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COMMUNICATIONS.

[THE NEW NATIONAL ERA does not hold itself responsible for views expressed by correspondents. Well written and interesting communications will be gladly received.]

Letter from Philadelphia.

The Underground Railroad.

PHILADELPHIA, *June* 17, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Of course you are fully aware of the fact that for the last few months past I have had sole charge of the publishing department of the U. G. R. R.

After it had been published one year by Porter & Coates, by a mutual arrangement their control entirely ended. While I felt conscious that a regular publishing house, with a full knowledge of the subscription book business, might sell a great many more copies than myself, situated as I was permanently in the coal business, nevertheless, considering how meagerly our race is represented in the various interests relating to productive trades and callings, especially at this juncture, when the great problems connected with our present civil and political status are being brought under constant review, and that too when so near the great centennial, when every work of art, invention, and improvement will be made to appear so creditable to every white citizen of this country, I confess I could not forego the opportunity of endeavoring to add one more permanent enterprise to the few existing among us.

It is now gratifying to say that everything thus far connected with the change has tended to increase my conviction that the step was a judicious one, and will prove successful. In proof of this view, I desire, for the information of the public, as well as for my own gratification, to indicate briefly how the U. G. R. R. is succeeding, what the agents are doing, and what the prospects are for the future. In order to accomplish this end, I need only turn to a large number of letters lying on my desk before me, recently received from agents, and from a few only select now and then an extract bearing upon the question, incidents of general interest, which I think cannot fail to meet with appreciation from most of your readers.

Under date of the 11th instant my agent in Pittsburg (E. A. W.) writes: "I have sold already over three hundred copies, and I shall do my best to sell one thousand copies during this year." Seven weeks only had this agent been canvassing in the "Smoky City." Amongst his subscribers, by his indomitable perseverance, he secures all classes.

W. D. J., a young man of marked intelligence, who was engaged in teaching in Kent county, Delaware, seeing an advertisement in the *Christian Recorder*, concluded that he would be pleased to get a "few subscribers in his neighborhood for the U. G. R. R." He applied for and received an agency. The results are in his own words, as follows: "I have the good fortune of canvassing one of the most interesting territories you could have assigned me. Here, in the very neighborhood where scarcely an individual in the community was not familiar with Ann Maria Jackson and her flight with seven children. (See p. 512 U. G. R. R.) They can tell all about that occurrence. Much more than what is related in the U. G. R. R. Yet they say that it is so true and so straight that they "cannot doubt a single thing in its pages;" and it is not unfrequently they exclaim: "Well! well! well! I do think that is the greatest book I ever saw or heard read in my life." "I am determined to have one," comes next.

In Milford, another neighborhood, in introducing it at a religious meeting, he took occasion to read from page 405 U. G. R. R. Here the horrid deed of a brutal master was still well remembered by many in the audience. Says the agent, "I read from its pages some of the incidents therein recorded which transpired right in that place, and most interestingly was each listened to by my audience. But the romantic and remarkable feature was when reading of the arrival of Theophilus Collins, Andrew Jackson Bolce, &c., in 1858. When I got to the part that reads: 'And I went to my young master and they took me to an old colored woman called Judah Smith,' to have that same old colored Judah Smith arise, and exclaim, 'I know it! I know it's so! I nursed him! I sewed him up! My God, children, it's all so!' &c. Most of the old people remembered it perfectly well; they all know old Houston now. 'Nine subscribers' was the immediate result. I have got forty-three, and I don't feel any doubt but what fifty will be made up here. I should feel sorry if I should have to stop at one hundred."

From North Carolina a real live agent reports himself thus: "I have gone into the work with good resolution, and I am straining every nerve to make your valuable work a success.

"You are aware that North Carolina is behind every other State in business of this description, and, therefore, I shall have to work earnestly to make your book take well. But I must say frankly that your book sells better in this town (Newbern) than any other book that has ever been sold here before by subscription, to my knowledge; and the citizens here think that I have done exceedingly well. I have an object in view. I am a fatherless young man of only nineteen winters. I am striving to get an education. I have an anxiety to go to Lincoln University."

Encouraged by his success he soon made application to have his territory enlarged to cover not only Newbern, but the whole State. Of course he got subscribers from all classes, including some of the old Democratic slaveholders.

Not less interesting are the letters from Rev. R. J., of Buffalo, who has been for many weeks successfully operating in that city:

"Through the influence of the Hon. ex-President Fillmore," he wrote on the 3d instant, "who in a few words frankly admitted the high merit of the work and its author, I got it into the Governor's library," &c.

"I may say to you I have pushed my books into the hands of some of the best men in the city—lawyers, doctors, merchants, custom-houses, United States Congressmen, &c."

On page 271, U. G. R. R., a sketch of Rev. R. J. may be found.

Mrs. M. S. C., a new beginner, writes from White Hall, Michigan, June 5, saying that she "had sold sixteen books in one week, and had only canvassed Montage;" but having become interested in the books, and finding that she could "interest others more easily" than if she was indifferent, she applied for a much larger territory than what she at first sought. Sixteen a week may seem like a small number to dispose of, and, indeed, this number is not half what is reached by some others; nevertheless, even at this rate an agent may clear over one thousand dollars a year, and have several weeks to spare or to lay by in bad weather.

Another lady (Miss K. G.) belonging to the proscribed race, who has been a most successful canvasser for the U. G. R. R. for over one year in Burlington county, New Jersey, writes, June 6, to this effect: "I have, indeed, met with some very kind friends in Burlington county, where I have been canvassing amongs the first-class people. Judge Emily and family, of Jacobstown, was indeed very kind to me. They could not have treated me any better if I had been as white as snow. I do not hold back for anything. When I was in Vincintown and Pemberton I stopped at the hotels, and was treated as well as any other boarders, and they did not charge me a cent, and invited me to come again."

This lady, twenty years ago, was a passenger on the U. G. R. R. amidst scenes of sufferings and perils by land and water indiscribably dreadful, but is now a most intelligent woman, who commands respect wherever she is known.

An agent (Mrs. A. W. V.) at Schenectady, N. J., who is amongst the enterprising and intelligent workers for the elevation of her race, in a letter of exceeding interest, refers to her success thus: "My subscribers are first-class whites—the president of Union College, Mrs. Dr. Noti, the Mayor of the city, the Catholic priest," &c., &c.

The Mayor she described as having signified at first an indifference, but intimated that he would subscribe simply out of respect to her, Democrat as he was. However, he read the book, and, seeing her a few days afterwards, told her that he was "highly interested," and "felt that everybody in the country ought to subscribe for it."

While her efforts brought her a long list of respectable names, she added in closing, "I am sorry to be obliged to say I have not got one colored subscriber. Our people are twenty years behind the age."

J. F. R., a young man of more than ordinary promise and intelligence, living in Columbus, Ohio, with this idea in view: "My object is to secure an education," took an agency, with an aim to earn money to aid him "to go to Oberlin College." In this faith and determination he started out to canvass, and soon had at the head of his list Governor Noyes, Dr. Kensill, Comstock of the Opera House, and other noted characters, and a goodly number besides. To-day he is in Oberlin College. His last letter on leaving his agency contains these pleasant words:

"I shall always feel grateful to you for the opportunity afforded me of making enough to warrant my attending Oberlin school."

Young men possessed of J. F. R.'s grit cannot fail. Education, business, and improvement must be successfully achieved wherever such earnestness and decision of character are evinced.

Thus by the encouragement which I am daily receiving, I am led to believe that long before the canvassing ground shall have been gone over, one hundred thousand copies will have been disposed of.

Ten thousand have already been published, while as yet the canvassing has scarcely begun. It is a work of years.

Yours truly, W. STILL.

Letter from Pennsylvania.

College Commencement, Lincoln University,
OXFORD, PENNA., June 18, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

The commencement exercises of this University was so grand a success, and such a literary treat, that I can but ask your indulgence to a lengthy article. About ten o'clock Wednesday morning over two thousand persons, from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and neighboring towns and villages, assembled in a beautiful grove which had been decorated for the occasion. Half past ten o'clock the trustees, faculty, and students gathered in University Hall, and thence formed a line of procession and marched to the grove, headed by the Mount Vernon Cornet Band (colored) of Wilmington, Delaware, (Leader Professor Thomas Harden.) The faculty and trustees, graduates and undergraduates, having arrived at the grove, the President of the University (Rev. J. N. Randall, S. S.) announced that the hour had arrived for the services to commence, and he offered a very appropriate prayer, invoking the Divine blessing upon the trustees, faculty, and friends of the University, and the class now about to graduate.

Abraham P. Denney, of Pennsylvania, delivered the Latin Salutatory. This was a success in every respect. The speaker adopted the continental pronunciation, which was spoken deliberately, clear, and distinct, so as to be heard in all parts of the audience.

Henry Mabry, North Carolina, English Salutatory. This young man spoke in highest terms of the Board of Trustees and their plans for study, which had been so successively carried out, and he said: Mr. President and Faculty, we can never forget your instruction and kindness toward us as a class. We would return to you our thanks, and with our mind and heart wish you success.

Friends, we well know your object here to-day; wherever your interest is at stake there will such an assembly as this be foun We are well aware of the great amount of work which is to be accomplished and you expect us to take a part in its accomplishment. How this work is to be finished, history alone will tell. Only after searching investigation was any truth ever discussed by the intellectual man. It was by no inert thought that these great thing were accomplished, but by active, unflagging, and persevering principles.

Soloman P. Wood, Pennsylvania, Classical Oration. He said: The classical studies produce the most salutary and invigorating effect upon the mind. They cultivate intellect and refine the taste. In many classic authors some of the very best characters are set forth, and the heart of one who has taken a comprehensive idea of the qualities exhibited is cultivated by precept and warmed in by sensibility, and distinguishes the influence and scope of morality; for we will prize intellectual or moral beauty, then follows a depreciation of vice, and the feelings will be listed on the side of humanity. The occupation, the tastes, the habits, indeed, the whole character of a people is apt to embody itself in the language, and from a study of it we not only have the means by which we may form ideas, but by which we may give shape and symmetry to our own tongue, and if you comprehend a man in all the dignity of his nature, having an intuitive faculty, taste, as capable of making the clearest and the most minute distinctions, and as fitted, not only to assume upon sublunary things, but to soar freely into the realms of the true, the beautiful, and the good. Let him develop himself by a constant study of the classics.

Daniel Murray, Pennsylvania, Culture Essential to National Progress. Physical culture consists in training the physical frame. The exclusive exercise of the mind renders the man unfit for laborious exertion demanded for the good of humanity.

In time of war, when great interests are to be protected, men are needed where physical powers are fully developed, whose plans will not need constant correction, and whose physical endurance can be held to chosen line of operation, "though it take all summer," to gain success. Intellectual culture consist in training the mental faculties. This tends to an increase of knowledge, the advance of science, and the application of all scientific knowledge for the wants of man. Astronomical investigation has been pushed far beyond the wildest thoughts of the Chaldean or Mid-eaval observers who, though indefatigable in their zeal to advance this most important science, failed to reach the heights upon which modern investigations have planted these instruments of observations. Not only has science been advanced, but it acknowledges its obligations to subserve some useful purposes. A nation can no more make true progress without the cultivation of morality than a mariner can guide his vessel without a compass. Law, the bond of society, without moral sanction is a dead letter.

Joseph A. Clinton, Pennsylvania. Mathematical Oration. He considered the study of mathematics as an intellectual discipline, valuable in the preparation for all studies. Like the foundation stone of a building, it was the rock upon which the whole future rested. It was the basis of true and exact knowledge and this great center of the radii of investigation; intellectual power was nothing without its great discipline.

Concentration of thought, comprehensiveness of ideas, systematic reasoning, steadiness of purpose, and expansion of mental effort were all fostered by mathematics. By it we could think quickly, and reason correctly, and the man of science owed a great debt.

William R. Highgate of Pennsylvania. Philosophical Oration. He said that man was not only blessed with power to know the outer world, but himself, the inner man. All the world of nature and beauty captivated him, but the deepest spring of delight welled up in his heart when he contemplated his own perfect consciousness and power of imagination and thought.

John M. Williams, New Jersey. Intellectual Development. He said, education seeks, through the long succession of its experiments, to improve to the full extent of their capabilities the several faculties of the mind, and it gives its name to the group of conservative habits to which is intrusted the preservation of all the precious fruits of so much protracted endeavor. Thus, learned men of these stiring times have left their earthly empire and consorted with the gods above.

William H. Bell, of the District of Columbia, delivered an oration upon "Linguistic Studies." He said: A language that had ceased to be spoken is not a dead language, it is alive with all the perceptions and passions of living men. And their judgments and feelings revive in him that reads the record. Thus only can we become wise with the experience of all ages. The existing nations are no more sufficient to themselves than are the individuals that compose them. The ancient nations, without us, would not have attained the end of their existence, and we, without them, would be condemned to pursue a vain experience. In this light the charred parchments of Pompei are of more value than all the palaces of Naples, and the very stores of Ninevah could not be bought with the gold of California. But it is the work of scholars who have spent years of toil in the promotion of human knowledge—in the task of interpreting these monuments—that have brought recognition to their value. This scholarly labor has given the chiselled stones on which the thoughts of men have been inscribed a value greater than that of the polished diamonds. So that wise, the verdict of the word to be rendered, that the Rossetta stone must be destroyed, and all that connected with the history of each perish from the memory of man, the inscription on that monument of antiquity would give to its value a glory that would far out-shine the splendor of this invaluable generation.

Richard S. Robeson, of Pennsylvania, delivered the Belles Letters Oration. He said: A proper view of a nation's progress in science, whether individuals or nation, may be obtained by examining their ideas of utility. The physical science is found in application to the mechanic arts, by which our physical convenience and luxuries are increased. When we speak of an education, we mean improvement in our different occupations and professions, the instruction and training we need to make us good farmers, mechanics, merchants, lawyers, physicians, and statesmen. Literature, in its widest range, may include every species of writing; its influence is best seen in the moral or religious composition; its value in the records of history and philosophy is invaluable; its beautiful charm and power are blended in sweet poetry and elegant prose. It has often been a question whether literature was more refining to taste, elevating to the moral sentiment, and favorable to majestic conception, than other works of art. But who, with proper taste, would not, among all these objects of utility, give preference to that which enables man to pour forth from his soul those noble inspiring sentiments, expressed, they may be, in thoughts that breathe and in words that burn while he stamps upon the printed page traces of that beautiful mental imaginary, will be read and may control the destinies of millions. As composers of music, Mozart, Handel, and Hayden have a fame as immortal as the science they honor. Their names are enrolled on the pages of history, and embalmed in the melodies of songs. The name of Catherwood will long be remembered on account of his power of genius in the execution of the panoramic painting. Cicero and Demosthenes will be held in everlasting remembrance in virtue of their powerful soul eloquence. Milton and Young will always be honored for the sublimity and beauty of their poetic writings. Lock, Bacon, and Newton for the philosophical investigations, and Franklin, Jefferson, Henry, and Washington as among the brightest stars that adorned the firmament in our country's earliest struggle for independence. Whitefield and Edwards for their eloquence and power in explaining and enforcing God's truth. The writings of men have diffused their influence among all nations.

William H. Ash, of Rhode Island. "Fine Arts in Common Life." He said that the true born of the fine arts was cheerful and benevolent. Of necessity he was an admirer of nature, and as a lover of nature an ardent worshiper of the truths of its God as displayed in its beautiful economy. The sordid miser only lend the gold, whose mineral sound delighted his ears, and neither he nor the cruel, crafty, and sly man could appreciate the fine arts. The chief end of art was to establish the influence of all the higher attributes of one's nature. He who would truthfully describe God's works must enter into full sympathy with His divine purposes.

William M. Hargrave, of North Carolina, delivered the Valedictory Oration in the usual style, reviewing the work of the last four years, in which the class has been united in one band of brotherly love, and now that they had to separate he spoke in most feeling terms of the friends, trustees, faculty, students, and classmates, and in conclusion bade each one farewell.

Upon recommendation of the faculty, the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon the following graduates by the president:

John H. Adams, Richmond, Va.; William H. Ash, Providence, R. I.; William H. Bell, Washington, D. C.; William H. Chambers, Baltimore, Md.; Joseph N. Clinton, Philadelphia, Pa.; Abraham P. Denny, West Chester, Pa.; James E. Halsey, Wilmington, N. C.; William M. Hargrave, Lexington, N. C.; Louis P. B. Henry, Wilmington, Del.; William B. Highgate, Philadelphia, Pa.; Solomon P. Hood, Chesterville, Pa.; Henry Mabry, Lexington, N. C.; Murdock M. Miller, San Jose, Cal.; Peter A. Morgan, Petersburg, Va.; Daniel Murray, Philadelphia, Pa.; William A. Robeson, Warren Farm, Pa.; Edward O. Sanders, Baltimore, Md.; John M. Williams, Elizabeth, N. J.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon the following graduates of four years standing of the class of 1869: Samuel J. Barnfield, Wm. F. Brooks, Wm. F. Dickerson, Jesse Gould, A. H. Grimkie, F. J. Grimkie, Wm. R. Templeton, and James C. Waters.

Rev. Dr. Dickey, President of the Board of Trustees, and the original founder of the Ashman Institute, (now known as Lincoln University, with enlarged facilities for study, two brick dormitories, and Lincoln Hall, containing recitation rooms and a beautiful chapel,) made a few remarks, and said he had invited President Grant to attend the exercises to-day and had provided a special car for his use. The invitation was not accepted on account of previous engagements by the President, which he regretted much, but hoped to be with them on some other occasion.

Dr. Dickey introduced Rev. Mr. Niles and Rev. Mr. Stewart, who made brief addresses congratulating the students on their successful graduation.

Rev. Dr. Randall said we have ten native African youths sent to this country to be educated as teachers for their native country. (They appeared on the platform and were introduced to the audience.) Dr. Dickey thought we had better not introduce these boys to you in their rough state; but I believe as God has made them men, we intend to make them scholars. Six of them belong to the Bassar tribe, one to the Congo, one to the Vigo, and two are native Liberians. They came to Lincoln University under the auspices of the Presbytery of West Africa.

Rev. Dr. Bowers, of the Board of Trustees, announced that General James Bearer and Messrs. Helfenstein, Samuel Strong, and Theodore Strong were elected trustees to fill vacancies in the Board.

The addresses of the graduates, of which I have only given a short synopsis, presented a most commendable and meritorious appearance, both in delivery and composition, and showed careful and ardent study on the part of the class of 1873.

Wm. H. Bell, of the District of Columbia, is a young man of extraordinary power; both his graduating address and the one delivered at the class-day exercises to the undergraduates convinced us that Mr. Bell contains all the elements of a true orator, and showed that he was master of the position. At the Commencement he held his audience spell-bound, and was highly complimented for clear and logical pronunciation. We regret that we have not space to report Mr. Bell's addresses in full for the benefit of his many friends in the District. He intends to study law and afterward settle in the District of Columbia, where we have no doubt he will become an active and useful citizen. We wish him much success.

The exercises of the day, which were of an exceedingly pleasant character, were concluded by a dinner at the college, spread under the supervision of P. W. Baldwin, the caterer of the Institution.

At 3 o'clock p. m. the Alumni Association held its annual meeting in University Hall. Rev. R. B. Jones presided. A fair representation of the graduated classes was present, by that good will and feeling characteristic of a brotherhood of scholars. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: Rev. W. H. Morris, president; Rev. W. F. Dickerson, vice president; and Mr. W. H. Brooks, assistant secretary. Mr. R. P. Brooks was continued in the office of secretary. The class of 1873 was enrolled and became, according to the rules of the association, full members. The next meeting (which will be a business one) will be held in Philadelphia on the last Thursday in October, 1873. The association numbers 70 members at present, and bids fair to become a useful auxiliary to the University.

Three or four days before the Commencement there is always an increased number of exercises, which are no less notable for the composition than for the oratorical and rhetorical display, which the students make a specialty. This year was not an exception, only as the University advances in the scale of science, just so much more the students excite greater skill in their exercises.

Class-day exercises of the class of 1873, were held in University Chapel Monday, June 16, 1873, at 11 o'clock a. m. Prayer, I. N. Rendall, D. D.; Address to the undergraduates, Wm. H. Bell, Washington, D. C.; Prophecy of the Class, Wm. B. Highgate, Pa.; Prophecy of the Prophet, John H. Adams, Va.; History of the Class, S. P. Hood, Pa.; Planting of the Tree; Class Tree Address, Wm. H. Ash, R. I.; Class Tree Ode, A. P. Denny, Pa.; Class Day Hymn, John M. Williams, N. J.; Class Day Poem, H. C. Mabry, N. C.; Address, James E. Halsey, N. C.; Toasts to the Class, M. M. Millin, Cal.; Class Banquet, R. D. Robeson, Pa., Master of Ceremonies.

The second annual commencement of the Preparatory Department exercises, Monday evening June 16, E. Morgan Thomas, of the District of Columbia, delivered the Valedictory Oration. Mr. John B. Rendall is principal of this department. The examinations, literary exercises, and the large number of students sent from this department annually into the collegiate department speak well for Mr. Rendall.

The Junior Commencement was held in University Hall, Tuesday, June 17. The exercises consisted of eight orations by members selected from the Junior Class, and according to the custom here three judges were selected to award a prize to the two best speakers. Rev. Mr. Webb, chairman, said he never found any task so difficult as deciding these prizes. Each one had done so well, until they reminded him of so many diamonds, it was very difficult to tell who had the best exercise. I only wish we had a prize for each one. But after due consideration, and by a vote, the first prize was awarded to Luther Hubbard, of N. Y., and the second prize to William A. Bryant, of N. C.

The First Annual Commencement of the Philosophian Literary Society was held in College Chapel, Tuesday, June 17, 1873, at 3 o'clock p. m. Rev. E. S. Porter, of Del., speaker; W. H. Madella, of Va., controller; W. W. Still, of Pa., clerk. Prayer by Rev. E. R. Burr; J. H. Adams, of Va., English Salutatory; W. H. Brooks, of Va., Poem; S. P. B. Henry, of Dela., Valedictory Oration; Presentation of Diplomas, (by the speaker;) J. H. Adams, Va.; W. H. Brooks, Va.; J. N. Clinton, Pa.; J. E. Halsey, N. C.; S. P. B. Henry, Del.; W. B. Highgate, Pa.; S. P. Hood, Pa.; D. Murray, Pa.; E. O. Saunders, Md.

My visit to this University was exceedingly pleasant. The hospitality of Mr. Wm. H. Bell and members of the Union Club was extended to me during my stay here, and in meeting many of my old comrades I could but think of the gloomy past, when the dark cloud of despondency gathered thickly on every hand, and of the bright and hopeful future which is dawning upon the University. Every year its influence is felt more and more and its work is growing larger and larger. Many are going forth who shall be instrumental in doing much good. The faculty of the University is composed of gentlemen who are thorough masters of the branch of study in which they instruct, and they will compare favorably with the faculty of any university or college in this country. There is not an institution in the land which has been organized as short a time as Lincoln University and has made the same progress or accomplished half so much good. We wish it much success. The many thousands who attend the Commencements every year, and other literary exercises given by the students, are convinced that men should no longer be judged by their color, but by their intellectual abilities. Arrangements are being perfected to move the Medical Department to Philadelphia, and the Law Department to West Chester, Pa.

Yours, &c., E. W. TURNER.

Letters from Mississippi.

VICKSBURG, MISS., June 16, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

The chief arguments which are being brought to bear by those who are opposed to the nomination of General Ames for Governor are: That the opposition to him by the Democrats is so great that if he is nominated they will consolidate upon any man to defeat him; but if Governor Powers is nominated they will continue disintegrated, and ours will be an easy victory. And their next is that if Ames is nominated, we will lose the lower branch of the Legislature, as certain close counties, which are now Republican, will send Democratic delegations to the Legislature. But I do not believe that either plea will carry any weight with it, as the Democrats are totally opposed to any man who receives the nomination from the Republican party, and will give him as hard a contest as their weakness will afford. They are opposed to General Ames on account of his strict adherence to the principles of the Republican party, and his unyielding demand of the recognition of the fullest rights of colored men. And they are also opposed to Governor Powers on account of his civil-rights jubilee at the mansion after the passage of the bill, and for his general management of State affairs during his administration. And the plea that Ames' nomination will be the cause of our losing the Legislature is an exceedingly weak one. If this were true, or if there were a probability of it, the Democrats would favor his nomination rather than dread it. And the leading Republicans in those counties which are classed as doubtful, are heart and soul for Ames. Certainly they ought to know the condition of their counties better than residents of others, and if they were satisfied that the nomination of General Ames would be the cause of their defeat, they would advocate the nomination of another. They also say that if General Ames is nominated for Governor, he will use it as a stepping-stone into the United States Senate. I do not say that this is false, neither do I say that it is true, as he will be controlled altogether by his friends. But this I do say, that the Senate is coveted by nearly all our leading men as much so as by General Ames, and if they could make it by first being made Governor they would do it. I am under obligations neither to General Ames nor to Governor Powers, but my nature rebels against false arguments which are brought to bear against so good and so true a champion of the rights of the negro as General Ames has proven himself to be. Governor Powers is a fine gentleman and a friend, and if his acts in favor of the rights of the negro were as glaring as General Ames, and if the same arguments were brought to bear against him as are brought against General Ames, I would fight them with as much determination as I have done for Ames. But I wish to include a few *personnels* in this, and will therefore change my subject.

There are certain men who, when they affiliate with a party, bring no more strength to it than their individual votes; but there are others who, by their general deportment and dignified bearing, cause others to cluster around them and follow them wherever they go. One of the latter class is

HON. LUKE LEA,

the able district attorney of this judicial district. There is such a great degree of dignity, honesty, and true manliness in the general deportment of Judge Lea, that a person who is capable of admiring such qualities cannot help but admiring this subject. He advocates bravely the equal rights of all men, and in his speeches he loves to dwell upon it as the chief fundamental principle of our Government. "Without this," he often says, "we have no republican government, but with it as our foundation, we can stand as firmly as a rock against the threatenings of our foes." He is eloquent in his delivery and logical in his arguments.

As a prosecuting attorney for the State he has no superior, and woe be to the poor convict against whom he is arrayed. He is a native of Tennessee, but came to Mississippi about thirty years ago. He remained here until a few years previous to the war, when he removed to Washington, District of Columbia, where he remained until immediately after the reconstruction of the State, when he returned to his old home, and was appointed by Governor Alcorn to the position of district attorney. He is a man of about sixty years of age, but has as vivid an intellect as a man of forty. His hair is perfectly white, has an exceedingly handsome face, with a finely shaped Roman nose, and has as fine a bearing as I have seen for many years.

Before the war he was an Old Line Whig, and headed the Whig ticket several years ago as a candidate for Governor. He made an excellent run, but the State being overwhelmingly Democratic, he was, of course, defeated.

The leader of the Republicans of Lauderdale county is

R. E. LEACHMAN, ESQ.,

postmaster of the city of Meridian. It is generally the case that when a Southern white person is introduced to us as a Republican, a doubt invariably prevails in our minds; but the man whose name heads this sketch (though a native of Alabama) is as true and staunch a Republican as there is in the State. He has borne opprobrium without limit, but he adheres to the cause of liberty because he believes it is *right*. Ostracised from all his associates on account of his principles; hissed at by the Democrats as a lover of social equality with negroes; threatened by the Ku-Klux to be tarred and feathered and murdered if he continued to advocate the cause of the negroes. None of these, nor all of them together, could make him change his principles from what he belives to be right. In appearance he is a young man about thirty years of age, but has settled and matured habits. His physiognomy indicates deep thought and matured deliberation. His movements and his utterances are very slow, but whenever any one assails a friend of his or the Republican party he replies with vehement expression, and gestures with clenched fist and brings it down with force upon the palm of his other hand or upon whatever else may be near. One can easily discover that he is in earnest in his expressions, and he never attempts to make a false impression. As stated above, he is a native of Alabama, but was removed here by his parents when a youth. He welcomes every man who comes into the State if he is honest and industrious. He is in a county where the Democrats are in the majority, and were it not for him our people would be at a loss for a standard-bearer. Long may Mr. Leachman live to do honor to our good cause in the fiery county of Lauderdale.

It is becoming a demonstrated fact daily in the South that the young men are stepping to the front, and will take the reins of the Government in their hands. It is true the old men have experience, but with experience we must have energy, perseverance, and vitality. The young men possess the three last qualities and show them generally in their actions. And one of the young men of this city who is rapidly rising is

MR. W. W. EDWARDS.

He is, perhaps, not beyond twenty-three years of age, but shows a mind of great maturity. In 1871 he was elected as an Alderman from his ward against a strong man on the Democratic ticket; and though the ward is nearly evenly balanced, yet young Edwards carried it by a substantial majority. His course as an Alderman is marked with great success, and is approved of by all parties. He never flinches whenever a question is brought up in which his race is interested, but takes a firm and unyielding stand.

He attended school in this city under the auspices of missionary teachers from the North, but he is hungering after more education with a greater desire than Oliver Twist did after more porridge. He presents a fine appearance—quadroon in mixture of blood—has a large head thickly covered with beautiful auburn hair, combed loosely behind his ears. When my friend Mr. E. satisfies his thirst after knowledge, he will then have prospects before him equal to any young man in the State.

Another staunch Republican is

HON. W. W. CHISOLM,

of Kemper county. Judge C. lives in a section of our State which is strongly Democratic. But, through his courage and indomitable perseverance, he keeps the Republicans in the ascendency in his county. There are very few, if any, men who have borne greater persecution for his principles than Judge C. has. Many persons boast of the odds they have to contend against in Republican counties and sections; but for a man to hoist the banner of Republicanism in a section where the Democrats of the most violent character are largely in the majority, it requires a great deal more than a feeble sentimental courage. Judge Chisolm has been threatened in the most violent manner by the Ku-Klux, which were thick, strong, and daring in his neighborhood, but he not only laughed at their threats but *dared* them to approach him at their appointed hour or at any other time! Before the war he was judge of one of the courts in the State; but he has been sheriff of his county since the reconstruction of the State. He is a Southern man by birth, apparently about forty years of age, small in stature, and has an expression which denotes courage in every lineament of it. He is a forcible and an expressive speaker. Our party is fortunate in having Judge C. as our champion of the East.

CIVIS.

VICKSBURG, MISS., June 13, 1873.

To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

DEAR SIRS: I desire to have a little talk about the "city of a hundred hills" and vicinity. Vicksburg is a progressive city. Never, since she had a name, have her prospects been so flattering as at the present time. Here, as in all places of any size or pretension, there occasionally arises a disagreeable stench, issuing from a railroad enterprise, or something of the sort, may be, and spreading itself out a little offensively, perhaps, among a certain class of people. But the general outlook from a liberal standpoint is one of glorious promise for the future of Mississippi's historic metropolis.

On every hand are to be seen the unmistakable evidences of prosperity. Great mounds of earth which have hitherto had a home in the very heart of the city are being rapidly torn down and hauled away to give place to the new and magnificent business houses which are springing into existence almost as if by magic. New streets and new roads are being cut through the city in every direction and extending clear out to the recently enlarged limits with a dispatch and completeness bordering on the marvellous. Here we have our immense saw-mills in active and successful operation, extensive planing-mills constantly in motion, machine-shops without number which know no rest, and a country trade and river shipment second to no place in the Union, (comparatively speaking,) and with which the world each day is becoming more and more familiar. In every direction from the city, within a distance of forty miles, the once cane-studded hills, creek bottoms, and heavily timbered lands of the Yazoo valley swamp—ignored in years gone by, and considered fit only for cattle ranges and the haunts of the alligator and black moccasin—are being swept away by the woodman's axe and torch, and out of the wonderfully producing soil thus exposed to the propagating rays of the sun, there shoots up in the most luxurious profusion the various crops of the sunny South.

The stimulating influence of the promising future has a wonderful and gratifying effect upon the laboring classes in this section of the country. Not to-day, as four or five years ago, when matters of government and political significance were in such a suppressed and uncertain state, can there be seen half-starved and half-clothed men, women, and children wandering aimlessly through the streets in quest of the bare sustenance of life—content without shelter—asking only to be permitted to breathe in their new existence as freemen, which the great King, in his infinite beneficence and wisdom, had sent for their enjoyment. No such condition of things meets the eye of the observer to-day. Now that these people have had the armor of liberty buckled upon them and the mantle of citizenship thrown grandly over all, now that they are given a stand and a voice in the affairs of the world and the exercise of christian privileges are secured to them, in common with all humanity, I say, now that all these things have come to pass, this part of the country is beginning to swell and to expand with a new and hitherto unknown vitality, an unknown power, an unprecedented glory!

The colored citizens of this region are becoming an honor to themselves and an honor to the Government, whose laws and precepts they take a peculiar pride in abiding by and obeying. And the sectional prejudices with which they have heretofore had to contend, and which have in a measure greatly depressed and retarded their advancement and efforts as agriculturists, I am glad to say, are slowly but surely giving away, and retreating behind the scenes of their own defeat.

The NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN is doing good service here, as I trust it is wherever it is known. It is ably conducted by men who have a *home* interest in what they write and spread out over the country, to be read and reflected upon by those who are sadly in need of reading and reflection. All honor and success to your laudable and praiseworthy enterprise, say I! And I trust that your paper may be known and read in every household in the American Republic—be that home the abiding place of a white man or a black man! A little of its benign influence spread out carefully upon the understandings of such men as even the redoubtable Captain Jack, of lava bed notoriety—of which, by the way, there is not a few in this part of the world—I am certain would do a great deal of good in the way of allaying the inflammation with which the brains of those unfortunate individuals seem to be so badly pestered.

Political circles are unusually quiet in Mississippi at this time. They do say, however, that we have powers around here which are great, and aims which are greater, to say nothing of our enterprising youths, who, it is said, confidently expect to "do" the Gubernatorial chair up brown this year.

Thanking you for your space, gentlemen, I will close by asking you to accept the enclosed price of a year's subscription to the NEW NATIONAL ERA AND CITIZEN, on the principle of "a little more salt, and not so much sugar, Agathy."

A SOUTHERN WHITE BOY.