NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, APRIL 1, 1862.

JOHN VS. COTTON.

The virulent expostulations of the press in relation to the cultivation of articles of food for the existing year have not been altogether fruitless. We notice frequent instances of determination in the part of Southern planters to refrain to the raising of Corn and other vegetable foodstuffs of north which had been previously set apart exclusively for the culture of Cotton. In Lowndes county, Georgia, a public meeting was recently held, at which it was unanimously resolved that not an acre of Cotton should be planted beyond the small quantity required for domestic consumption. The planters from South Carolina inform us that a general rule to Cotton seed will be set in the ground in South Carolina this year; and as a striking illustration of the indomitable spirit of the Palmetto State he remarked that one-fifth of the crop of 1861 has been reserved from the various plantations and safely stored in the town of Columbia. Should the Yankees ever get possession of Charleston, they will find no Cotton there, and in the event of their attempting to reach the capital of the State, they millions of dollars' worth of Cotton will have already given to the flames. This fact in particular connection with the question of increasing the crop of the present year, but we call the fact to mind as one more to the manifold evidences already presented of the heroic spirit of self-sacrifice manifested by the unconquerable Carolinians. They at least have been faithful to their programme. If they were not fast to break the fetters of secession, and of carry it practically into effect, they have striven for an instant shrunk from the consequences, however grave, and even disastrous, they have imposed on them.

We are not without hope that the policy of South Carolina touching the planting of Cotton will determine the central policy of the Confederate States for the current year. The conviction in favor of the temporary abandonment of Cotton culture, and a resort as a substitute to the breadth and other necessaries, are so numerous and powerful that they must impress themselves upon the rational judgment of every thinking man. It will be a long while until the blockade is raised. If a second crop were hoarded and stored in the apprehension of the staple would be depreciated fearfully in value, even under the supposition that the South would have easy access to the markets of the world. If the blockade should continue the Cotton then raised would be worthless. Save corn and food of all kinds, and cotton have a positive and definite value. The planter who raises a hundred bales of Cotton cannot dispose of his property; but if on the same soil he raises two or three thousand barrels of Corn, he finds constant opportunities of selling his crop at remunerating prices. He is sure, in plain English, to make money on his Corn, while his Cotton must remain in his hands until the war is over.

The clinching argument is that of necessity. We are now nearly entirely cut off from the supplies of Manufactured goods—the cotton fabrics—hitherto being in the power of the Federal authorities. If the Cotton States fail to produce them in large quantities, not only will the people suffer greatly for want of provisions, but the armies will starve. We cannot keep hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the field without feeding them, and where is the Government to procure their food, unless furnished by the Southern States? The extensive cultivation of articles of nourishment becomes then absolutely indispensable. There is no getting round it or over it. The planters in all directions must come up to their minds, if they do not wish the war to come to a disgraceful and a disastrous conclusion. Whosoever is found actually liable to the fatal reproach of betraying the country to the hands of the Yankees by any means receive from a stern and solemn sense of duty to replace this year must if not all their Cotton with Corn and other vegetables. Let them do this; and we shall have no dread of a famine, our armies will be plentifully supplied with food, while the planters themselves will be richly rewarded for their patriotic and praiseworthy condition. The speculation will soon be settled, as the period for planting has now arrived. The month of April will call a halt of vast or vain for the South.

We are indebted to the Southwestern Express Company for late Texas papers.

SHIP'S BELLS.—It will be seen by the advertisement in our columns headed "To the Public" that Mr. George W. Heath, No. 102 Gravier street, formerly at all times to redeem the notes now held by him, in sums of from twenty-five cents upwards.

LOUISIANA NOT EVACUATED.—The Selma, Ala., Telegraph, from the Tallahassee Floridian and Journal, contains a prevalent error:

Gen. A. P. Another.—We had the pleasure on Thursday of shaking the hand of this gentleman, who has just arrived from Pensacola. He says that the Island is now in a splendid state of defence, and a resort as a substitute to the Yankees and other outsiders, are so numerous as to be powerful that they must impress themselves upon the rational judgment of every thinking man. It will be a long