

FOREIGN POSTAGE IN COIN OR IN U. S. NOTES.

As we are solicited for information on matters that are of interest to many of our readers, we propose to answer the queries propounded, plainly and simply, such as we understand the law pertaining to the matters in question.

Foreign unpaid letters received at the post offices in the United States are now stamped with the amount due in coin and in U. S. notes, leaving it at the option of the person to whom the letter is addressed to pay which amount suits inclination or convenience. The amount in coin is fixed by law and is invariable; but the amount in U. S. notes fluctuates with the rise or fall of the money market. During the varied changes of the war, English 21 cent letters have been variously rated from 28 cents to 34 cents in U. S. notes, and other foreign unpaid letters in the same proportion. A postmaster cannot refuse the acceptance of U. S. notes in payment of due letters received at his office when the full amount in notes is tendered; neither can he receive in coin more than the letter is rated in coin without committing a fraud. Further, no postmaster has a right to demand in U. S. notes more than the amount fixed by law for the "prepayment" of foreign letters. The philosophy of the position is simply that in all international treaties, financial business is based upon specie; but as the United States for its own internal business has, since the breaking out of this "cruel war" issued "Demand Notes," "Legal Tenders" and "U. S. Postage Currency," the specie—gold and silver of the country—has, in proportion to the amount of that paper issued and the uncertainties of the issues of the war become a commercial article of exceedingly changeable value. The Post Office Department never having been a source of revenue to the government, it could not be expected to meet the claims of foreign governments for gold on letters without rating "due" foreign letters payable in coin at the unchangeable rate or in U. S. currency at the marketable value. The Post Office Department has, therefore, done this, and postmasters should be careful to neither make it more burdensome to the people by charging them coin at currency rates on due letters nor yet to repudiate their own government by refusing its paper when tendered.

CALIFORNIA.—The San Francisco *Alta* says that many and material improvements have been made on Alcatraz Island during the past year. Batteries for thirty guns have been built this summer. Eighty guns were mounted previously, consisting of 8 and 10-inch and 24-pound siege guns, and two 12-pound field howitzers. The armament of the fortification is shortly to be increased by far heavier guns, which have been shipped around the Cape, i. e., four 10-inch Rodman guns, and one hundred and ten 10 and 13-inch guns. Workmen are now employed in building a bed on the north side of the island for a 15-inch gun; and, in fact, all around the island laborers are engaged in various sorts of improvements.

NEVADA.—According to the Proclamation of Governor Nye the total number of votes cast for State Government in the Territory was 6,660; against State Government, 2,502; leaving a majority in favor of it of 5,158.

From recent papers, we judge the Nevadans are having a high old California time in the pistol way. The *duello*—according to the "code of honor," and without it, seems to be very fashionable. Locality does not appear to trouble greatly the fire eaters; a few words of a kind are sufficient to bring out the revolvers in the public streets and bar rooms, and bang goes the lead among the crowd. Not long since, Washoe had a great gathering to witness a prize fight between two regularly trained "pugs," which terminated in Harry Lazarus an eastern "pug," and a western "bruiser" trying revolvers in the midst of some thousands of spectators. The *Virginia City Bulletin* says of the affair:

"At least 30 shots were fired, and at one time 10 pistols were in sight. It is a wonder more persons were not killed or injured. The firing was indiscriminate, and only 6 persons out of the immense crowd were injured: E. A. Maldonado, three shots in body and arm (since dead); Harry Lazarus, two shots in breast and hand; Patrick McCourt, one shot in face; James Barnes, shot in leg; Mr. Baldwin shot in leg; a stonemason from Virginia shot in leg. McCourt's wound is an ugly one, the ball striking him in the mouth, tearing his way along the right cheek, splitting it

open, and coming out at the back of the neck. Barnes, Baldwin and the stonemason were wounded by stray balls. The two former reside in Washoe. Three horses, belonging to Bolan, Hughes and Wilkinson, were shot in the legs and back, and two are unfit for service. The scene was described as being intensely exciting. When the firing commenced many persons were observed to fall on the ground to avoid the shots, and a general stampede from the ground soon followed. Everything was mixed up in one inextricable state of confusion—horses, wagons, buggies, men, boys, etc.—and the scene is represented as being frightful in the extreme."

The *Virginia Union* says of another of the wounded:

"Jack Wilson, who was one of the actors in the bloody drama on Tuesday last, received a shot in the thigh, which caused his confinement and the careful attention of a surgeon. It appears the ball that was first fired at Lazarus missed its mark and penetrated the thigh of Wilson, as stated above. He immediately drew his own pistol and retaliated by discharging its contents promiscuously among the crowd, near the point from which he supposed the shot emanated. The amount of damage that he did, of course is not known, but it may be presumed that many of the unfortunate ones can attribute their own wounds to the hasty spirit of revenge which actuated this man Wilson to fire."

The Jailor's report, made to the Board of Aldermen—of Virginia City, represents that during the month of September, 168 arrests were made by the Police during the last month, for the following offences: Attempt to commit murder, 1; justifiable homicide, 2; grand larceny, 3; petit larceny, 7; attempt to commit rape, 2; drunk and disorderly, 13; sleeping on sidewalk, 34; violating city ordinance, 7; fighting, 27; resisting officers, 3; disturbing the peace, 30; on warrant, 1; illegal voting, 1; assaulting officer, 1; drunk, 1; burglary, 3; assault and battery, 4; vagrancy, 1; malicious mischief, 4; drawing deadly weapons, 5; suspicious character, 2; safe keeping, 1; exposing person, 1; attempt to rescue prisoner, 1; attempt to bribe officer, 1; receiving stolen goods, 2; suspicion of robbing, 1. Total—168.

We feel thankful that we are yet some distance from modern civilization, high toned honor and morality.

A correspondent from Reese River in date of Sep. 29 says:—

"Yesterday was our equinoctial, I think, although it didn't storm, yet the wind blew a regular hurricane, the air cold and damp. It cleared off and froze last night, and to day it is clear and cold, and the way the people, living in brush and canvass houses, are sleeping around is a caution to sinners. They think winter is coming, and I think it will come and find hundreds houseless and grubless, unless provisions come in ten times as fast as they are coming. Many a man, woman and child will suffer before next May. Stages, two and three a day, continue to pour in, loaded down. A day or two ago we got a dispatch that gold and silver had been found in great abundance east of Ruby Valley, and now the cry is 'Ho, for Ruby.'"

Here is another chance for our beloved friends to fatten on the necessities of the miners. You who have flour, butter and eggs in the settlements, why don't you come on with them to this city and beg of speculators to take them from you in exchange for gew gaws? If you are ashamed to do the business, you will find plenty miserable brethren in the street and behind the counters to help you over the first blushes!

THE BOISE MINES.—It is estimated that three thousand miners have already left the Boise country for the purpose of passing the winter in the older settlements. There is yet six thousand more who will leave the mines before winter sets in. Between five and six thousand persons will winter in the mines and be prepared for early operations in the Spring. Those who design remaining are already laying in their supplies, and generally preparing for the long night of winter.—*Dalles Mountaineer*.

THE QUESTION OF RECONSTRUCTION

Not unfrequently we notice prominent politicians in the east very clamorous for a reconstruction of the Union, on the ground that the Southerners are tired of the war and anxious to come back. There are doubtless many individuals in the Confederate States in that condition of mind; but we think Mr. Lincoln's statement correct, when he said that he had never had the first intimation of any such disposition among those who represented the Secessionists. In looking over Southern papers, we find the Richmond politicians considering the subject from another point of view. On the 27th ult, a Mr. Millar submitted a resolution in the House of Delegates, of the Virginia legislature, "to enquire into the peace sentiment in the north." It would seem that the Virginians concluded that there were no grounds for the rumors that had induced the resolution and indefinitely postponed the consideration of the subject by a unanimous

vote without debate. The *Whig* in noticing the circumstance says.

"Our legislature has properly determined that any overture for peace must originate with those who are responsible for the prosecution of the war. Until the Yankees withdraw their armed hosts from confederate territory there will not be any peace."

Shortly after the election of the new governor of Alabama, it became "whispered" for some political effect that his Excellency was numbered among the "reconstructionists", on which he delivered himself freely in the following not very encouraging indications of suing for peace:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
RICHMOND, September 12.

Hon. Ira B. Foster, Quartermaster-General of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia:

DEAR SIR: I have to-day received your letter of the 1st inst., forwarded to me from Montgomery, Alabama, and hasten to reply. You say that my name, since the Alabama election, has been freely used by many in connection with "reconstruction," meaning thereby that some people in Georgia suppose I am in favor of re-union with the Yankee government of the North. I am surprised and mortified that anybody in the South should so interpret the Alabama election. If those who claim my election as indicating any such feeling in Alabama had read my letter of 21st March to General Lawler, and my short address to the people of Alabama, dated 8th June last, they would never have entertained such false notions. It is due to the gallant people of my State to call attention to the resolutions of the recent called session of the Legislature, passed unanimously, pledging all the men and resources of the State to prosecute the war until the independence of the Confederate States is fully established. For myself, I will not forfeit my self-respect by arguing the question of "reconstruction." He who is now, deliberately or otherwise, in favor of "reconstruction" with the States under Lincoln's dominion, is a traitor in his heart to the State of his residence and to the Confederate States, and deserves a traitor's doom. If I had the power, I would build up a wall of fire between Yankeeedom and the Confederate States, there to burn, for ages, as a monument for the folly, wickedness, and vandalism of the Puritanic race! No, sir! rather than reunite with such a people I would see the Confederate States desolated with fire and sword. When the men of the South shall become such base cowards as to wish for such reunion, let us call on the women of the South to march to the battle-field, and, in the name of the God of Justice, bid them fight under the banner of southern liberty! The call would not be made in vain. Let the patriot sires, whose children have bared their breasts to Yankee bullets and welcomed glorious deaths in this struggle for self-government, rebuke the foul spirit which even whispers "reconstruction." Let the noble mothers, whose sons have made sacred with their blood so many fields consecrated to freedom, rebuke the fell heresy! Let our blood-stained banners, now unfurled "to the battle and the breeze," rebuke the cowardice and cupidity which suggest "reconstruction." The spirits of our heroic dead—the martyrs to our sacred cause, rebuke—a thousand times rebuke, "reconstruction!" We have little cause for despondency—none for despair! Let us now nerve ourselves afresh for the contest; and let us not forget that

"Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won!"

If we are true to ourselves; true to the memories of the past; true to our homes and our firesides, and true to our God, we cannot we will not be conquered! In any and in every event, let us prefer death to a life of cowardly shame!

Your obedient servant,

T. H. WATTS.

The recipient of the letter seemed to like the sentiments of the governor-elect, and concludes his notice of "that foul heresy called reconstruction" with: "never were sentiments more pregnant with patriotism and devotion to our struggling cause penned. Every true son of the South will conclude the reading of this letter with spirits more buoyant and confidence more steadfast. Nor will our noble women fail to exclaim, 'Governor Watts is right; rather than be subjugated we will march to the field of strife and bare our bosoms to the bullets of the cruel invader.'"

With such leaders, such soldiers, and such women, we must we shall be FREE. IRA B. FOSTER.

An editorial on "The future of The Confederacy," from the *Richmond Whig*, of a still later date, is still less encouraging to the hope of Reconstruction of the Union.

ARRIVED.—Capt. White's train arrived on Thursday evening, the 15th, the last of this season's immigration from the eastern frontiers. We are thankful that so large an increase to our population has been able to travel, many of them, from their homes in far distant countries, across the seas, and then across the arid plains with so few casualties and losses. No doubt individuals have had their trials, such is the lot of man at home as well as in travel—but for the general good of the whole we are truly thankful.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

As some folks will doubtless like to read of the glory of the battle field, we publish in this issue a hastily written sketch from a New York paper of the recent battle between Bragg and Rosecrans. Late Southern papers claim the battle of Chickamauga as the greatest battle and greatest victory of the war, since the famous Bull Run, in favor of the South. The *Richmond Sentinel* of the 26th, says that the following official dispatch was received at the War Department:

"Near CHATTANOOGA, Thursday, Sep. 24.

The report from Gen. Hood last night was favorable. Our prisoners will reach 7,000, of whom 2,000 are wounded. We have twenty-five stand of colors and guidons, thirty-six pieces of artillery, and have already collected over 15,000 small arms over and above those left on the field by our killed and wounded. More are being found.

(Signed) BRAXTON BRAGG.

The commanding general issues the following congratulatory order:—

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Sept. 24, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 89.—The commanding General announces to the army, with profound gratitude to Almighty God, the victory achieved at Chickamauga by the army of Gen. Braxton Bragg.

After a fierce and sanguinary conflict of two days, the Federal forces, under Gen. Rosecrans, were driven with heavy loss from their strong positions, and, leaving the dead and wounded on the field, retreated, under cover of the night, on Chattanooga, pursued by our cavalry.

Rendering to the Giver of victory, as is most justly due, our praise and thanksgiving for the signal manifestations of His favors, let us extend to the army that has so nobly upheld the honor of our country the tribute of our admiration for its valor, and sympathy for its suffering and loss.

Invoking the continued assistance of heaven upon our efforts, let us resolve to emulate the heroic example of our brethren in the South, until the enemy shall be expelled from our borders, and peace and independence be secured to our country.

R. E. LEE, General."

A correspondent of the *Atlanta Intelligencer* gives the finishing touch to the Chickamauga picture:—

"The battle-field extended about ten miles, and the carnage was the most frightful yet witnessed, far exceeding Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Murfreesboro' or Shiloh. The constant and terrific roar of artillery never was exceeded. The fighting of men on Sunday evening, in carrying the enemy's intrenchments, was magnificent, grand, and terrible. They faced the whirlwind of lead and iron with the steadiness and composure of a summer's rain. Then came charge after charge, the frightful gaps in our lines being immediately closed up, and, with the yell of demons, our battle cry arose above the roar and crash of musketry and artillery, while the terror-stricken foe fell back agast as our braves mounted and carried their intrenchments; line after line, ever the dead carcasses of the abolition foe, who fell in heaps in the pits they had dug for themselves. The battle-field that night by moonlight—the glittering beams shining on the ghastly faces of the dead, distorted in expression from the wounds of the torn and mangled bodies, with heaps of the wounded and dying, with scattered arms strewn everywhere, with broken artillery carriages and caissons, dead horses and all that makes up the debris of a bloody contested field—was terrible and appalling."

We should think it was.

THEATRICAL.—Raffaella the Reprobate took immensely last week. Mr. Caine played with a vivacity that astonished his friends, and Mr. Margetts was the other life of the play. On account of the "indisposition" of Mrs. Teasdale, Mrs. Gibson was called, on short notice, to represent the heroine of the plot, on Saturday evening and added considerably to her growing reputation.

The debut of Miss Lindsay in Scotch song on Wednesday evening was "excellently well," and kindly acknowledged by the audience. The young lady was slightly indisposed, as most people are at the present time, and hardly met our expectations of what we think her capable. We certainly expect from Miss Lindsay some choice and Scotch songs during the winter: she is capable, or we much mistake. Mrs. Taylor made her debut in an English sentimental song on Saturday evening and was warmly received. We are glad of these additional attractions to the stage.

This evening the management announces a "Thrilling new Drama, in 3 acts"—*Eustache Baudin, The Forsaken*—which is spoken of as an excellent play. Mrs. M. G. Clawson appears this evening for the first time this season, in a favorite part. Mr. Dunbar is again in health and "voire" and sings a Comic Song "Not to be Sneezed at."