels of silver and jewels of gold and raiment." They obeyed him amply, and spoiled the Egyptians, and went forth full-

handed. There was no blasphemer then to question God's decree of confiscation. This doctrine then was not "salutic." He who questions it now will be a blasphemer, whom God will bring to judgement. If we refuse to this down-trodden and oppressed race the rights which Heaven decreed them, and the remuneration which they have earned through long years of hopeless oppression, how can we hope to escape still further punishment if God be just and omnipotent? It may come in the shape of plagues or of intestine wars—race against race, the oppressed against the oppressor. But come it will. Seek not to divert our attention from justice by a puerile cry about fatted calves!

Here is his idea of mercy:

The bill is very merciful towards a cruel, outlawed belligerent, who, when their armies were dispersed, would gladly have compromised their lives with the victor. Those who will be affected by this bill will not exceed seventy thousand out of a population of six million whites, for this is a people of aristocrats and subjects—of a proud nobility and a cringing, poor peasantry. Those seventy thousand persons own about three hundred and sixty million acres of land out of the five hundred million in the Confederate States. This, together with the town property, cannot be worth less than \$100,000,000,000. This estimate includes no man's property who was worth less than \$10,000; nor does it include any personal property, which may perhaps swell it to \$120,000,000,000.—The five proposed would be but one-twentieth of their estates. Were ever such great malefactors so gently dealt with?

On the pardoning power he discourses as follows:

I must take the liberty to deny that any pardon or any other power vested in the President, can withdraw these forfeited estates from the confiscation decreed by Congress.—Nothing less than an act of Congress can divest them from the United States and bestow them on the pardoned belligerents. No one denies that the President possesses the pardoning power. This power is conferred on the Chief Executive for wise purposes, to correct the errors and mistakes of courts, and imperfections of human laws.

How well the President has adhered to the object of this high prerogative others must judge. The special pardons granted cannot indeed be over four thousand of the subjects of confiscation. The pardons are granted for the crime of treason. I shall not question that such pardons may be pleaded in bar of any prosecution for treason, and save the and in enforcing all the confiscations the sum or value of \$5,000 in real or personal property shall be left or assigned to the delinquent.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Commission shall put a just and impartial valuation on all the property thus seized and forfeited, and when such valuation shall be completed in the several States, all the said Commissioners shall meet in Washington and assess the \$500,000,000 aforesaid, as well as the allowances for the household buildings, *pro rata* on each of the properties to be sold, thus seized, and shall give notice of such assessment and apportionment by the publication; for sixty days, in two daily newspapers in Washington, and in two daily newspapers in the capitals of each of the said Confederate States.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That if the owners of the said seized and forfeited estates shall, within ninety days after the first of the said provisions, pay into the Treasury of the United States the sum assessed on their estates respectively, all of their estates and lands not actually appropriated to the liberated slaves shall be released and restored to their owners.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That all land, estates and property of whatever kind, which shall not be redeemed, as aforesaid, in the ninety days aforesaid, shall be converted into money in such time and manner as may be deemed by the said Commissioners most advantageous to the United States: Provided that no arable land shall be sold in larger tracts than five hundred acres; and provided, further, that no larger credit shall be given than three years.

[For the Spirit of Jefferson.]

A Word on the Crisis.

Mr. Editor:—We think extremes are sometimes reached. We believe the political crisis of this country is approximating that point. It is useless to waste farther time in speculating as to what the fanaticism of this or that party leader will do. Self-arrogant, dogmatical and intolerant, with the determination of perpetuating themselves in power, no abatement of their rigor, and illiberal legislation can be expected. Just conclude from the stern teachings of the history of other nations, and the revelations of "Holofernes," as to the impalpable poisons, ray into the future, that whatever late, prompted by avarice, can devise, will be, by partisan passion, enacted into the shape of law, and enforced against the Southern people.

There is, however, one ray of hope left, (and by the aid of Providence it can be made potent), and that is, for the Southern people to hold a "Mass Meeting or Convention," to issue an address, in the truly patriotic and conservative men of the North and Northwest; to specify unite their political and physical elements, and stay the progress of current events, which are fast sweeping every vestige of true and genuine republican liberty from the land. They are more deeply interested in this matter, at this present time, than they realize. They have been enjoying liberty and prosperity; we have experienced oppression and adversity, and have become somewhat inured to it, and the present disintegration and antagonism of governmental authority, will inevitably spread itself over this entire land, and eventually in a Despotism, unless our political and social system is made to harmonize. This land may be maturing its Caesar! It certainly has its Cromwells!

OBSERVER.

—The Freeman's Journal warns the Bank men, the bondholders, the owners and holders of stocks of all kinds, the men "who have made money during the war," and expect to make more, against the destructive course they are now pursuing, in encouraging the present designs of the Radicals, and permitting them, unopposed, to make the following, in the shape of law, and carrying out the destructive measures which are to lead to pecuniary and social evils of untold magnitude, all over the country, ultimately falling most heavily upon the Banks, bondholders, stockholders, and commercial and business men.

—Virginia Central Railroad Company have contracted with Harman & Co. and the E. A. Taylor for the exclusive privilege of carrying the entire travel from the various depots over all the route to the Virginia Springs, Lexington, Natural Bridge, and down the Valley to Winchester, for the term of four years.

—Chief Justice Chase will not appoint any registers under the bankrupt act until after the meeting of the Supreme Court of April.

—A \$16,300 diamond was found in the Tippecanoe River, Ind.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That out of the lands thus seized and confiscated, the slaves who have been liberated by the operations of the war and the amendment to the Constitution or otherwise, who resided in the said Confederate States on the 4th of March, 1861, or since, shall be distributed to their forty acres for each adult male, and to each person who is head of a family forty acres to be held in fee simple but to be liable for the next ten years after they become seized thereof. For the purpose of distributing and allotting the said land the Secretary of War shall appoint as many Commissioners in each State as he shall deem necessary, to consist of three members each, two of whom, at least, shall not be citizens of the State for which they are appointed. Each of said Commissioners shall receive a salary of \$3,000 annually and all necessary expenses. Each Commission shall be allowed one clerk, whose salary shall be \$2,000 per annum.—The title to the homestead aforesaid shall be vested for the use of the liberated persons, aforesaid, in trustees, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of War, and shall receive such salary as he may direct, not to exceed \$3,000 per annum. At the end of ten years, the absolute title to the homestead shall be conveyed to the said owners or to the heirs of such as are then dead.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That out of the balance of the property thus seized and confiscated there shall be raised, in the manner hereinafter provided, a sum equal to \$50 for each homestead, to be applied by the trustees, hereinbefore mentioned, toward the erection of buildings on the said homesteads for the use of the said slaves, and a further sum of \$500,000,000 which shall be appropriated as follows, viz: \$200,000,000 shall be invested in United States six per centum securities, the interest of which shall be semi-annually added to the pensions allowed by law to pensioners who are the property of reason of the late war, \$300,000,000, or so much thereof as may be needed, shall be appropriated to pay damages done to loyal citizens by the civil or military operations of the Government of the lately so-called Confederate States of America.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the property of no one shall be seized whose whole estate on the 4th of March, 1865, was not worth more than \$5,000, to be valued by the said Commission, unless he shall have voluntarily become an officer or employee in the military or civil service of the "Confederate States of America," or in the civil or military service of some one of the said States, and in enforcing all the confiscations the sum or value of \$5,000 in real or personal property shall be left or assigned to the delinquent.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Commission shall put a just and impartial valuation on all the property thus seized and forfeited, and when such valuation shall be completed in the several States, all the said Commissioners shall meet in Washington and assess the \$500,000,000 a

