Chief of Police.

Feb 24. 1870

The determined efforts to have the Chief of Police removed are, at last, likely to prove successful. Dispatches received last night foreshadow the early appointment of a successor to Capt. McCormick, who has served honestly and faithfully for the last two years. It is not known who will receive the baton of the Chief, the contest lying apparently between Mr. Stevenson and a Mr. Ketchum. If there is anything in a name Mr. Ketchum ought to stand the best chance, as no more appropriate cognomen could be suggested for an officer whose peculiar business it is to catch such vagabonds and rascals as may be found lying around loose in the corporate limits of the city. The Mr. Stephenson spoken of is probably the gentleman who has been teaching the freedmen's young ideas how to shoot, in the government schools. We are not informed of the charges brought against Capt. McCormick. Perhaps the most unpardonable offence of which he has been guilty was his persistent refusal to prostitute his position to party purposes, and confer the blue caps and red bands upon applicants who he knew were more deserving the place of prisoners than the place of policemen. Differing widely from the political views of Capt. McCormick, we bear witness to his faithful discharge of the duties of his office, and if his successor succeeds in maintaining the same good order in the city there will be no good cause for complaint.

The Amende Honorable.

Speaking of the probable successor to Chief of Police McCormick, yesterday morning, we mentioned, on what ought to have been good authority, the name of Mr. Stevenson, in connection with that office. The modest instructor of juvenile Ethiops disclaims all idea of having honors thus thrust upon him, and wishes us to disabuse the public mind in that regard by publishing the following card, which we do very cheerfully, and would be glad to extend the same courtesy to all others whose names have been used in connection with the office :

GALVESTON, Feb. 24, 1870.

Having had my attention drawn to a paragraph in your local news of to-day, headed, "Chief of Police," in which the statement is made that the contest for the baton lies apparently between Mr. Stevenson and a Mr. Ketchum, and as there seems to be an idea in the Local's brain that I am the aforesaid Mr. Stevenson ; I would state for the benefit of your readers that, "the gentleman who has been teaching the freedmen's young ideas how to shoot" has never been, and is not now a candidate for any office.

Respectfully, J. O. STEVENSON.

Said Master Beach to Willie Smith,
"Your hand, sir, in a twinkling."
Said Willie Smith to Master Beach,
"'Twill hurt, sir, I am thinking.

"And if 'twill answer just as well,
I'll give my hand to Lilly Bell;
You know 'twon't hurt me near so bad,
And Lilly, dear, will be so glad."

The master looked so sweet,
As if he'd just been kissed;
And said, in milder tones,
"The school is now dismissed."

The Board of Appeals.

Adjourned yesterday afternoon, having stricken from the list the following names:

E. M. McCormick, H. Benson, E. McLean, Patrick Perry, Henry McDonnel, Thomas H. Chubb, P. H. Childress, James P. Nash, J. A. H. Cleveland, John G. Fallon, E. M. Patrick, John S. Hart, M. C. McLemore, Frank Dirks, Samuel Farr, Edward Graves, Francis Solyer, W. R. Howard, Ferdinand Flake, George W. Strother, P. Miller, D. T. Ayers, Frank M. Spencer, Talbot Henry, A. K. Hill, William Sanderson, C. Schutz, Norman Clark, F. W. Smith, Charles H. McGill, William R. Yarrington, William Cooley, R. M. Tevis, L. C. Hershberger, Thomas Brown.

We were unable to determine from the official record what disposition had been made of Mr. Cahill and John H. Westerlage.

The following record indicates a sort of registration by proxy that surpasses our understanding :

"Names of persons who have had their names entered upon the list of registered voters of this county, who have not been able to appear before the Registrar, but who are qualified voters, in the judgment of this Board, under the laws of this State and of the United States."

"J. O. STEVENSON.
"H. O. HICKS."

The case of Sheriff Dirks has excited so much interest that we give the decision of the Board in full :

Mr. Dirks was rejected for the following reasons to-wit : He admits, and the evidence proves, that he held the office of City Watchman, or Captain of Night Watch, prior to February 1st, 1861, and that after the war broke out he was in the Confederate military service and served as an officer in the Provost Marshal's office, in this city. It is very evident to this Board that Mr. Dirks is disqualified under the XIVth Amendment, and from being a qualified voter of this county, until his disabilities have been removed by an act of Congress, as in like cases of other parties.

Persevere to the end.

FORGET ME NOT. *Pansy.*

Forget me not! when others gaze
Enamoured on thee with the looks of praise.
When weary leagues between us both are cast,
And each dull hour seems heavier than the last,
O then *forget me not.*

Times.

"Good times, and bad times, and all times, pass over."
Then cheerily bend to the oar:
Through depth and through shallow, through calm and through tempest,
The bark is still nearing the shore.

Soft woos the zephyr and low laughs the ripple,
Warm glows the rich light of the sun.
But oh, at his brightest, he slopes to the westward;
The good time is over and done.

Black rolls the billow, white flashes the breaker.
Fierce and bitter the pitiless blast,
But of its own fury the storm sinks exhausted;
The bad time is over and past.

Our "times" we can neither foretell them nor rule them;
Let us face them, however they come;
Pray God for one true hand to clasp through the hours,
Till night brings us haven and home.

[*Tinsley's Magazine.*

After the Man then the Master.

That unique body which has charge of the registration in Galveston county, reminds us of the exclamation of Capt. Legerdair in the "Duke's Motto," "after the man then the master." That very irresponsible character possessed a consistency which our Board does not enjoy. When he had slaughtered ever so many of the subordinates he bestowed unremitting attention upon the chief sinner, while on the contrary our Board punishes the subordinate, the one who could not help it, and rewards the chief who sinned because he wanted to. We have before alluded to the fact that Capt. Dirks, the conscripted man had been stricken from the list of voters, while Capt. Scudder, the conscriptor, is in the full enjoyment of the inestimable right of suffrage, as is the most favored son of Africa in all the land.

Now the secret of this and of much similar action is not that the Board, in the exercise of its loyal zeal, presumes one to be a better Federal than the other, but because the members want for themselves and their friends the office that Mr Dirks holds. It has come to this pass that the will of the good people of this State is no more regarded than the empty wind by the party in power. Justice, legality, honesty and even decency are not in any respect regarded. The registration and disfranchising laws are wrenched from the purpose of their enactment, which was to prevent disloyal men from holding office, and used as machines for political oppression, favoritism and despotism. Nor is Galveston county alone in this nefarious business. In every nook and corner of the State it is the same. In every place there is to be found the same oppression. In Washington county the man who employed another to do work for the Southern Confederacy is registered, while the other is disfranchised. On the book of the registration of Galveston county there appears the singular entry of two intense radicals, Judge Hicks and Col. Stephenson, being unable to appear before the Board, nevertheless they were registered. While the Board was in session, or if it was not ought to have been, Judge Hicks appeared at Morian Hall and joined the Radical church. If he was able to go to the one place what hindered him from going to the other? We can, however, readily understand the whole matter. The registration of those gentlemen was a matter to be desired for party purposes. One of them being a gentleman with regard for truth might have found the taking of the oath a burthen on his conscience. There are two ways of entering the Radical fold, one by a sort of new birth, the other by a kind of Cæsarian operation. Judge Hicks and Col. Stephenson came in by the latter method.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

The Galveston Mandamus Case.

Editors Houston Mercury:

The application for a mandamus ordering Mr. Johnson Reed, District Clerk, to surrender his office to Mr. Wakelee, the District Clerk elect, was argued this morning before Judge McCormick. Mr. Gresham, of Mann & Gresham, supported the application, which was resisted on behalf of Mr. Reed by Mr. Neil. The arguments presented no features new to the readers of the MERCURY. Judge McCormick, in granting the mandamus, remarked that he was clear that the Legislature had a right to change section 6, article 3, of the Constitution, in both clauses, and held that the declaration of election limiting the term of office to four years from date of election, is part of the organic law, having been submitted along with the Constitution to the people. Mr. Reed applied to retain his office pending an appeal to the Supreme Court, but was ordered to surrender it at once. Exception to this ruling was taken and noted. S.

Letter From Galveston

GALVESTON, Dec. 20, '73.

Editors Houston Mercury:

Affairs round about our Court-house are badly mixed. The County Court met yesterday, composed of Justices Johnson and League, of the old administration, and Brad. Hancock, recently elected, and proceeded to the transaction of business. District Clerk Reed refused to recognize the legality of the Court and was fined $100 for contempt, the fine was afterwards reduced to $25 and the Sheriff ordered to put Reed in jail until it was paid. He will take out a writ of *habeas corpus* this morning before Judge McCormack. It was first thought that Reed took his grounds on the unconstitutionality of the election law, but it appears he claims "that Brad. Hancock had not legally qualified. Dave Wakelee qualified yesterday, but did not yet take possession of the office. He is taking it very quietly, and will not cause any trouble. Reed says that he is not captious but will give up as soon as the legality of the election is settled.

Sergeant-at-Arms Shropshire, by order of Lieutenant Governor Hubbard, today took possession of the rooms on the south side of the Capitol occupied by J. C. DeGress, according to joint resolution passed on Saturday, turning DeGress out, he protesting thereat.

DeGress stated that this was forcing him to go to law for the recovery of his office, his time not having expired, while he thought the newly elected officer should have gone to law himself to recover. Thus the last one has taken his final leave. He died hard, protesting most bitterly, and demanded that force should be used, but did not require its use when called upon, but left the office.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.

Col. J. C. DeGress, Ex-Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Texas, has caused to be sent to the Postmaster General a telegram stating that his tenure of office held good until May, 1875, and that his case was altogether different from other late State officers. He asked that the mail matter addressed to the Superintendent of Public Instruction be delivered to himself. The Acting Postmaster General, Marshall, directed the postmaster at Austin to act in a similar manner with the mail for the educational department as had been directed in regard to other late State officers.

This decision, as will be seen by our Washington special dispatches this morning, has been applied by the acting Postmaster General to the case of the ex-superintendent. Any document addressed to "J. C. DeGress, Superintendent Public Instruction," will be given to the contumacious ex-official; but all matter addressed to the "Superintendent of Public Instruction" will be delivered to Mr. Hollingsworth.

Richard Himself Again.

The irrepressible Richard Nelson has turned up in a new role, as will be seen by the annexed copy of postal card, received yesterday:

GENTLEMEN—I have recently received the appointment as President and *Treasurer* of the Society for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Negroes of Central Africa. All contributions in the shape of *money, clothing, Bibles* and *provisions*, sent to my care, will be forwarded to *Loango Bay*, the headquarters of the society in Africa. RICHARD NELSON,

President of the Civil Rights Association; *Treasurer* S. A. C. N. N. O. A.; late Judge of Galveston County, Postmaster of Highland Station, Notary Public, Assessor of Taxes, Commission Merchant for the sale of hides, wool, etc.; Editor of the Representative and Spectator, Governor of Pelican Island, *Treasurer* of the Colored Young Men's Bible Society, Secretary of the Daughters of Rebecca, ex-member of the County Court, etc., etc., etc.

Official Returns.

Judge Johnson has received the official returns of the late election from the counties of Matagorda and Brazoria. The following is the vote in the three counties:

	M. S. Munson.	G. T. Ruby.
Galveston	701	70
Brazoria	138	353
Matagorda	67	118
Total	906	541
Majority for Munson		365

To Hood's Texas Brigade.

THIRD ANNUAL REUNION, MAY 7, 1874.

I wake my slumbering Harp again,
I sweep once more its silent strings;
I trembling touch the olden strain,
Whose every note some memory brings.
It led to battle once, your blades
Triumphant drew, a trumpet tone,
To vict'ry once your bold brigades
Where banners waved and rifles shown.

But hushed by griefs I dare not name,
The song hath slept thro' lonesome years
With that neglected oriflamme,
Whose burning Stars were quenched in tears.
And if its lightness all is fled,
If broken chords alloy the strain,
'Tis but because the hopes are dead
That gave it strength and sweetness then.

YE ARE COME TO THE HALLS OF HEROES!

A ring of old music is in the air,
That thrills like a thrill of the days gone by
With its martial burden "*We Do and We Dare!*"
And the heart, as of old, beats fast, beats high,
There are flags on the walls whose dark blood stains
Tell mighty tales of the battle rout—
Of the columns flying along the lanes—
Of Honor and Duty—of Hope and Doubt.

There are voices mingling that once rang out
High and clear thro' the battle-din,
Sending the brave, with a clarion shout,
To where Danger with Death was closing in;
There are scars of a hundred battles, won
And lost, on the faces gathered here,
And the records of daring deeds that were done
On a hundred fields in the days that were!

BUT, ROOM FOR THE DEAD! MAKE ROOM FOR THE DEAD!

There are phantom forms that come crowding in
With rifle in hand and sword at knee,
A silent army, whose battles are won—
Grand and fearless—that follow Lee!
There blazes the burning oriflamme
In the hand that bore it at Malvern Hill.
And here is the group that dealt such shame
To the flying foe at Gaines's Mill!

All here! From the blue-eyed boy who went
In a blaze of glory from Seven Pines,
To the bearded man whose blood was spent
Unknown and unwatched in the picket lines;
And a ring of the old music is in the air
That thrills, like a thrill of the days gone by,
With the martial burden, "We Do and We Dare!"
And the heart, as of old, beats fast, beats high!
Ye are come to the halls of heroes!

Comrades, both living and dead, arise
And pledge me in silence that Wonderful Past,
With its bloody fields and its gloomy skies,
And its hopes sown thick on the battle blast;
For its spirit is here in our midst to-day
Breaking and blessing the bread of our pain.
Surely the stone shall be rolled away
And that Past shall rise and rejoice again!

MOLLIE E. MOORE.

At the conclusion of the reading of this beautiful poem from the pen of the authoress of "Lee at the Wilderness," "Minding the Gap," etc., the building fairly shook with thunders of applause.