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Fort Smith New Era, January-June 1865

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FORT SMITH NEW ERA
1865

[skips to January 21, 1865, from vol. 2, issue no. 9 to vol. 2, issue no. 10]

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, January 21, 1865, p. 3, c. 1

The Late Order of Evacuation.
Incidents Connected With It.
Its Revocation.

As is now well known, an order was received here about a month ago, by District Head Quarters, from General Canby, directing the evacuation of this District by the Federal troops who have held it since September, 1863.

It may well be imagined that it produced great consternation, bordering on despair, among the loyal portion of the people. Nobody was prepared for such a contingency as it was entirely unexpected and fell like a thunderbolt from a serene sky.

Of the cause of this order we will not speak, leaving every one to surmise for himself. It is true but little positive good to the cause, though not for a lack of good will on the part of the loyal people, had resulted from the occupation of North Western Arkansas, and it was also somewhat difficult at times to forward the necessary supplies. But the moral effect of abandoning a large tract of country held so long by the Federal arms and making Kansas and Missouri again the border would have been very damaging, to say nothing of the positive injury it would inevitably have inflicted upon those States; and with proper attention on the part of those charged with forwarding supplies, there would have been no need of suffering here on that account.

Five boats coming up from below shortly after the order became known, they were speedily filled to their utmost capacities by terrified men, women and children, all anxious to flee from the cruel fate that would await them under rebel rule. Quite a number took advantage of a train returning to Kansas and sought safety in that direction. The remaining people, which were still very numerous, made most energetic preparations to get away with the troops and devised various expedients for doing so. All who could, prepared teams, and quite a number was engaged in building flat boats in which they contemplated to float down the "raging Arkansaw" and seek safety beyond these bloody grounds. Of those who had gone off on the boats many had left behind comfortable homes completely furnished, and being unable to take with them much more than what was most urgently needed, they were compelled to leave it uncared for, or sell it at a mere song.

As to the apprehension, to be unable to get away, felt by a great many, we will incidentally remark that it was entirely unnecessary, having been assured ourselves by the General Commanding the District, that no one should be left behind that did not choose to do so.

There still remained a spark of hope that the united efforts of the State Executive, our Congressional Delegation, and other influential persons to obtain a reversal of the order would prove successful in view of its questionable judiciousness, and the heroic efforts of the doomed District in support of the Government. At last, and just in the nick of time, information was received here from Fayetteville, telegraphed thither from Washington, that the order had been revoked. It created a joyful sensation among those who were loth [sic] to give up their homes.

But still several days of anxious suspense elapsed before the information was corroborated, and even then, provisions being nearly all exhausted, the danger was not fully averted unless supplies arrived. This last obstacle was finally also happily removed by the arrival of abundant supplies, as noted elsewhere.

Gen. Halleck had, previous to the reception of the order of revocation itself, informed Gen. Thayer, the District Commander, of the fact, and in due time it arrived from Gen. Grant, through Department Head Quarters.

Our citizens will now again feel more at ease and with renewed energy seek to improve their condition and obliterate, as much as lies in their power, the ravages inflicted by war. Of those who left so precipitately many will be sorry for having done so and we hope we will soon see again many a familiar face now absent.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, January 21, 1865, p. 3, c. 2

Prisoners Exchanged.

Information has reached here that the Federal prisoners confined at Tyler, Texas, have been duly exchanged. Their rapturous joy, on being informed of the glad tidings, is said to have been indescribable. They produced the stars and stripes, which some patient sufferer had fondly preserved, and waved them proudly over their heads. They were sent to New Orleans. Among them were many belonging to the army of the Frontier and had fallen in rebel hands at the battle at the Saline river and other engagements in the late Camden expedition.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, January 28, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Shall We Have Any Gardens This Year?

It is painful to witness the indiscriminate destruction of fences, fruit trees, shrubbery, etc., all over town. This vandalism is mostly perpetrated by families from the country who have moved to town for protection and who have taken possession of houses lately vacated by their owners.

In another month or less the usual time for gardening will have arrived. The health of the people and troops will necessarily suffer for the want of the accustomed vegetable diet, if steps are not taken to put an end to this wanton destruction. There is no doubt that numbers of men and women would at once prepare for the approaching gardening season, if they had but some assurance that they were to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The pernicious practice of hauling fence rails from the adjoining farms to town for fuel, which was inaugurated more than a year ago, is again carried on to some extent this winter, when there is an abundance of the best wood within less than a mile from town. Every one of these rails will soon be needed, or *out to be, at least*, for we do not see why the farms in the immediate vicinity of the town cannot be cultivated.

We hope the town and country adjoining have seen the day of severest trial and may begin to look up again for a better future. It is at least worth a trial.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

The ladies of Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, have contributed nearly two thousand dollars for the benefit of the United States Christian Commission.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 11, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

Shocking Affair—Women Tortured—
Robbery, Murder & Arson—A "Reverend" in
Irons, etc., etc.

Six heavily ironed prisoners came up on the Lotus, day before yesterday, from Clarksville, among whom was G. W. Hutchinson, formerly Chaplain of the 1st Kansas Colored Inft. The names of the other five are W. B. Farmer, Co. A, 1st Ark. Cav., R. H. Atwell, Co. F, 2d Kans. Cav., John Sharks, Co. A, 2d Ark. Inft., John Hudson, citizen, and C. O. Kimball, citizen, formerly of the 2d Kans. Cav., and more recently a Lieutenant of the 2d Ark. Infantry.

Ex-Chaplain Hutchinson, who resigned his position in the army some time last spring, in order to follow the real bent of his inclinations with more leisure, stands charged with heavy swindling operations upon the Government and people. How far he is incriminated with the deeds of the other prisoners cannot be ascertained yet until a more thorough investigation of the whole case.

The other prisoners stand charged with torturing four respectable ladies over a slow fire till they were horribly mutilated about their heads, shoulders and feet and with ravishing them, from the effects of which one died and the others were made cripples for life. One of the prisoners also stands charged with additional crimes upon the body of one of the victims which pen would shudder to record.

The object of the cruel wretches was to obtain some money, a considerable amount of which these ladies were supposed to have in their possession. They lived about 75 miles below this place, in the vicinity of Clarksville. Three of the unfortunate victims are now at the latter place under medical treatment. Their houses were also burned down. Information was received here day before yesterday, that seven other persons had been put in irons at Clarksville, charged with being accomplices in the above crimes.

We give the details of this horrid affair as we received them from the officer who conducted the preliminary investigation at Clarksville. A full trial will undoubtedly develop all the facts in the case and justice be fully meted out.

Ex-Chaplain Hutchinson and C. O. Kimball were removed to Little Rock, yesterday, on board the Lotus.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 11, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

The Mass Meeting.

Pursuant to the notice previously given, a large assembly filled the spacious rooms of the Methodist Church at 2 P.M., last Thursday, and after a few pointed and eloquent remarks from Judge Milor, the convention was organized by electing Wm. H. Byers to the Chair and James Edmondson Secretary, and proceeded immediately to business by appointing a committee consisting of V. Dell, Judge Milor, John Holleman, Asa Clark, Henry Pape, John Lucy and Judge Howard, to draft resolutions expressing the object for which the call was made.

The committee submitted the following preamble and resolutions, which were read by the chairman, V. Dell:

Whereas, The loyal people of the city of Fort Smith and vicinity, are now and have been

for a time past, to a considerable degree, destitute of the necessaries of life from various causes, chief among whom is the appropriation for the use of the army, of corn, wheat, beef, etc., and the want of protection against guerrillas and other lawless persons, in carrying on farming operations; and,

Whereas, It is not only the duty, but also the interest of Government, to assist the truly loyal in retaining their foothold in the country, and thereby contributing largely to the restoration of obedience to the laws of the United States, and an early resumption of agriculture, trade and commerce; and,

Whereas, Western Arkansas has always signalized herself conspicuously in her attachment to the Union, by the rallying of thousands of her sons to the Standard of Liberty, and by the sacrifice of hundreds of others who fell victims to rebel tyranny and un placability [sic] simply for adhering to the cause of the Government of their choice; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a memorial be forthwith addressed to the President of the United States, setting forth the claims of the loyal people in these parts for temporary but speedy succor in the days of their adversity, to-wit: Either to cause sufficient supplies to be brought to this place, so as to allow citizens to purchase from the Commissary stores, without curtailing the rations of the troops, or to order supplies to be shipped here by Government agents, independent of the army, to be sold to the citizens under the superintendence of persons of known loyalty and integrity and at a rate fully reimbursing Government for the amount laid out.

Resolved, Further that the approval of the District Commander, the Governor of the State and of the Department Commander be obtained to the memorial.

Resolved, Further, that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to prepare the memorial in accordance with the tenor of the above preamble and resolutions, and that it be submitted to the committee on resolutions and the President of the meeting, to be signed by the latter and the Secretary in behalf of the meeting, and forwarded with all possible dispatch to its destination.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded to the Fort Smith *New Era* and one each to the papers at Little Rock, for publication.

Pending the adoption of the resolutions an individual made some very touching remarks about the *famine in Scotland*, (which, however, none but the eloquent speaker ever heard anything of,) and went off rambling over subjects that no one present cared anything about just then, till the meeting gave such evident signs of displeasure that the gentleman had to collapse.

The preamble and resolutions were then unanimously passed, a committee of three appointed, Messrs. Dell, Byers and Lucy, to prepare the memorial to President Lincoln, after which the convention adjourned *sine die*.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 11, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

Bold Outrage.

A small party of bushwhackers, variously estimated at from eight to twenty in number, seized a splendid team of grey horses, the property of Lieut. S. S. Smith, Quartermaster 18th Iowa, on the road from this place to Van Buren, on the afternoon of the 7th inst.

They took out the horses, leaving the wagon in the road, at the same time allowing the driver to proceed on his way, unharmed, although the report at first was, that he had been killed.

The robbers also unhorsed several women whom they met about the same time and sent

them off on foot.

This is a rather cool affair, when we consider that it was done in broad daylight, between two towns only five miles apart and on the telegraph road, so much frequented at all times.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 11, 1865, p. 3, c. 1

Returned from Rebel Prison.—A number of men of the command here, who had been taken prisoner in the campaign last spring, came up from below this week, after having been duly paroled. They were received with demonstration of hearty welcome by their old companions in arms.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 1, 1865, p. 3, c. 2

Memorial.

Fort Smith, Feb. 5th, 1865.

At a special meeting of the officers of the 12th Kansas Vol's, convened at Fort Smith, Ark., on the 3d of Feb. 1865, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, On the 30th of April, 1864, Lieut. Col. J. E. Hayes, 12th Kans. Vols., while gallantly leading his Reg't against the enemy at the battle of Jenkin's Ferry, was so severely wounded that his left thigh had to be immediately amputated; and,

Whereas, The said Lieut. Col. Hayes was then captured, and is now held as a prisoner of war, and has during the last nine months suffered the indignities and privations to which our brave and patriotic soldiers have been subjected, while in the hands of rebels, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the officers of the 12th Kans. Vols., earnestly and most respectfully ask of Maj. Gen. J. J. Reynolds, Commanding Department of Arkansas, that if consistent with his military duties, he will use his efforts to effect the release or exchange of Lieut. Col. Hayes.

Resolved, That we cherish the hope that he will soon be restored to liberty and be permitted to return once more to the fond embraces of his companions in arms against the enemies of our country.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forthwith forwarded to Maj. Gen. Reynolds, Commanding Department of Arkansas, through proper military channels.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to forward copies of these resolutions to the Fort Smith *New Era*, Leavenworth *Conservative*, Leavenworth *Times*, and Olathe *Mirror*, with a request for publication.

Surg. C. R. Stuckslager, Pres.

Capt. P. J. Miserez, Sec.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 18, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Registration of Resident Citizens.—We were surprised, after the exodus of the past year which took away so many thousands of people, to find the number still remaining so large. Up to noon yesterday 267 resident citizens gave their names at the Provost Marshal's office, in accordance with an order to that effect, and the enrolling is still going on at a brisk rate.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, February 25, 1865, p. 4, c. 1

[From the Springfield (Ill.) Journal.]
Refugees from Arkansas—Their Trip—
Shameful Treatment by the Central
Railroad.

Messrs. Editors Journal:

In consequence of the order to evacuate Fort Smith, Ark., the Union citizens were compelled to leave the place by whatever means they could procure. Three boats were filled immediately and started to Little Rock, carrying away, however, but a small number of those wanting to go. When we reached Little Rock, we were ordered by Maj. Gen. Reynolds to take charge of four hundred and seventy-eight of these people, including some thirty orphan children, who were collected by chaplain Springer in the vicinity of Fort Smith. The steamer R. J. Lockwood was ordered to transport us to Cairo, Ill., and at the same time we received an order on the Quartermaster's Department for "all necessary transportation to Springfield, Illinois."

We started from Little Rock Jan. 1st, at 1 o'clock P.M.; followed the Arkansas river to its mouth, thence to Memphis and Cairo. At the former place we had about one hundred persons crowded into our already over packed boat. Of the number now on board we had not fifty men all told, and as a general thing we had the pleasure of commanding and executing our own orders. The party were mostly helpless women and children, in a very destitute condition, poorly clad, some barefoot, many without a change of clothes, few enjoying robust health, and about sixty on sick report.

We reached Cairo Jan. 8th, where we found Mr. Stites, Refugee Agent, and his kind lady, ready to assist us to the extent of their means. They furnished us about two hundred dollars worth of clothing, which came just tin time to cover naked bodies that shield the little ones from the rude blast of a Northern winter, for on the 9th we had a darkning [sic] snowstorm.

Here we were most kindly assisted by Col. Sprague, commanding post, who, by counsel and command, did all in his power to alleviate our suffering party. His affectionate interest and christian-like sympathy endeared him to our hearts.

At Cairo, about two hundred and fifty of the ablest on board parted from us for different points in the West, leaving us about two hundred and seventy-five, who afterwards divided into smaller companies. We received transportation tickets on the Illinois Central railroad to Macon only, though our order was to Springfield.

At 12, A.M., Jan. 11th, we were ordered off the Lockwood into the depot of the I. G. R. R., and without help from the agents of the Road, carried our baggage and helpless ones at least two hundred yards, up the wharf, an inclination of near thirty degrees. When we had piled all into the depot, we were informed that we could not start until the next day. It being now night we covered our sick and little ones with blankets and next morning found us all alive, but with prospects gloomy before us. The snow at that time was four inches deep and the air cold. We went to the agents to ask for comfortable cars for our sick at least, but were coolly informed that such were for *passengers only*. We insisted, but to no avail, though we had passenger car tickets in our hands, and our party had procured over one hundred in all, of the same sort.

At 9 o'clock, A.M., we were ordered on board a train of box cars, without stoves or any means of heating. Our emaciated crew had not felt fire for the last twenty hours, and were shivering with cold. To remain we saw no help, to go was to suffer. The order of the agent was urgent, *particularly so*, and we were *piled in*. All on board the hog train, we moved on to the switch, where, with other freight, we stood four hours. Set off at 1 P.M., and in twenty-four

hours we reached Richview, a station ninety miles from Cairo. Here we were again "switched off" to await the arrival and passing of passenger trains. By this time four persons, two adults, widows, and two of our orphan children, had perished with cold. Horrible but true!

At Richview we asked the favor of making a little coffee for the suffering, on the stove of Mr. Howard, the hotel keeper, but no entreaty of ours could prevail, though we told him our children were freezing and starving. His stove like the comfortable cars, was occupied for *regular passengers*. But, thank God, a kind family assisted us.

At Centralia, we met with kind hearts, and our dead were taken for interment. The agent of the road at this point seeing our condition, condemned the agents at Cairo, in decided terms, furnished us with a good locomotive, and a man who could drive it, and we were hurried through to Decatur.

At daylight on the 14th we vacated the train and were permitted by the proprietor of the Railroad Hotel, Mr. Slaughter, to put our party into the ladies' sitting room of the depot.

When we came to unload we found a lady had perished, leaving three orphan children, one of whom was only three months old. This was now five who had perished in the Illinois Central Railroad box cars.

We had now been forty-six hours in that terrible condition, under the control of the Road.

We had not all of our party in the room before the kind people of Decatur sprang to our relief and showered blessings on our suffering. Never did the tears of gratitude sooner dim our eyes than on that morning. All that day the ladies pressed their attentions upon us. God bless them!

At six o'clock, P.M., we were furnished by Mr. Knap, the Superintendent, with transportation and cars with already heated stoves, to Springfield, on the G. W. R. R.

During our trip from Little Rock we had 13 deaths, one a crazy man, leaped overboard and was drowned. Since our arrival we are cheered by the kindness of your citizens who seem more anxious to supply our wants.

The destitution of these people is great; they need food, clothes, home, and your sympathies, but from what we have already seen, we are assured that Springfield will be second to none in this good work of helping the poor. We invite all to come and see the needs of these people for themselves.

J. H. Leard,
Chaplain and Agent for Refugees.
J. D. Wood,
As't Surg. 2d K. C. Infy in charge of sick.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 1

Sale of the Sanitary Sack.—The sack of Sanitary flour, which was sold at the Merchant's Exchange yesterday for \$3,775, was put up again to-day by the last purchaser, and sold for \$1,000, to M. S. Mephram, for the People's and Merchant's Line or New Orleans Packets—a new line of magnificent boats that will soon be ready to start regularly for the Crescent city. The sack was again sold, and re-sold, realizing \$1,600 this morning. This money will all be appropriated to the benefit of the Soldier's Orphans' Home.—St. Louis Dispatch.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 1

Partial Exemption of Refugees from Draft.—The War Department has decided that when ever it has been clearly proved that refugees have been driven away from their homes, and are

but temporarily residing within the lines of the Union army, they shall be exempt from draft. Refugees who have voluntarily left the rebellious States, and taken up their residence within our lines, shall not be allowed exemption from military duty.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 3

The Following Explains Itself:

Office of the N. E. L. P. Society }
Boston, Jan. 28th, 1865. }

To the Editor of New Era, Fort Smith, Ark.

Sir:--The Directors of the New England Loyal Publication Society request you to favor them with a reply to the following questions:

1. Have you made use of the broadsides which the Society has heretofore sent you, in the making up of your paper; and if so, have you made use of them frequently or seldom?
2. Are the opinions which the Society has maintained in its publications generally acceptable in your region?
3. What is the feeling in your neighborhood in regard to the admission of the freed blacks to the rights of citizenship?

Per order,

J. B. Thayer,
Secretary.

Here are our answers to the above questions:

1. We have made use of the Society's broadsides frequently and have, besides, distributed occasionally a little Greek fire of our own manufacture. Bye the bye, we have not seen any of your "broadside" for a considerable time. Hope your guns are not spiked.
2. They are decidedly so to loyal men, but poison to rebels.
3. There are not many darkies left here, nearly all the able-bodied men are carrying the musket and the women and children have gone North.

But our own individual opinion concerning the admission of the freed blacks to the right of suffrage (for that is really the badge of citizenship) is, that the color of the skin should not be an obstacle, if the mind is sufficiently elevated to exercise that right with safety. Had there been more education among the masses in the South, the instigators of this rebellion could never have bamboozled the mass of the people into the suicidal step which they took.

For our own part we would advocate a certain mental standard to be adopted for the privilege of taking part in the Government of the Nation, and we do not hesitate in saying that a person incapable to write his own name, or to read and understand plain print, had better go to his spelling book and copy book, ere he give his time to matters of state. We are in favor of making reading and writing the qualification necessary for a voter, in place of the stupid, unchristian and barbarous distinction of the color of the skin.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 3

The 13th Kansas Infantry will leave in a day or two. We understand they are to be posted at St. Charles, on White river.

The 12th Kansas Infantry will be stationed at Little Rock on Provost duty.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

Look Out for Them.—General Sanborn, commanding the District of Southwest Missouri, has issued an order, enumerating the names of *one hundred and forty-eight* persons, men and women, who, with their families, are banished from the district. They are ordered to remove to a distance of fifty miles from the boundaries of the district, on or before the 10th of February. The banished persons are accused of "feeding and harboring bushwhackers."

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

The Celebration of the 4th of March.

There will be a mass meeting of the loyal people of this city and vicinity, this afternoon at 2 o'clock on the parade ground in the Garrison in honor of the inauguration this day of Abraham Lincoln into the 2nd term of the Presidential office, and the splendid victories lately achieved by the National Armies. Let no citizen or soldier fail to attend. A number of speakers are expected to address the meeting, among them, Generals Bussey and Edwards.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Provost Marshal's Circular.

We direct the attention of our readers to the above named document, published in another column. The necessity for at once establishing a rigid policing system, in and about town, is very urgent, and unless the directions and orders contained in the Circular are rigidly carried out, fatal diseases must inevitably follow with the approaching warm weather. The stench arising from the large number of dead horse, mules, etc., below Fort No. 4, is already so great that the residents in that neighborhood are greatly annoyed by it.

Since writing the above, we understand that the latter nuisance is in progress of being removed.

Seventy-five carcasses of horses, mules, etc., were tumbled into the river yesterday and the remainder of the "breastwork," 56 ditto, will have been disposed of ere the readers' eyes fall upon this.

The carcasses in other parts of the city have been buried 4 feet deep.

This diligent discharge of duty on the part of the Provost Marshal is worthy of all commendation.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

A Letter.

Fort Smith, March 2d, 1865.

Editor New Era:

Please permit me, through the columns of your paper, to say a few words in relation to charges and specifications that have been alleged against me, charging me with being a soldier in the Confederate army and being a spy in this place, which is all a falsehood. There are numbers of citizens and soldiers in and about this city that has known me from my boyhood. At the time

of the rebellion here I done all in my power to keep out of the army, and when I left the country I made my way into Mexico and it is a pleasant climate and well adapted for vegetation, but seeing that the crowned heads of Europe are taking hold of that country, I left it, for *oligarchies* I do despise. I cast my lot in this country because it is a Republican government. If I have enemies here they must be but few and far between. I have no malice at no person whatever, but I would here say to my enemies, if any I have, that the pigmy effort of a puny opposition is no more regarded by me than the howling winds that whistle through the wintry trees, and I would say in all sincerity and truth, "lay on McDuff and damned be him who first cries hold, enough."

I will now close, by saying that I will again repeat that I have no malice or animosity towards none of my fellow citizens. I am loyal towards the Government of the United States, if I was otherwise I would not be here. I now close by saying I hope you will publish this for me, as I expect to pay you for the same.

Michael McNamee.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 4, 1865, p. 3, c. 4

New Drug Store.

The undersigned has re-opened his Drug Store at his old stand, next door to the Post Office, and has on hand a

Fresh Lot of Choice Medicines,

Patent Medicines,

Perfumeries,"

Toilet Articles,

Stationery, &c.

Also Smoked Glass, for Sore and Weak Eyes.

Prescriptions carefully and scientifically put up.

J. E. Bennett, M. D.,
Late of the U. S. Army.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 11, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Another Sign of Returning Life.

Within the last eight or ten days we sent nearly \$5,000 to the Commission House of Jones & McDowell, at Little Rock, to be expended in procuring supplies for this place, at the North. The above amount was contributed by 26 families, thus averaging not far from \$200 to each family and goes to show that there are some means in the country yet and that people are determined to stick to Fort Smith, in the hope of seeing better times. Merchants of St. Louis or Cincinnati, who, before the war, were so eager to secure the large trade of this place, would probably find it to their interest to have their business made known through the columns of the *New Era*.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 11, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Soldier's Gardens.

A portion of the rich lands of the Duval farm, below the city, has been set apart for soldier's gardens. Each company is to have ground enough to raise all they need in the vegetable line. Gen. Bussey has telegraphed to St. Louis for seeds of all kinds, including potatoes and they are already on the way to this place. With full rations and plenty of garden stuff besides, the boys will have a fine time and grow fat.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 11, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

Returning Feeling of Security. Improvement Began.

With the change for the better, of the Military Administration in this section of our State, the signs of awakening enterprise and improvement are visible everywhere.

The people, confident of being protected to the utmost extent of the military authorities, are going in good earnest to make the surrounding country smile once more in plenty. Several companies have formed to take up and cultivate a large amount of the best land in this and Crawford counties, and at the same time protect each other against all trespassers.

J. B. Hollaman has organized a company of about 50 loyal men who have taken up and are cultivating the Rector Plantation, and nearly all the excellent farms in the river bottom.

At Van Buren a similar movement is on foot under the superintendence of Captain Geo. E. Miller, who has about 150 men organized into a company. Besides these, the families of men of the 2d. Ark. Infantry, are to be colonized upon the best abandoned farms in Crawford county, and many individuals are going to work independently on farms in the vicinity of Van Buren and this city. It may therefore be safely inferred, that abundance of grain etc., will be raised this season to supply all the wants of the citizens, and leave a surplus for consumption by the army.

The recent order of Gen'l Bussy, under instructions from Dep't Head Quarters, permitting farmers to purchase the necessary grain and provisions from Government, has had a very salutary and beneficial effect, and will amply repay for all the trouble and outlay incurred. Let the motto of the people henceforth be "onward and upward."

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 11, 1865, p. 4, c. 2

To Encourage the Growth of Hair and Prevent its Turning Gray.—A young lady friend of mine was recommended by a *coiffeur* to use sage water. She was obliged to discontinue daily use, as it made her hair too thick. Pour boiling water on the sage leaves, and let them remain some time in the oven or near a stove; strain and apply to the roots of the hair daily. If any pomade is needed, an equal mixture of cocoa-nut and olive oils, with a little perfume, is very efficacious.—London Field.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 11, 1865, p. 4, c. 3

Loyalty.—"To volunteer life and liberty for the country; to stand fast when leaders are incompetent, and armies reel away in panic before the foe; to send off to the field, as bravely consenting women do husbands, sons and brothers, the props and protectors of home; to wrestle day and night in prayer, as Christian souls are wont, bearing the nation as their secret burden, when from sex, age or infirmity they cannot do more; to come forward as protectors and helpers

of the children made fatherless; to give money and prepare expeditions of love to mitigate the hardships of the wounded in the hospital; to vote with religious fidelity for what will help and save the country, rising wholly above mercenary motives and selfish trammels of party—this, and nothing less than this, is loyalty."—Bushnell.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

Explanation.

We are frequently compelled, for want of room to omit much interesting matter, original and telegraphic. Owing to the size of our press, we are obliged to strike off the outside of the paper in the middle of the week, leaving us but the inside for editorials, latest telegraphic dispatches, letter list, communications etc.

This is extremely inconvenient. An enlargement of our paper is therefore, a very urgent measure. But how to do it and make it pay is the question. Owing to the wholesale exodus to the North of a great portion of the loyal people of this vicinity, our list of subscribers has dwindled down to *less than one hundred* and the sale of the paper on the street is, and has been for many months, very small, the troops not having been paid off for eight months. Of advertisements, by which alone newspapers are maintained in a flourishing condition, we have but few transient ones, and some times none at all.

Small as our paper is, the expenses connected with it have been for a long time double the receipts, *leaving no margin for ourselves*. The only means of keeping up our paper, which has for its sole object the promulgation of truth, and the support of the sacred cause of our Government, is Job-work, from which we receive vouchers, which have to be submitted to the War Department first for approval before they acquire any value at all; and even then the collection of the amount due is difficult, and accompanied by many vexatious circumstances. We have, for instance, a voucher approved last September and ordered to be paid by the Secretary of War, for work done more than a year ago, which could not be collected yet to the present day.

We have not received yet, a cent of pay for the Government work done since the 1st, of August last, amounting, however, to a mere trifle.

Thus we have had to contend, ever since we started the NEW ERA, with obstacles that seemed often insurmountable. Besides receiving the cordial hatred of the rebel element and all its sympathisers [sic], we have been equally bitterly opposed by a set of corruptionists in office, who under a former Administration constantly dreaded exposure of their misdeeds, when they found they could not buy us up.

But, we trust, a better time has come. The radical and most wholesome reforms that have taken place within the last few weeks in the most important military offices, not only here, but all over the Department, offers a guarantee, that in common with the whole country, we also may expect a brighter future, and our friends, the *loyal* and *honest* men of every station, may rest assured, that we will ever battle for their rights and the maintenance of our holy cause.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 1, c. 3

The Indian Territories.

A bill has been reported in Congress to organize the fine territories west of us, so as to open them to white settlers. This is "a consummation devoutly to be wished" and would at once open a brilliant future to Fort Smith. These territories contain some of the finest lands to be found any where, have a delicious climate, and immense mineral wealth of coal, lead, copper etc., and even *Petroleum*. Of the latter article we know two springs ourselves, in which the oil bubbles up in considerable quantities and which were frequently resorted to long before the discovery of the present oil regions, by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, for the cure of chronic rheumatism and kindred diseases.

We know also of at least one lead, and one copper mine in the choctaw [sic] and chickasaw [sic] nations. Some ten years ago an Englishman, on a sporting tour through the wilds of the great west, brought to this place a wagon load of copper ore, that he picked up near the Canadien [sic], about 200 miles west of this place. He shipped it all the way to liverpool [sic] and it paid there, for the heavy expences [sic] of its long journey.

The Choctaw's [sic] and Chickasaw's [sic], having been extremely disloyal almost to a man, and levied cruel war upon the loyal white settlements [sic] along the line, have certainly forfeited every claim to be treated as seperate [sic] nations under the protection of the United States Government. The few loyal individuals in those nations would hail the carrying out of the measure before congress [sic] with great delight, as it would save them from being exterminated by their rebel neighbors, and at the same time greatly advance their material interests.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

The Southern refugees in Canada are swearing vengeance for the passage of the alien bill by the Canadian Parliament.

A letter has been sent to the station master, at Windsor, threatening that unless the United States Consul's office was removed, the depot buildings would be in ashes in three days. A military force now guards the buildings.

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About 100 men, women and children came up from Little Rock, a few days ago, to cultivate what is known as the Burrows farm, on Frog Bayou, 13 miles below Van Buren. They were utterly destitute of means, except what had been supplied to them by Government, at Little Rock.

Gen. Bussey ordered them up, rightly judging, that at so great distance from our lines they could not receive the necessary protection from the military and that any improvements they would make on the lands, would only be so much aid to guerrillas, who would be certain to seize upon the fruits of their industry and inflict upon them great suffering.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

Then and Now!
How are the Mighty Fallen!

Nearly four years ago, we found ourselves one fine day, standing upon the river bank near the foot of Garrison Avenue, in the midst of a dense crowd, listening to the bombastic effusions of a large plethoric individual dressed in uniform. There was drawn up in line quite a little army of the chivalrous sons of the South and in their new uniforms and arms but recently

purloined from one of Uncle Sam's arsenals, looked very find and proud.—They had a good reason to be proud. Five boat loads of them had just arrived and taken possession of the Garrison and put to flight two small companies of United States troops, numbering in all, eighty men. They burned of course, to signalize their valor in defense of the man-stealer's rights and the maintenance of the "peculiar institution," in all its beauty.

The speaker who addressed them, and many citizens, was very fierce in his denunciations of the "dastardly Lincoln hirelings," and exhausted the entire vocabulary of fashionable secesh slang to "fire the Southern heart." Cotton was King—the great powers of the Earth were compelled to bow low at the footstool of Secessia and recognize the new government at once.

The Almighty himself, was, of course, on their side and smiled graciously on their undertaking and all that sort of stuff.

The same individual, who delivered this blood and thunder speech at that time, we observed standing on the guard of a steamboat one day this week looking straight at the spot, where he declaimed so furiously a few years ago, and from which he was only a few yards distant. He was no longer the robust, hearty and important looking chap of old, but pale, thin, dilapidated and broken down in fortune and person, a true representative of the fortunes of the South.

It was General Burrows, once a well known fire eater, who in 1861, at the head of a large force of rebels took possession of the Garrison here, and caused the stars and stripes to be supplanted by the rebel rag.

Whether the Ex-General meditated upon the transitoriness of all things sublunary or felt any stings of remorse at his own share of this unspeakable misery brought upon the Nation, we are unable to say. The *events* of the past must certainly have come back to his memory in vivid light and we trust that their logic has made him a wiser, if not a better man.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

The Refugees.

Notwithstanding the thousands upon thousands of persons who have left here for the North during the past twelve months, by every train, boat and other means of conveyance, there are still several thousands of refugees here utterly dependent upon Government for support.

The question of providing the means of subsistence for this class of people, without stinting the troops and Government employees, necessary for the public service, has been, and is still very embarrassing to the authorities.

It appears from the proper returns that nearly as many rations are issued to refugees at this point, Van Buren and Fayetteville as to the troops. Should it therefore happen, that the supplies fall short, and navigation be interrupted, as it has been the case frequently, both the troops and helpless refugees, consisting nearly altogether of women and children, would equally suffer.

We understand that the Department Commander, at once in justice to the troops, the interest of the service, and as an act of mercy to those unfortunate ones, who have been deprived of their all by the ravages of a ruthless war, has earnestly advised the removal of all those unable to provide the means of subsistence, to places where Government is able to take care of them at all times, and from whence they may have an opportunity, gradually to procure homes of their own.

That this measure is dictated by the laws of humanity, and the best interests of the service, no thinking person will for a moment doubt.

The river is getting low, navigation, uncertain and the addition of a considerable body of troops, which will shortly take place here, will render the discontinuance of supporting thousands of helpless women and children an imperative military necessity.

The troops must either be fed, or the place evacuated. As the latter contingency will not for a moment be entertained, it behooves all those, who depend upon Government for supplies, to avoid great prospective suffering by embracing the opportunities offered to remove to points where they can, and will be cared for properly.

A word to the wise is sufficient.

In regard to those engaged to the "Labor colonies," they will receive all the assistance offered in Order No. 11, as soon as the rolls of the companies are properly made out and the commanding officer has the assurance that none but those actually engaged in farming, are the recipients of its favor.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

Asylum of Saints.

The *Conservative*, of Leavenworth, Kansas, in one of its recent numbers, applies the above term to Fort Smith.

We are truly glad to be able to inform the *Conservative* that *nearly all* the "Saints" have lately been shipped to other parts, mostly back to Kansas. They were loth [sic] to leave their "Asylum," in which they had revelled [sic] with unlimited license, till the stench of their corruption had spread all over the land. The good people of Kansas owe these "Saints," who have brought disgrace and shame upon their fair State, a hempen cravat, or something of the kind.

If the *Conservative* desires to know more about these "Saints," he can post himself in regard to them by perusing a production of an excellent Kansas soldier, entitled "The Satanic Council," published at Lawrence.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 18, 1865, p. 3, c. 2

An able-bodied correspondent thus speaks of the sound which issues from the throats of the rebels as they rush to defeat: "Imagine a concatenation of equine, canine, bovine, porcine and gallinaceous utterances, with an Indian war-whoop thrown in, and you have only an approximate conception of this howl called the rebel battle cry."

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 1, c. 1-4

From Fayetteville.

Fayetteville, Ark., }
March 15, 1865. }

Editor *New Era*:

Col. Harrison, commanding at this place, has recently set on foot a movement for the benefit of Northwestern Arkansas, which promises to be an entire success and must result in

much good.

Since the outbreak of the rebellion, the people here have lived an isolated life, without any adequate protection, and have been a prey, not only to rebel armies and bushwhackers, but to straggling soldiers of our own army, until many have been reduced to absolute want.

At the commencement of the present year, Col. H. began to organize the farmers into armed agricultural communities, which are called "Post Colonies," on the following plan:

The men of the different settlements are enrolled and consolidated into Home Guard companies, who elect their officers, are mustered into service and armed. They then select a site where water and pasturage are abundant and where, within a radius of a few miles, may be found from 1,000 to 4,000 acres of cultivated land, upon which no rent is allowed to be charged; they then are furnished with a plan of a fort, block house, or stockade, which is built at once and within it a store house, for ammunition and provisions.

The families are moved to the neighborhood and temporary houses built for them within a short distance of the fort. Civil law is to be administered by the officers of the colonies, according to the statute of Arkansas, until such time as civil officers can be chosen. An order is issued establishing the colony and a safeguard furnished for the protection of its persons and property.

No property is held in common, but as much land as each family desires is parceled out to it, by vote of the members. Most of the colonies already number from seventy to one hundred men, under arms. No crops will be raised, except under their direction and if the "bushwhackers" wish to live off the country they will have to purchase their board at a generous expenditure of powder and lead.

The following colonies have already been established, which are working in good earnest, viz: Union Valley, Walnut Grove, Mountain, Prairie, West Fork, Middle Fork, Mt. Comfort, Elm Spring, Bentonville, Pea Ridge, Osage, Huntsville, War Eagle, Richland and Brush Creek. Any persons interested in the workings of this system are requested to visit Capt. Bethel Counts, at Richland.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Washington county was held at Fayetteville, on the 4th inst., which was addressed by major Worthington, Hon. M. Shortess, of Benton, col. Harrison, J. H. Wilson, and Hon. J. M. Gilstrap, of Washington county.

On the 9th a similar convention was held at Huntsville, Madison county, which was addressed by Col. Harrison and Rev. Reuben North.

On the 13th a convention was held at Bentonville, which was addressed by Hon. M. Shortess.

The following report of the proceedings of the Madison county convention has been furnished for publication. The preamble and resolutions published below, were unanimously adopted at the Benton county convention and those of a similar purport by that in Washington county, but copies of the proceedings have not yet been furnished for the press.

Proceedings of Mass Meeting, Held March
9th, 1865, in Huntsville, Ark.

At a convention of the loyal citizens of Madison county, Ark., held at Huntsville, the county seat, March 9th, 1865, and which was called to order by Hon. R. H. Wimpy, Hon. George W. Seamons, of Huntsville, was called to the Chair and Lieut. W. S. Woodbridge, 1st Ark. Cav., appointed Secretary.

A committee on resolutions was then appointed, consisting of the following named gentlemen: E. Haynes, John N. Bivins, J. W. Wilkinson, J. A. Jay, and Lieut. Woodbridge.

The convention was then addressed by Col. Harrison and Rev. Reuben North, after which the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The existence of war in our country, for the past few years, has turned loose among us swarms of guerillas and robbers, who have infested our mountains and valleys to such an extent as to render insecure the lives and property of peaceful citizens, and

Whereas, The raids of large armies through Northwestern Arkansas, during each successive summer and autumn, since the commencement of the war, have rendered it impossible for the citizens to concentrate and combine, in sufficient numbers, for the protection of themselves, their families, and their property, and

Whereas, We see in the signs of the times—the repeated victories of the National armies and the disheartening of our enemies—the promise of a speedy return of peace in our distracted and desolated country; and,

Whereas, We feel assured that the countermanding, by President Lincoln, of the order for the abandonment of Northwestern Arkansas, the long continued and successful defense of the line of the Arkansas river, and the retaining of the garrison at the Post of Fayetteville, are guarantees for our protection against any subsequent raids of large armies over the country north of the Arkansas river; and,

Whereas, In our opinion, we will, by energy and united effort, be able to rid our section of the State of guerrillas, bushwhackers and thieves, and thereby assist in restoring peace to Arkansas, as well as bring it within our power to support our families unmolested; and,

Whereas, By the constant inroads of the rebel forces, during the past season, into this section of our State, rendering necessary the presence, in larger or smaller numbers, of the National forces, which have consumed a large amount of our provisions, in some cases not leaving sufficient bread and meat for our families, and paying us less than one half the amount required to replace the same; and,

Whereas, Hundreds of the loyal young men of this county have shown their attachment to the Union of our fathers, by volunteering their services in the National army, for its defense; and,

Whereas, There are now in this county three hundred citizens enrolled and armed for home defense, and for the enforcement of the laws of the United States; and,

Whereas, The extent of country embraced in Northwestern Arkansas, comprising the counties of Benton, Washington, Madison, Carroll, Newton, Marion and Searcy, is too large to be properly defended by the eleven companies of the 1st Ark. Cav., Vols., now stationed in this section; and,

Whereas, The failure thus far, on the part of Congress, to recognize the present State government of Arkansas, has rendered that government practically inoperative and caused hundreds of Union citizens to leave the State and prevented the enforcement of civil law; and,

Whereas, The recognition of the present State government of Arkansas by the National Congress, would be a barren measure if unaccompanied by the restoration of civil law,
Therefore,

Resolved, That we deprecate the removal from our midst of the citizens of Northwestern Arkansas, and earnestly entreat all good and loyal people to remain and assist in restoring peace and prosperity to Arkansas, and that we request all such, who have removed temporarily to Northern States, to return at once to their homes.

Resolved, That we hail as a harbinger of better days the system adopted by the military

authorities of Northwestern Arkansas, of arming and organizing the loyal citizens into "Post colonies," or agricultural communities, and believe that the energetic seconding, on our part, of this movement, will eventuate in securing to us the boon of peace, which we so much desire, and enable us not only to save our families from plunder and starvation, but put it in our power to place a large surplus of our crop, the ensuing season, at the disposal of the Government.

Resolved, That whenever our former neighbors and friends who have heretofore been in arms against us, surrender themselves and their arms to the military commander of this Post and give evidence of a heartfelt desire to restore the National authority and to become honest and peaceful citizens, we will lay aside all former animosity and consent to receive them once more as repenting prodigals to the home of their father.

Resolved, That we, the loyal citizens of Northwestern Arkansas, are entitled to the full protection and benefit of the laws of the United States which we hereby pledge ourselves, as far as in our power, to uphold.

Resolved, That having not only seen, but felt the blighting effect of slavery, on Republican institutions, we hail with delight the passage of the Constitutional amendment, abolishing slavery in the United States, firmly believing that the overthrow of that institution will hasten the downfall of the rebellion.

Resolved, That we believe that it would be nothing more than just if the families of those citizens of Northwestern Arkansas, who are proving their loyalty by their works, were permitted to draw from the U. S. Commissary, at Fayetteville, sufficient meat and bread to sustain themselves until the present crop comes in, as almost all of them would have had sufficient provisions, had they not been consumed by the National forces.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the ability and integrity of President Lincoln and his constitutional advisers, and firmly believe that he will, by the aid of the brave soldiers and sailors of our army and navy, overthrow, and that shortly, this causeless rebellion.

Resolved, That we respectfully request of the Commanding General of the 3d Division, 7th Army Corps, if in his power, to allow us the loan of a sufficient supply of oats for seed in Northwestern Arkansas, (the Government forage trains and the enemy having taken all that were raised in this section during the last season) and that we will agree to return to the Government, on the gathering of the present crop, an equivalent for such seed as may be furnished.

Resolved, That we respectfully urge the Commanding General of the 3d Division to send to Northwestern Arkansas, for the better protection of the loyal citizens thereof, and for the enforcement, if possible, of civil law therein, at least half a Regiment, in addition to the present force, and that said force, if possible, be composed of Arkansas troops; and furthermore, that we most respectfully request that the 1st Ark. Cav. Vol's be allowed to remain in this section of the country, their acquaintance with and interest in it, being naturally more extensive and stronger than that of any other command.

Resolved, That we respectfully urge upon the attention of the present Congress, the vital necessity of recognizing the present State government of Arkansas and of admitting to seats in that body our lawfully elected Senators and Representatives.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be and hereby are tendered to Col. M. La Rue Harrison, 1st Ark. Cav. Vol's, for the interest taken by him in this section of the country and for his untiring efforts to restore peace and harmony therein.

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to President Lincoln, Governor Murphy, Gen. Bussey, our Division Commander, and for publication, to the Missouri *Democrat* and Fort Smith *New Era*.

Three hearty cheers were then given for Colo. Harrison and three for the Colonies, when the meeting adjourned.

G. W. Seamons, Pres't.

W. S. Woodbridge, Sec'y.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, let me request of all persons interested in the future prosperity of our State, to visit the "Post Colonies" of Northwestern Arkansas.

Respectfully, yours,

One Who Has Been There.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Notice to Farmers.

Persons desirous of cultivating abandoned lands in this District will have to apply to the Local Special Agent, Treasury Department, at this place for permits.

We understand that it has been arranged to let persons and families, cultivating but a small tract of land with their own hands, have the ground free of charge this year; but that for plantations and farms worked by hired help, rent will have to be paid to Government.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

The Cherokee Tomahawk.

This is the formidable name of a little sheet, whose publication has recently been commenced at Fort Gibson, C. N., by Thos. O'Bryan. We hope it will *tomahawk* without mercy some of those scoundrels who have been carrying on an extensive system of jayhawking all through the Nation—for a long time past.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Capt. Tough.

This notorious individual, who held the position of Chief of Secret Service of the District of the Frontier, under the "Satanic" clique last year, was arrested at Fort Scott lately and taken to Leavenworth. His large and fine trains of four mule wagons, with which he carried on a lucrative freighting business and which he acquired by his robberies in Arkansas, were at the same time seized by Government. Amen and Amen!!

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Telegraph to Little Rock.

The work of putting up the wires between Little Rock and this place was commenced some time ago from the latter place, and is about completed. This improvement is important, not only in a military point of view, but also to the loyal people, as the force guarding the lines will at the same time afford protection to them.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

Col. M. La Rue Harrison, 1st Ark. Cavalry, commanding at Fayetteville, was in town this week, and has left again for his command.

The Colonel gives a flattering account of the system of labor colonies established in Northwestern Arkansas, under his direction. These colonies number in all about 1,600 arms bearing men, and live in communities of from 50 to 100 families. Each colony is amply prepared to repel any number of guerillas that may seek their destruction, and many thousands of acres of the best land is being put under cultivation by them.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

Rebel Fiendishness.

A party of guerrillas went to the house of an old couple, living near Sommerville, not far from Memphis, and demanded their money. Upon their refusal, they hung the old man, tied the clothes over the old lady's head and applied fire to her body. Compelled by these horrible tortures, she at last disclosed where the money was secreted, which the devils took and decamped.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

We visited one day this week, the camp of the 18th Iowa Vol. Inf. situated in the pleasant grounds of the Catholic convent, near this city. The Regiment is remodeling its quarters for the approaching warm weather, which, when completed, will be very comfortable and convenient ones. Scrupulous cleanliness, reigns all through the camp. The 18th Iowa, have been stationed here since '63, participated in the Camden expedition, and have gained the respect and good will of all loyal citizens. Many of them, we expect, will make Arkansas their permanent home at the expiration of their term of service, judging from the many *alliances* they contracted with Arkansas *damsels*.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

We direct the attention of our readers to the communication of Rev. Francis Springer, Post Chaplain, in relation to the establishing of a school for the orphans of Arkansians, who died in the service of their country.

The enterprise is a most laudable and charitable one, and ought to receive the support of every patriot.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 3, c. 1

V. Dell, Editor New Era:

Thousands of loyal Arkansians, also yourself, will be glad to learn that a project has been conceived for the care and education of the many children reduced to orphanages by the rigors of the present war.

The following initial agreement for the organization of an institution for the benefit of orphan children, is offered for publication in your paper, in order that the benevolent purpose may be generally understood and a number of intelligent and excellent citizens and soldiers of Arkansas have signified their willingness to contribute liberally in aid of an enterprise so much needed and so honorable to the State.

The present condition of Arkansas is very similar to that of a new State. Its population is probably not more than one-fourth what it was in 1860. Since that date, a very great revolution has taken place, compelling a reorganization of society on a foundation entirely different from the one previously established. Now is the time most favorable for the introduction of judicious plans of general instruction and the diffusion of an earnest spirit of improvement and enlightenment among the masses of the people.

Yours, very truly,

Francis Springer.

A School for Orphans.

We, the subscribers, do hereby appoint and constitute Isaac Murphy, James M. Johnson, E. J. Searle, Thos. H. Scott, Geo. W. R. Smith, M. La Rue Harrison, Reuben North, Thomas Hunt, R. H. Wimpy, M. L. Stephenson, G. M. Waugh, J. T. Loudon, Lafayette Gregg, W. J. Patten, J. W. Plumlee, J. Hackett, J. L. Powell, Benjamin Taylor and A. W. Bishop, our lawful agents and trustees, to solicit, receive and hold in trust any and all donations of money, or other property, real and personal, which may be donated by us, or others, for the sole purpose of establishing and maintaining a school or institution of learning and arts, for the proper care, support and education of the orphan children of loyal Arkansians who have been killed or have died in consequence of injuries received in the service of, or by reason of their true devotion to the Government of the United States, during the rebellion of 1861.

The persons above named shall have power to determine upon the location of said institution, to employ suitable agents for the collection of funds for it, and to take bond with proper security, of their agent, treasurer, or other persons entrusted with the funds of the institution; and a majority of them shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, properly connected with the institution; and they are authorized and requested to procure from the Legislature of Arkansas, as soon as practicable, an act of incorporation for the purpose herein set forth; and we do hereby agree and bind ourselves to pay to the authorized agent of the aforementioned trustees, the full amounts of the subscriptions opposite our respective names, for the purpose herein specified.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 3, c. 1

Outrage Upon Arkansas Refugees.

A family from this State, consisting of a Mrs. Hargrave and four small children arrived at Saint Louis lately, and shortly afterwards, the children were spirited away and found in the Convent of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, whence they were taken by the Provost Guard. Soon after they were missing again and found in another institution of the same kind. They were rescued a second time, only to be abducted again, and have not been discovered yet. Archbishop Kendrick, addressed a letter to the Provost Marshal, in which he condemns the outrage, and expresses his surprise that a Catholic institution should have been engaged in such disgraceful and unwarrantable proceedings.—Saint Louis Ex.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

Rebel Ventilator.

If there is *one* individual, upon whom Gen. Order No. 4, banishing officers dishonorably dismissed the service of the United States from this Department, finds a just application it certainly is Edward J. Brooks formerly 1st Lieut. in the 7th U. S. Infantry. This Brooks was dismissed for *disloyalty* May 16th 1861, by General Order No. 47 from the War Department. He has resided here for more than a year, was concerned in the house of McDonald & Co. was also, for a long time chief clerk in the Q. M. Dept. under Captain Greene Durbin and is a brother of the notorious bushwhacker Col. Brooks, who has been infesting this region for years. He was at one time trying to raise an Arkansas (Union) regiment, but upon his antecedents becoming known, the enterprise failed. In a communication to the Mo. Democrat, which was published Dec. 26th last, he imposed upon that radical paper most shamefully, by contradicting a statement in the Democrat, of the terrible abuses then existing here and representing the state of affairs as highly satisfactory, when at the same time he with the rest of the same set had been instrumental in inflicting unspeakable misery upon the people, compelling them by thousands to flee northward for peace and security.

We cheerfully give him this notice in view of his having been a prominent member of the "Satanic Clique."

His room is more desirable here than his presence.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

1200 Union prisoners, belonging to the 43d Illinois, 36th Iowa and 77th Ohio, who were taken at Marks' Mills in this State last April, were exchanged recently and arrived at St. Louis.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, March 25, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

Public Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public meeting on Wednesday night at 4 o'clock P. M. in the Methodist Church, for the purpose of organizing a company to remove to the vicinity of Springfield Mo.

All persons interested in the enterprise, are respectfully requested to attend.

J. D. Treadaway.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

A Canada paper estimates that forty-three thousand Canadians have enlisted in the federal army since the commencement of the war. Of these it is calculated that fourteen thousand have died on the battle-field.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

The colored citizens of New Orleans own real estate to the value of \$15,000,000, and they now have a daily newspaper, the Tribune, printed and edited by colored men.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

Within the past eight months upwards of 400 papers have "died," in consequence of the exorbitant price of printing paper.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Exchanged.—The many friends of J. E. Hayes, Lieut. Col. 12th Kans. Vol. Inf., will be glad to learn that this gallant soldier and excellent man has at last been exchanged and is expected soon to rejoin his regiment.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Improvements.

We took a ride, one day this week, through the suburbs of this place and country adjoining and were highly gratified at the signs visible in every direction of great and rapid improvement.

Instead of tearing down and destroying, as was the case for nearly a year and a half, the watchword seems to be to build up and improve. People again hold up their heads, confident of being protected in all their rights and privileges as American citizens.

No better criterion can be formed of the difference of the times as they were and as they are than to witness the UNIVERSAL CONFIDENCE AND CHEERFULNESS MANIFESTED BY THE PEOPLE GENERALLY. Says an old gentleman, whom we found busily engaged in plowing, "I feel as though I had some chance again to live and call my life my own." This is precisely the feeling manifested by every one interested in the welfare of the community and the best interests of society and the Government. It is to be hoped, that this state of affairs will be permitted to continue and an opportunity afforded to the much injured people of Western Arkansas to redeem this fair portion of the State from the ravages of cruel war and the exactions of a heartless set of unprincipled adventurers, who under the guise of patriotism exercised uncontrolled license to strip the country of everything valuable.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 1, 1865, p. 4, c. 1

Fort Smith, Arkansas,
March 23d, 1865.

Editor New Era:

Dear Sir:--I wish to say through the medium of your paper, a few words to the citizens and soldiers of Western Arkansas. . . . Since the occupation of this country by the Federal army, there has been a portion of the time that matters and things in general have not ran as smoothly as good men might desire. The authority of the government in many instances was most shamefully and outrageously abused. Indeed it seemed for awhile that a general system of public and private plundering had been inaugurated, having its sanction it is to be feared, in high places.

The result is that our country is devastated and almost entirely depopulated, for under this reign of terror, which was so oppressive to the citizens or soldiers' families, of this country, and so outrageously disgraceful and unmanly on the part of the perpetrators. The inhabitants of the country were indiscriminately robbed of everything valuable that they possessed. As to who were the prime instigators and executors of all this wrong and mischief, it matters but little now to our mothers, sisters and daughters. They have been reduced to want, misery and degradation, were forced to abandon their homes, and are now reduced to the humiliating condition of being dependent upon the government for bread to sustain life. Thousands of others who have been forced from their homes are now refugees in other States among strangers.

This reign of terror has passed away; order is being restored; a different policy is being

inaugurated and everything seems to indicate the dawning of a brighter and better future for this country. From all that can be seen at present, the whole question of the restoration of law, good order and prosperity of the country, with the responsibility of a failure, rests upon us as a people.

Shall we now prove true to ourselves, our God and country, or shall we fail, and bring down the scorn and contempt of the world upon our own heads, and forfeit all right to protection?

It has already been said that we were a debased, worthless, ignorant set of people. But never mind that, for those that say it, if not as ignorant as we, are more debased, for they have stolen our horses, mules, cattle, money, etc. But let by-gones be by-gones. If we will do our part the government will protect us. Thank God, we have got the right kind of military commanders here to do it. Then let every Arkansan, both citizen and soldier, put his shoulder to the wheel and give one long and strong push, and the old car of state will again move, and ere long she will be richly laden with abundant prosperity. We have a good soil and delightful climate, the Spring season is now here, all nature smiles in beauty and bids man be cheerful, patient, industrious and honest. Then let all unite to put down every species of idleness, vice and intemperance. Let every man respect his neighbor's rights, ferret out every thief, wrong doer or disturber of the public peace and tranquility, and promptly report him to the authorities, no matter who is soldier or citizen, high or low. Don't be afraid to do your duty, for the time has come to act and act faithfully and promptly or total ruin is the inevitable consequence. Then let us all go back to the law and the prophets, and apply that old touch-stone of virtue, "Do unto all men as you would they should do unto you." We all can do that, if we will try. Then let us who still remain in Arkansas, go to work in good faith, form a nucleus around which we can again build up our country, take care of our families, and as soon as we can provide the necessaries of life, invite our friends who have gone North to return to their homes again. The good old days of peace and plenty will come again when we can lay down at night with windows and doors open, without the fear of the assassin and robber.

Arkansas Soldier.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 8, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

A Great Bane of Our Youth.—The superintendent of the public schools in Providence, R. I., says it is the sensation story papers and the dime novels, and not the study of our schools, that is undermining the health and corrupting the morals of our youth. A mass of crude, puerile and often objectionable literature furnished by the circulating libraries and periodical depots, is eagerly devoured by pupils of the public schools, exciting the brain and nervous system to the highest intensity, and arousing all their worst passions.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 8, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Quite a number of citizens of this place returned on the Rodolph last Wednesday. They are all unanimous in according the highest praise to the excellent fare and management on board that fine craft. It is to be hoped that she may be enabled to continue in the trade for a long time.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 15, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

Anxious to Return.

We have received numerous letters, for some weeks past from citizens of this place who left here during the evacuation excitement and the "reign of terror," preceding it, expressing in almost every instance a desire to return to this place provided they could live in peace. All of these correspondents are well known for their loyalty, and most of them of some means and property. They are scattered from Kansas to the Atlantic and would gladly once more live in their old homes.

To all such, as they are readers of the New Era, we would say, Return, if you are willing to put up with the fare you will find here, after having lived in a land of plenty.

As for peace and order, there is as much difference between the present and the past as between day and night.

You will be protected in all your rights.

"Reconstruction," in shape of improvements in town and country, is actively going on and peace being now within reach, Fort Smith will soon again assume its activity and business-like appearance which it had before the war.

Come on then, you fugitives and don't forget, each of you to bring along at least a dozen "mudsills, greazy [sic] mechanics" and hard-fisted farmers to possess the land, from which the chivalry were ejected by their own folly and wickedness.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 15, 1865, p. 2, c. 5

[Summary: Constitution of the Arkansas Asylum Association for indigent and helpless children]

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 22, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

The Execution.

Private Alexander McBroom, Co. B, 1st Ark. Inf., suffered the extreme penalty of the law, yesterday at 2 o'clock, P.M. having been found guilty of desertion and larceny, by a Court Martial.

His sentence was to be shot.

The execution took place just outside the rifle pits near the Rogers graveyard, under immediate direction of the Provost Marshal, Lt. Thos. A. Pollock, 22d Ohio Inf. and was witnessed by a large number of people, and the troops off duty. The latter formed three sides of a hollow square the prisoner being the placed on the fourth, or open side.

Rev's. F. Springer, Post Chaplain and S. F. C. Garrison, Chaplain 40th Iowa attended the condemned in his last moments on earth. The fatal volley was given with the utmost precision. The prisoner, who was seated on the coffin lid, at the report of the musketry, fell back and died without a struggle.

McBroom was about 27 years of age, and leaves a wife and two young children.

His brother, Maxwell, formerly Serg't. Major of the 1st Ark. Inf., was killed some time ago by bushwhackers.

Thus was ushered into the awful presence of the Eternal judge another being who, but for this wicked rebellion, might have lived a useful and honored member of society.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 22, 1865, p. 3, c. 2-5

[Summary: A Discourse Delivered at Fort Smith, Ark., by Rev. Francis Springer, Post Chaplain,

on Wednesday, April 19th, 1865, at the Funeral Ceremonies in Memory of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States]

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

The Christian Commission.

Rev. W. H. Gillam, Agent for the Christian Commission reports good success in his work, in connection with his pastoral duties. The men of the army manifest an unusual interest in reading religious matter, and in their attendance at public worship. Since the 13th of April he has distributed 323 Hymn Books, 193 Testaments and 476 Soldier's Books, besides several hundred Tracts, Papers, etc. The sick also have shared in certain benefits, in the way of Fruits and Clothing, furnished by the Commission, free of charge. Mr. G. has sent for a new supply of goods.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Our Streets.

Nearly all the public thoroughfares in our city are in a most deplorable condition. Having been without a municipal government for about two years and but little attention having been paid to our streets for a couple of years more previous to that time, many of them [have] been so cut up and washed out, as to resemble gullies and ravines in many places, and become utterly impassable for any kind of vehicles down to a wheelbarrow.

Our energetic Provost Marshal, it is true, has been making some improvements of late in that direction, but the force at his command is hardly adequate to remedy evils of several years' standing.

Why can't we have a city government and help ourselves? An effort to that effect was made last year; but were frowned down by the powers that then were. No such obstacles are in the way now. On the contrary, if we mistake not, our excellent military commander would give every aid in his power in this, as every other instance, of encouraging a return to civil government. It will have to be done sooner or later, and the sooner the experiment is made, the better.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

The Panorama.

Capt. Adams will exhibit his Panorama of War scenes at Van Buren, on Thursday evening next, May 4th.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

Crops Made by Refugees.—In the three states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, fuller crops will be planted than perhaps during any of the past three years. It is true that large numbers of the young and able-bodied men have enlisted as soldiers, but their places are taken by others

returning or growing up, and by *Southern Refugees*, who are flooding the southern counties of Illinois and Indiana.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 3, c. 3

Teachers.—Of one hundred and sixty-two teachers employed in the colored school by the Board of Education of Louisiana, one hundred and thirty are of Southern origin, and thirty-two from the West and North. This is highly creditable to the Southern ladies.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, April 29, 1865, p. 4, c. 4

Fast Woman.

This fast age, with its fast horses and faster men, has brought about that rather fashionable monstrosity, the *fast woman*.—They were a want of the age, those fast women, or the age would never have developed them. Fast young men wanted something to keep up with them, and presto! we have the fast young woman.—The gum-elastic nature of woman supplied the deficiency; and she, who is the pride of earth and the incentive to heaven, consented to lend her splendid capabilities to fill up the measure of Young America's insolent requirements, and become, for *his* convenience, the fast woman.

"Accordingly, we see them with dresses *decollette* and bare arms, with loud-ringing laugh and questionable wit, with polka, and Redowa, and a thousand other accomplishments peculiar to themselves attracting the *blasee* foplings, whose attentions the true woman would distinctly shun.

But, though they are so attended, and so applauded, and so exhilarated, there is no young fopling in their train who has not at least brains enough to sneer them behind their backs. And thus it happens that these fast women do not marry quite as fast as they dance. In the hymeneal race, we find them lagging behind; and, as their speed is all gotten up expressly for the hymeneal race, it must be exceedingly mortifying to them to find themselves beaten by whole dozens of quiet, genteel girls who never danced a polka in their lives. It is the old fable of the hare and the tortoise. We would advise them not to be quite so fast."—Exchange.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 6, 1865, p. 1, c. 5

The Rebels at Church in Richmond after the Capture.

Richmond, Monday, April 10, A.M.

The Episcopal Church where Jeff Davis was accustomed to attend was very well attended yesterday, but most of the audience were ladies, nine-tenths of whom were dressed in deep mourning.

One had two rows of Confederate buttons upon a black silk dress, and another wore upon her sleeves the gold braid, indicating the rank of Colonel. About a dozen rebel officers attended in full uniform, and two or three minus one arm or leg were wearing "Confederate Grey". . . .

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 13, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

The Execution.

As we promised in our last, we now perform by presenting the main features in the awful doom of Franklin Patterson, who was hung at this place on Friday, the 5th inst., for the crime of murder.

Patterson was from Fayette county, Missouri, but committed the heinous offense for which he suffered the death penalty, near Van Buren, Arkansas. He was a discharged Federal soldier, having served the period of his enlistment as such in the 1st Mo. Cavalry. He was about 34 years old, of profane and intemperate habits, living in the exulting ecstasies of passionate indulgence, rather than in the clearer and steadier lights of dispassionate reason.

The victim of Patterson's murderous assault was Francis Marzoll, an industrious and respected citizen of Crawford Co., Ark. Marzoll had a pair of mules which Patterson claimed by authority, as he said, of the military commander at Van Buren. Marzoll did not deny the authority, but acted as if he doubted Patterson's possession of it; and so concluded to with the party to Head Quarters. The distance was eight miles; and on the way, Patterson repeatedly ordered Marzoll to go back and stay at home, threatening to shoot him in case of refusal. When the parties had proceeded some five or six miles, Patterson shot Marzoll so that he died soon after. . . .

The noose being adjusted, the drop fell at 9½ A.M., and the murderer dangled to death-struggles amid the green earth beneath and the bright skies above, furnishing to the numerous throng of spectators an impressive and awful rendering of the Scripture passage: "The way of the transgressor is hard."

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 13, 1865, p. 1, c. 4

A Refugee Mother and Seven Children.—We saw at the police station last night a middle aged woman surrounded by seven small children, the eldest eleven years old, and the youngest four years. Three of the young ones were born at one birth, and two of the others were twins. She came from Madison county, Arkansas. Her name is Mrs. Harp, and she said her husband had died of measles, while serving in the 1st Arkansas (Union) cavalry. She was in destitute circumstances, having no money, no friends, and no roof to shelter her numerous and tender brood from the cold rain and the chill air. The whole family were barefooted; shoes and stockings being unknown to their little feet. They obtained lodgings last night in the calaboose, and we trust the benevolent people of the city will make some better provision for them today.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 13, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

Flag Presentation.—The battle-flag of the 1st Ark. Cav. was presented to the State by Col. A. W. Bishop, A. G. Ark., formerly Lieut. Col. of the above Regiment, in behalf of the latter, before the adjournment of the Legislature.

The presentation ceremonies speeches etc., were highly interesting and were witnessed by Maj. Gen. Reynolds, Gov. Murphy and other distinguished gentlemen.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 13, 1865, p. 2, c. 3

Guerrillas.

With the advance of spring and the appearance of the leaves, the Knights of the brush are again applying themselves to their detestable trade. Day before yesterday a quiet and peaceable man named Monroe, who came here with our troops from Waldron, when that place was

evacuated over a year ago, was shot down in cold blood a short distance beyond the Rodgers graveyard by two scoundrels named Geo. Clark and _____ Tyner. The former is a son of G. J. Clark, formerly one of the leading men of this county. Monroe was a poor man and had absolutely nothing about him to excite the cupidity of any one. A party consisting of a Sergeant and eight men of the 1st Arkansas Inft. went in pursuit of the bushwhackers, but were unable to overtake them, the murderers being well mounted.

There is a number of desperadoes from this place, lurking about here, among whom are the Newtons, Faulkners, and Huff's, who had during rebel times committed all sorts of outrages upon loyal people, & remained here when our army took possession of this place, and enlisted in the 2d Kan. Cavalry. They were acting as scouts and again found ample opportunity to rob, and plunder to their hearts content. Remonstrance of the loyal people proved unavailing under the rule of the Satanic clique. After having collected considerable plunder, and a good outfit of arms, ammuniton, uniforms etc., they one fine night last summer changed their base of operations and moved outside the fortifications with all their plunder, horses, wagons, etc.

We are sadly in need of a small, but effective cavalry force to pursue, hunt down, and exterminate these fiends.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 13, 1865, p. 2, c. 5

Fort Smith, May 7th, 1865.

Mr. Editor:--Perhaps the sensibilities of your readers may be shocked by the announcement that the 14th Kansas Cav. arrived here this evening. The good people may "preserve their garments whole;" the regiment is to go to Fort Gibson, and rumor says from that point into Western Texas.

This really fine body of men has been improved during its brief absence from your midst. It has several new officers—is commanded by its new Major, Albert J. Briggs, formerly Captain of Co. F, and a very capable and gallant officer he is in good health and fine condition every way. It is now armed with Spencers Repeating carbines. This admirable weapon shoots seven times without re-loading, and accurately at the distance of four hundred yards. . . .

Private B. T. Gilleland, of Company C, this regiment, accidentally fell over board some forty miles below here, a Yawl was immediately launched, the boat being stopped and every effort made to save the unfortunate man. He bravely buffeted the waves for some ten minutes, but when the Yawl was within some fifty yards of him, he sank for the last time.

Thus perished a noble young soldier—after over three years service in the U. S. Army—once a prisoner—once wounded—often sick,—he had thus far withstood the perils of battle, and the vicissitudes of the field, to find a watery grave; at a time when the Nation seems victorious over all its foes, and the flag of the free floats triumphantly over a redeemed land.

Carl Collins.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 20, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

Later From Texas.

Sergt. D. S. Jewett, of the 32d Iowa Inft. came in yesterday morning from Tyler, Texas, which place he left with two companions of the same Regiment on the last day of April. He had been a prisoner since the 9th of April, 1864. There were 1600 prisoners yet at Tyler when the party left, suffering much from insufficient food, exposure, etc. Captain Meffert, Lt. Freeze, and

many of the 6th, and 2d Kansas Cav. were there yet.

The guards allow the prisoners to escape in squads at a time, saying that if there were no more prisoners, they could go home also. Just before Sergt. Jewett jumped over the stockade, one of the guards picked up a haversack which an escaping prisoner had just dropped in jumping over, and ran after him to restore it to him.

Everybody is tired of the war and believes it to be ended.

There are large numbers of Union men in Texas, who are ardently longing for the removal of the rebel yoke; but are rather fearful to be treated harshly.

(Have they heard, perhaps, of the rule of the Satanic Clique in the State of Arkansas?)

Segt. Jewett, became separated from his companions about ten miles north of Paraclifta. He traveled only at night and when near Dallas last Wednesday night, he was surprised by a party of bushwhackers who accused him of being a Federal soldier (the Sergeant was dressed in rebel grey) and threatened to shoot him. Their leader named Graham, from Crawford Co. interfered, however, and gave him his word of honor that he should not be hurt if he told the truth. Sergt. J. then acknowledged who he was. Graham was as good as his word and would not let him be touched. He moreover furnished him with provisions and accompanied him through the most dangerous part of the way to within 20 miles of this place, giving him at the same time a horse to ride. Graham would have come in with our informant but on being told by some rebels that he would be treated severely, turned back. He requested the Sergt., however, to leave the horse with his wife, who is living on Frog Bayou. We understand that Gen'l Bussey in a truly magnanimous spirit will furnish Sergt. Jewett with an escort to fulfill the request of the man who saved his life.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 20, 1865, p. 2, c. 4

Meeting of Loyal Texans at
Lewisburg.

On the [illegible] inst., a meeting was held by a number of Texans belonging to the 2d Kansas cavalry for the purpose of adopting resolutions appropriate to the occasion. Sergt. J. H. Mershon was appointed Chairman and Socrates F. Best, Secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted: . . .

Resolved, That we do hope the time will speedily come when the National arms will utterly overthrow treason in Texas, give protection to every loyal citizen and punish rigorously the vile traitors who shed loyal and innocent blood in torrents.

Resolved, That a copy of this be sent for publication to the Fort Smith *New Era*, and that, for the information of those interested in Texas affairs, the names of those composing the meeting, be likewise published.

Sergt. J. H. Mershon.,
Wise County, Texas, Chairman.

S. T. Best, Cass Co., Texas, Secretary.

M. Kalihan, Grayson county, Texas.

F. Bowes, Rusk " "

M. H. Edwards, Collin " "

J. H. Warren, Hopkins " "

J. G. Lee, Titus	"	"
H. Weil, Grayson	"	"
J. H. Davis, Lamar	"	"
W. Penigar,	"	"
W. Gardiner,	"	"
W. Parish	"	"
J. G. Roden,	"	"
W. Pursall,	"	"
J. E. Newcomb, Vanzant	"	"

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, May 27, 1865, p. 3, c. 1

[Summary: Report by Francis Springer, Superintendent of the Orphan's Home]

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, June 3, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

The Guns.

The soldiers of the 1st Ark. Infantry, are in high glee for the retention of their martial arms, by order of the President.

Their guns will be useful when the men return home, for the chase of the wild deer and turkeys which have been greatly multiplying while their human co-denizens were fighting and killing one another.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, June 3, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

An Incident.

In this paper of the 20th inst., was chronicled the return of Sergt. D S. Jewett of the 32d Iowa, from his captivity at Tyler, Texas; how the Sergt. was recaptured, and his life saved by the friendly interference of a rebel Lieutenant named Wm. Graham; and how Graham engaged the services of Sergt. Jewett to deliver a horse to the Lieutenants wife residing within our lines.

The curious turn of this affair is, that Mrs. Graham, on receiving the animal from the hands of Sergt. Jewett, forthwith mounted it and rode out to the quarters of her husband, and brought him home. The happy Confed and his worthy lady have both reported to Gen'l Bussey and are allowed to abide in peace under the protecting folds of the honored old flag of the Union.

Go, all ye matrons and maidens, and do likewise. Bring in the wanderers, and let us all dwell together, with peace in our *families* and *neighborhoods* as well as in the nation at large.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, August 5, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Col. J. E. Hayes, of the 12th Kansas was in the city yesterday, and his many friends here were glad to see him. He lost a leg at the terrible fight of Jenkin's Ferry, nearly a year ago, and has been in the rebel hands ever since, until peace let him come home. He got acquainted with most of our rebel Missouri officers, and can tell all about them. The Colonel is in his usual cheerful spirits, and in good health. His regiment presented him with a splendid sword at the reception at Lawrence the other day. No braver soldier than Col. Haynes has returned from the wars.—Leavenworth Conservative.

FORT SMITH NEW ERA, August 19, 1865, p. 2, c. 2

Fort Washita Burned.

Official information was received this week by General Bussey, from Gov. Colbert, of the Chickasaw Nation, that Fort Washita, for more than thirty years, an important military post one hundred and sixty miles west of this place, was burned a few days ago. The perpetrators of this outrage are said by some to have been some white men, recently ordered to leave the Indian country by Gov. Colbert.—Others say it was done by Sand Watie's rebel Cherokees to prevent the post from being garrisoned by colored troops which they would not submit to. An investigation will soon discover the real culprits.