The South.

THE ARMOURER OF MUNSTER.

A PAGE FROM THE HISTORY OF FANATICISM.

(*Continued.*)

III.—THE MARKET-PLACE.

Franz hurried on to the gate of the town, which was now clear and deserted. The immediate space within was empty, and wore an aspect of desolation. Traces of the recent struggle were every where to be seen; doors and windows broken down; pieces of furniture scattered on the pavement; bed linen twisted into ropes and hanging down from the roofs, whence some poor wretches had tried in that way to escape; and here and there a solitary head might be detected peering timidly from behind a half drawn curtain. Even Franz, much as he gloried in the triumph of his party, felt a dismal misgiving as he looked around upon the mourning evidences of the ruin by which it had been achieved.

He had not proceeded far up the street, recalling as he went along every familiar nook, when he heard a rapid footfall behind him, as of some one closely following him. He turned quickly upon his pursuer, and recognized the little tailor who had accompanied the priest to the Gast-haus.

"Take me with you, countryman," cried the tailor, in a squeaking voice—"take me with you, that I may return in respectable company."

"You here?" said Franz: "where were you during the scuffle?"

"Where was I?" returned the tailor; "well, I have no objection to tell you, for I think you are a very valiant sort of a man, and will appreciate my discretion. At first I hid myself behind the stove, but when the Hessians came in, and the danger grew hotter, I crept under the stove."

"Poltroon!" muttered Franz, "have you no courage but that of confessing your cowardice?"

"Now why do you say poltroon?" said the tailor, "it is an ugly word. It may be all very well for you to talk of courage—every man to his trade. A great strong armourer like you must hammer at the iron, and I suppose you don't much care whether it is on the anvil or the back of an enemy. But look at me—a poor little snip of a tailor! what business have I to fight? Besides, it is our privilege to be as cowardly as we please; and I should be the last of tailors to forfeit our ancient privilege by any unseasonable show of bravery."

"But under such circumstances how did you prevail upon yourself to risk your fraction of a body back again here?"

"Ay, there's the wonder!" returned the tailor; "I'll explain it to you. I run no risk at all—I'm quite safe; and I can even promise my protection. You may look at me, but I am the sworn comrade of Jan Bockhold, the second of our prophets, and when the old government is completely ripped up, I mean to cut out some office for myself. Why not? I do not think I am destined to fill any great military post, but I may accept the chancery or treasury."

"You?" said Franz, bursting into a roar of laughter, and eyeing the mannikin with a look of humorous derision.

"I don't mind being laughed at," said the future chancellor; "I'm used to that. Tailors are always laughed at; but they sometimes get the laugh on the rough side, with a rough seam to it. Bone and muscle are not the only things that make a man great. Jan Bockhold was a tailor—that is, he *was* a tailor. But what is he now? and what *will* he be? There is no saying what he may come to; his muscle is in his head; so is mine perchance. Last winter, when we were out of work, we joined the strolling players, and Jan always took the king parts, and played them with a royalty more like a king than any real king I ever heard of. Give him the world, and he will govern it."

"A mountebank is the ruler of my people!" exclaimed Franz with a deep sigh, as passing out of the first street they came suddenly upon a spot where crowds of people were gathered in a state of extraordinary excitement. They were all employed in various ways, endeavouring to fortify the town. Men of all ages and ranks were working at the fortifications. Women and children were mixed up in the hurried labour; spades, shovels, pickaxes, and all sorts of implements were drawn into the service; the clanging tramp of draught horses over the frozen ground, and the dull rumbling of cartwheels echoed through the streets. The energy of the people showed with what enthusiasm they had entered upon their strange task. Every arm was in action, all was movement and exertion; the faces of the busy groups shone out with eager vitality; there was but one will amongst them—to maintain at the cost of life the dangerous advantage which they had up to this point secured almost by miracle.

"What do you think now, countryman?" said the little tailor, tapping Franz gaily on the shoulder; "the bishop will need teeth of iron to gnaw through the walls we build."

"What is that?" inquired Franz, who, not heeding the vaunt of his companion, was looking up at two stone tablets fixed over a gate.

"Read and be instructed. These be tables of the laws of our second Moses, the great Matthias," replied the tailor, in a tone of ludicrous reverence.

It was quite clear to Franz, that the second Moses was conducting the affairs of his people with a decision equal to the necessities of the occasion; but while the problem was rising in his mind as to whether the prudence and wisdom of Moses were on a level with his boldness, Franz's attention was suddenly called off by the thunder of a hundred drums beating the alarum. The yell of the over-excited populace answered the calls from all parts of the town. Franz felt his blood run like ice in his veins. The furious shout was not the reply of a brave people to a brave summons; it resembled rather the roar of a baited lion thirsting for human blood.

The tumultuous crowds flocked from all quarters to the market place, like the waves of the sea lashed by a tempest; they rushed hither and thither with a stunning uproar. The densest part of the assemblage was close to the cathedral of St. Lambert, where the leaders, armed with pikes, morningstars, and matchlocks, and looking as fierce as if the enemy stood before them, formed an impenetrable circle, from the centre of which, in the pauses of the tumult, Franz could hear the voice of a man preaching with vehemence to the people. The scene was new and striking. It shocked, yet it excited him. He felt a sense of inexplicable repugnance to the tone of savage violence which pervaded the multitude; but being with them in their cause, and sharing in their aspirations, he was satisfied by the devotion of purpose they displayed. In such moments there is no time for reflection, men are carried away by passion, and too much impelled by a common zeal to separate their individual judgment from the fiery action of the mass.

Stirred by the surrounding enthusiasm, Franz was as eager as the rest to ascertain what was going forward, and springing on the projecting quoin of a house, where he contrived to support himself by grasping the iron pole of a fire basket, he secured an elevated position, from whence he could command the whole front of St. Lambert's with a distinct view of the persons of the prophets, who were standing on the great gate of the cathedral. The little tailor, whose agility did not serve him in such scenes, was crouched below.

"What do you see?" said the tailor.

"A tall gaunt man in a coarse woollen robe," replied Franz; "but I can hardly see his face, his hair and beard are so dishevelled. There! I see him better now. What fire there is in his eyes, and white foam upon his mouth. He is brandishing a spear over the head of an old man, who is kneeling to receive his death-blow."

"He is our great Matthias," exclaimed the tailor; and Franz could hear a low chuckle follow the announcement.

Now came a rush of people, headlong towards the spot where Franz was clinging. The torrent was irresistible, and he was swept from his post of vantage. Then the little tailor, nearly crushed to powder, seized the pole of the baskets, and began to swear lustily at the freaks of their high mightinesses, the people.

"The devil!" said he, "the people won't let the people see what the people are doing in their sovereign will and pleasure."

While this colloquy was going on between the tailor and the majesty of the collective wisdom, a fair-haired girl, of singular beauty, but wan with grief and terror, pressed through the crowd till she reached the spot where the tailor was clinging, and, impetuously grasping him with both hands, burst into a passion of tears.

"Thank God!" she sobbed, "I have at last found one man I know; one to whom *he* was always bountiful, and who will assuredly succour him now in his hour of great peril. Good Kreutzer, if you are a man—if you have the heart of a Christian man—help us, help us!"

"Lord, how violently you pull, child!" answered the other. "What can possibly bring *you* here, Klara? What can you want with me?"

"I want your help. You, alone, can render us the succour we stand so fearfully in need of. You have power with Jan Bockhold."

"You hear that," said the tailor, winking slyly over his shoulder at Franz; "I have power with Jan Bockhold! You see it is the common town-talk already. Chancellor, at last," he added, in a significant voice, with an expressive gesture aside to Klara, as much as to say, "And who knows what fair flower like this I may transplant into my chancellorship?"

The vehement manner in which Klara broke through this comical by-play of Kreutzner attracted Franz's attention. He saw that her agitation was caused by some urgent matter, perhaps of life and death; and he instinctively associated it with the extraordinary scene which was at that moment passing before him.

"What is the matter?" inquired Franz, in a kindly tone, to give assurance to her. But he was a stranger and had no power to serve her, and in her misery she heeded not his words; so, turning to Kreutzner, with frantic impatience, she again besought him to assist her.

"Go to Jan Bockhold. He will do whatever you ask him. You know he was your comrade for many a day by board and bench. Implore his mercy for my uncle."

"Your uncle, Jungfer Klara!" exclaimed Kreutzner; "What can have befallen Meister Krutzlinger?"

"Meister Krutzlinger, did you say?" inquired Franz, who seemed to be quite as much amazed and interested as Kreutzner himself. "Do you mean Hubert Krutzlinger, the armourer?"

"The same," replied the girl eagerly, a ray of hope lighting up her pallid features at the inquiry.

"My old master," returned Franz. "What has chanced to him? What is there that a stranger, who hardly knows a face in the town, but would willingly risk a limb to serve worthy Hubert Krutzlinger, can do to aid you?"

"Ah? what can you do?" said Klara; "but you look as if you were in earnest, and would act like a man for a friend in trouble. You and Kreutzer might save him. They have dragged him out of his house, for no crime but his thoughts, which surely were his own,—the thoughts through which he held communion in the darkness of the night with his God! They have dragged him here to trial before the people, to die a felon's death."

"Upon what accusation?" demanded Franz.

"Oh, I hardly know how to utter it—it is so false, so cruel! They say he has blasphemed the prophets—blasphemed the prophets!" she continued, sobbing, and rocking herself to and fro in horror at the contemplation of a charge which she knew was regarded as the most heinous of all crimes by the new rulers.

"It is a grievous accusation," said the tailor, gravely; "intercession is hopeless."

"Not for the innocent," replied the maiden.

"We waste time," said Franz; let us make way through the crowd, and demand justice for the old man. They cannot refuse him a fair trial. Hark! what was that?"

The report of a shot rang through the air. It was the discharge of a single matchlock; and for a moment the multitude was hushed into stillness. For that brief moment a feeling of awe seemed to pervade the whole gathering, but it was of short duration, and was rapidly succeeded by shouts and yells which indicated the savage glorification of the fanatics over some act of bloodthirsty frenzy. Even the denunciations of the prophet, whose voice had hitherto been heard at intervals above the roar of the crowd, were utterly drowned in that long-continued burst of fury. But there was one sound which in the midst of the tumult smote sharply upon the ear of Franz—the despairing shriek of Klara. It revealed at once the horrible incident which had just taken place.

A movement was now observable in front of the cathedral; and now the dense mass gradually opens, and four soldiers of the burgher-guard advanced slowly in grim silence, bearing on their crossed halberts the bleeding body of Meister Krutzlinger, the armourer. The savage Matthias had executed a summary vengeance upon his victim. The man still lived; but he breathed hardly, and was racked by spasms; and the blood trickled heavily from the gun-shot wound in his breast, and from the spot where the prophet had plunged a spear in his side.

"The Lord have mercy upon me!" exclaimed the dying man, "and forgive me my sins!"

Matthias for a short space walked by his side. A terrible solemnity sat upon his features. His eyes were lighted up with the lurid brilliancy which is sometimes seen to give such a strange expression to the faces of the insane. To the people it bore a character of inspiration.

"Hold thy peace! 'thine hour is not yet come. Bear him to his home. Heaven has decreed that he shall not die; for it is written, 'I will not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may repent and live.'"

IV—THE ARMOURER.

The house of the armourer stood in a small street close to the market place; and as the mournful procession went its way the people pressed around, and rendered it difficult to thread the narrow avenue. But Franz kept close to his old master, trying to make his voice known to him in words of hope and comfort; and even endeavored to assuage the agony of the moment by recalling to his memory the old times when he had learned his craft under him, telling him that he would work for him from morning till night, as might be needful for his recovery. But the old man's senses were fast failing him, and present pain was paramount over all thoughts of the past or the future.

At last they reached the house. The door was thrown open, and a girl rushed wildly into the street to meet them. The suddenness of her appearance startled Franz; but it was the lustre of her beauty which chiefly surprised and bewildered him. She was altogether unlike Klara,—as unlike as the eagle is unlike the dove. The commanding dignity of her presence struck even the audacious populace with respect, and they fell back as she approached. The exquisitely chiselled features, the white brow, the jet black hair which covered her shoulders, the full dark eyes flashing with excitement, the grace of her noble and finely-moulded form presented such a vision to the eyes of Franz that it was no great wonder his faculties should be suspended from the melancholy duty in which he was engaged, and the instant scene he had just witnessed should for the instant pass out of his mind, while he gazed in wonder and admiration upon a figure which seemed more like an enchantment than a living creature.—Even her tears only increased the fascination.—Something must be allowed for the effect upon his imagination of so unexpected an apparition at such a moment, if allowance be necessary on behalf of rapid and overwhelming emotions in young hearts.

"Uncle—dearest uncle—what has befallen you?" she exclaimed, as the rude burghers bore him roughly into the house, and laid him on a bed.

"He has blasphemed the holy mission of our prophets," said one of them, "and Matthias having judged him before the congregation. And, having delivered this announcement, the bearers stalked out of the house as if they shuddered at all further contact with the condemned. The door closed after them, and Franz was left alone with the two watchers by the death-bed of his old master.

There was heavy silence in the room, broken only by the intermittent convulsions of the dying man. Klara crept close to the bed-side, where she knelt and prayed, with her head buried in her hands. At last the enthusiastic girl, who stood apart, and whose dazzling form still distracted Franz's attention from his pious task, spoke aloud in a low, firm tone, "Alas, uncle! the Holy Spirit has abandoned you to this sin, and its bitter punishment."

"Silence, foolish wench!" exclaimed Krutzlinger, gathering up his failing strength; "the Holy Spirit abandoned me when I gave up my son to this false creed, and believed these monsters to be ministers of the Lord. Oh, rank delusion! oh, foul cheat! But it is not too late to repent my transgression; and I die in humble hope—a Christian; you hear my girl,—a Christian!" And he tried to clasp his hand together, and to pray, but the words expired between his trembling lips.

"Ah! he blasphemes," said the dark-haired girl, pressing her long finger over her eyes.

Franz had hitherto remained in the shadow of a great piece of furniture which occupied one end of the room, afraid to move lest his appearance might still more disturb the last moments of the old man. But the approaching end was now too visible to justify further hesitation, and he advanced to the bed.

"We are not alone, uncle," said Klara, gently looking up at Franz, who stood close by her side.

The armourer slowly raised his eyes, and endeavoured to read the features of the youth. Recollection came dimly and slowly. He had heard him speak, but was unconscious of what he had said; and now that he began to trace the lineaments one by one, a confused image arose before him, taking by degrees a more defined and familiar shape; and after a pause of doubt, a smile passed over his face, and he faintly uttered "Franz!" The name was hardly articulate, but it was intelligible enough to reach the heart of him to whom it was addressed.

"Franz," exclaimed the youth, as he flung himself upon his knees, and grasped the armourer's hand: "Franz Wagner, your old apprentice, your fast friend, come to help you in your extremity, if he can;" and he burst into a flood of tears, which no effort of manly pride could control.

When the first anguish of her grief had subsided, Klara endeavored to staunch her uncle's wounds. The blood flowed less freely than before, but the sufferer's strength was rapidly sinking; and he was himself so conscious of his condition that he motioned them to gather around him—it was a last effort.

"Merciful Providence!" he said. "I thank Thee for all Thy bounties to me,—and for this, the greatest of all. My poor girls are orphans. When I am in the grave they lose their last protector; the thought of that makes death bitter. Franz, you are true, and honest, and good; give me your hand and plight, and swear to me that, when I am gone, you will guard these poor children, and work for them, with the faith of a brother."

Franz turned to gaze upon the orphans: the lightning glance of Elise was fixed upon him, but Klara hung over her dying uncle. The heart of the young man throbbed wildly, and, grasping the hand of the armourer with passionate emotion, he exclaimed,—

"Father, I swear to guard them with my life—to preserve them with my labour—to be a brother and protector to them."

"Bless you—bless my girls! I die in peace!" and a bubbling cry rose from him as his head fell back upon the pillow.

"He is gone before the judgment!" exclaimed Elise, sinking into an attitude of prayer.

It was so: the spirit of the old man had departed in that final effort.

The responsibility of his new position—so singularly brought about, and so suddenly imposed upon him—made a solemn impression on Franz.

[*To be Continued.*]

Movements in Maryland.

The citizens of Talbot county, assembled in mass meeting at Easton on the 23d inst., when Dr. Samuel Harper was called to the chair, and Samuel T. Hopkins appointed secretary. The following gentlemen were then selected as vice-presidents:—Dr. A. M. White, Charles R. Mullikin, William W. Lowe and Henry T. Hopkins.—Col. Hambleton offered a series of resolutions, which were adopted, and among which were the following:

Resolved, That we regard the persistent purpose and action of the Administeration at Washington in conveying troops and munitions of war over the territory of Maryland, contrary to the remonstrances and protests of her citizens and constituted authorities, and after the murderous results of Friday last in Baltimore, as a declaration of war upon the people of the Southern States of the Union.

Resolved, That Maryland is essentially Southern in interest, feeling and association; that her destiny is with the South, and that in the present crisis of affairs, federal troops ought not to be permitted to pass over her soil, destined to subjugate the Southern States which have seceded from the Union, and to awe and repress those still remaining therein, and prevent the free exercise of sentiment upon their part in this behalf.

Resolved, That in the present crisis immediate steps should be taken for the protection and defense of the people of the country.

Resolved, That the commissioners of the county be and they are hereby authorized and required to levy upon the assessable property of the county the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to be expended, if necessary, under the superintendence and control of a committee of safety to be appointed by this meeting.

Resolved, That the commissioners of the county, together with the committee, be authorized and empowered to borrow the above sum at once on the pledge of the levy above named, to be legalized immediately on the assembling of the Legislature.

After the reading of the above resolutions, Jas. H. Martin, Esq., addressed the meeting and offered the following additional resolution:

Resolved, As the sense of this meeting, the Governor of this State should respond to the President that under no circumstances can troops of Maryland be sent to Washington, responsive to his requisition, for any purpose.

Letters from Madison Brown and P. B. Hopper were read, stating that active measures had been adopted in Queen Anne's county for the safety and protection of the citizens.

Gen. Tilghman then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the young men of the county should at once enroll themselves in companies for duty, either in the county or in any part of the State where their services may be required, and that the old men should enroll themselves in companies for the special defense of the county.

Col. H. C. Bateman then moved that the committee of safety provided for in the 5th resolution consist of ten, which was adopted. Whereupon the chair appointed the following gentlemen as the said committee:—Col. Sam'l Hambleton, Col. E. Lloyd, Jr., Thomas J. Clark, Col. Wm. R. Hughlett, Wm. Rose, Gen. Richard Thomas, Richard Holliday, John Chilcutt, John Harrington, John W. Kemp.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

(ANNUAL SESSION.)

FIRST BRANCH, *Thursday, April* 25th, 1861.—The resolution appropriating $1,200 for the repair of the drawbridge over Jones' falls was received from the second branch, with an amendment requiring the amount to be taken from the appropriation of $1,100 made for the improvement, &c., of the back basin; which was concurred in. The resolution authorizing iron fireplugs to be placed on the corner of Aisquith and Fayette and Gay and Orleans streets was adopted. Mr. Yiesley offered a resolution requesting the committee to examine into the condition of the stepping stones across Alice Anna street at its intersection with Washington st., &c.; adopted. The resolution to have a fountain on Calvert street removed was adopted. The president presented the report of Wm. S. Peterkin and Thomas L. Emory, agents for Baltimore of the McDonogh estate up to the date of April 12th, 1861. It states that the various properties belonging to the State have been sold with the exception of the half of a valuable tract of land in the parish of Iberville of 1,311 acres; five small tracts in the same parish, containing 799 acres; 10,000 acres in the parish of St. James, and 640 acres in the parish of Lexington. The report describes these unsold lands. The remaining nineteen slaves belonging to the estate are awaiting the departure of the next vessel of the American Colonization Society to Liberia. There is a writ still undetermined brought by a certain Moses Fox on an alleged codicil to a will bequeathing him $300,000, which the agents think will be decided in their favor. Their accounts exhibit a balance in the Citizens' Bank of New Orleans on the 12th of April inst., of $14,099 76. The resolution authorizing F. H. Grupy to erect a steam engine on his premises was adopted. Mr. Bolgiano offered a resolution authorizing the city to issue $1 corporation notes—laid over. Mr. Nicholas offered an ordinance authorizing the water board to sell the lands and effects of the board not wanted, and empowering them to issue the notes of the board for sums not exceeding $100,000, &c.—laid over. The Branch adjourned till Friday, at 5 o'clock.

SECOND BRANCH.—Branch met.—Present, Charles J. Baker, Esq., president, and a quorum of members.—Mr. George, from the committee on the fire department, reported a resolution to allow J. Etchberger to extend a frame work to his kitchen, at No. 342 East Baltimore street; read and passed. An ordinance making general appropriations for various city purposes was received from the first branch, read and laid on the table. The resolution to allow John W. Maxwell to erect a verandah on the second story of his building on Calvert street, near Franklin, was read and passed. A resolution for certain improvements at Centre fish market and at Hollins street market was received from the first branch and passed. A resolution to place flagstones at sundry places was received from the first branch, read and passed. Adjourned.

LEONARD PASSANO,
No. 52 CENTRE MARKET SPACE,
Offers to cash buyers a stock of
FANCY GOODS,
Consisting of as great variety as can be found in any other house in the city, at prices to suit the times.
TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY,
PERFUMERY, HOSIERY,
STATIONARY, COMBS, BRUSHES,
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GENTS FURNISHING GOODS,
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SKELETON SKIRTS,
TRIMMINGS, &c., &c.
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PROPOSALS FOR MAIL BAGS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27, 1861

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until nine o'clock A. M., the 1st day of May next, for furnishing for the use of the Confederate States of America, in such quantities and at such times as may be required and ordered for the postal service, Mail Bags of the following description, to wit:

CANVASS MAIL BAGS, OR SACKS.

Size No. 1, (13 inches in length and 64 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least fifteen ounces to the yard of 22 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of five yarns each.

Size No. 2, (41 inches in length and 48 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least fourteen ounces to the yard of 25 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of four yarns each.

Size No. 3, (32 inches length and 38 inches in circumference,) to be made of cotton canvas, weighing at least eight ounces to the yard of 20 inches width, the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of three yarns each.

The canvass bags of sizes numbered 1 and 2 are to be made with a tabling or hem at the top of two inches wide, upon which a sufficient number (at least ten to the former and eight to the latter) of eyelet holes are to be wrought, and they are to be provided with good and sufficient hemp cord to lace and tie them strongly. All are to be well marked inside and outside "C. S. Mail," in large and distinct letters.

LEATHER AND CANVAS MAIL POUCHES

Size					
No. 1—48 inches length, and			60 inches circumference		
No. 2—41	do	do	48	do	do
No. 3—36	do	do	42	do	do
No. 4—30	do	do	36	do	do
No. 5—26	do	do	29	do	do

The body of the leather pouches are to be made of good and substantial bag leather well tanned, and weighing for sizes numbered 1 and 2, not less than eight ounces, and for the smaller sizes not less than seven ounces to the square foot, the bottom (of circular form) and flap to be of good *skirting* leather, well tanned, the seams to be well and strongly secured with the best iron rivets well tinned.

The canvas pouches are to be made of cotton canvas, densely woven, so as to resist water, weighing for pouches of size No. 1, not less than 25 ounces to the yard of 31 inches width, or 17 ounces to the yard of 21 inches width, for pouches of size No. 2, not less than 20 ounces to the yard of 31 inches width, for pouches of size No. 3, not less than 18 ounces to the yard of 22 inches in width; the threads of the warp and weft to be composed of at least five yarns each. The canvas pouches of sizes numbered 4 and 5 are to be made of cotton canvas, weighing not less than 14 ounces to the yard of 19 inches width, nor less than 22 ounces to the yard of 30 inches width, the thread of the warp and weft to be composed of at least four yarns each.

LEATHER AND CANVAS HORSE MAIL BAGS

Size No. 2—Body 48 inches long and 21 inches wide in the widest parts; ends of bottom of same being 14 inches by 26 inches.

Size No. 2—Body 45 inches long and 18 inches wide in the widest parts; ends or bottoms of same being 12 by 20 inches.

Size No. 3—Body 42 inches long and 16 inches wide in the widest parts; ends of bottoms of same being 10 by 29 inches.

The leather horse mail bags are to be made of good and substantial bag leather, well tanned, weighing not less than seven ounces to the square foot, and the seams to be well and strongly sewed or riveted, to be so done as not to chafe horse or rider.

The canvas horse mail bags are to be made of cotton canvas, like that described for the larger sized pouches.

Proposals for improvements in the form of construction of any of the above described bags and pouches, or in the materials thereof, are invited, and the relative value and adaptation to the service, as well as specified price of any such improvements, will be considered in determining the lowest and best bid.

All the articles contracted for are to be delived at the expense of the contractors, in Charleston, S. C.; Savannah, Ga.; Mobile, Ala.; Montgomery, Ala.; and New Orleans, La., in such quantities, and at such times as the Department may require and order; and they are to be [illegible] inspected before delivery, and none are to be received [illegible] shall be inferior in any respect to the specimens [illegible] standard bags.

The proposals should [illegible] the price of each article proposed to be furnished.

No proposal will be considered, if not accompanied with specimens or samples of each article bid for, showing the construction, size and quality of materials and workmanship offered, and also with satisfactory guarantees from the persons proposed as sureties, that they will become responsible, on sufficient bond for the due performance of the contract in case such proposals shall be accepted.

The specimens or samples must be delivered at this Department on or before the first day of May next, and those which shall have accompanied the accepted proposals will, in connection with such proposals form the basis of the contracts to be made. Every specimen [illegible] should be well and distinctly marked with the number denoting its size, and have affixed to it a sample of the materials (canvas or leather) of which it is made. All specimens deposited by bidders, which can with safety and convenience be used in the mail service, will be paid for at the prices specified in the proposals relating to the same.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July next, for the delivery of supplies.

A decision on the bids will be made on or before the 10th day of May next, and the accepted bidder or bidders will be required to enter into contract with sufficient bond or sureties on or before the 1st day of July next.

The number of the different kinds of mail bags which will probably be required has been estimated at 3,500 canvas mail pouches, 2,000 leather mail pouches, and 500 horse mail bags; but the Department [illegible] the right to increase or diminish the number of each size and [illegible] according to the exigencies [illegible] or delivery [illegible]

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General
Confederate States of America.

ap 22

PROPOSALS FOR WRAPPING PAPER, TWINE AND SEALING WAX.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until the 1st day of May next, at 12 o'clock, M., for furnishing WRAPPING PAPER, TWINE and SEALING-WAX for the use of the Post Offices of the Confederate States, for four years from and after the date of the execution of the contract. The said articles are to be delivered, free of expense, at this Department. The estimated quantity of each article, and the quality thereof, required yearly, is as follows:

2,200 reams Manilla Wrapping Paper, 30 by 23 inches in size, and to weigh not less than 24 pounds to the ream, and each ream to contain 20 perfect quires; 10 reams of the same kind of Paper 25 by 32 inches in size, and to weigh not less than 34 pounds to the ream.

3,000 pounds Cotton Twine, 4 strands, hard twisted, and in balls to weigh 1 pound each; 500 pounds of the same kind of Twine, on spools, each spool to weigh from 1½ to 2 pounds.

2,000 pounds of coarse Hemp Twine, about ⅛ of an inch in diameter, well twisted, and in balls or hanks weighing from 1½ to 2 pounds each.

150 pounds of Scarlet Sealing Wax, of good quality, for ordinary use.

Proposals will be received for each article separately, or for the whole. The contract will be awarded to the lowest bidder, the best bid to be determined after a careful examination for the purpose of ascertaining which bid will, in its practical results, be most advantageous to the department. The Postmaster General reserves to himself the right to reject any bid where it is apparent that a part of the articles are bid for at a very low and a part at a very high rate, without proper regard to cost of each for the purpose of affecting the aggregate of the bids under the estimate contained in this advertisement.

Samples of each article required must accompany the proposals, and each bidder must furnish with his proposal the evidence of his ability to comply with his bid.

Two sufficient sureties will be required to a contract. Failures to furnish the articles contracted for promptly, or furnishing articles inferior to those contracted for, will be considered a sufficient cause for the forfeiture of the contract.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles proposed for in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July next for the delivery of supplies.

Proposals must be marked on the outside of the envelope with the name of the article or articles proposed for, and the package containing the proposals addressed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau," Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap 22 d

PROPOSALS FOR CIRCULAR MARKING AND RATING STAMPS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this department until the first day of May next, until 12 o'clock, M., for furnishing for the postoffices of the Confederate States, for four years from the first day of July next, Marking and Rating Stamps of the following descriptions, viz:

Class 1. Circular Marking Stamps of steel, or other metal of equal durability, of a circumference not to exceed 3½ inches, but as much less as convenience and good taste may dictate, with the name of the office and State, with type for the years, months and days, in block of like metal, with sufficient thumb screws for the same, with handles of Cocoa, Mahogany or other heavy wood, of a model most convenient for use. In proposals for this class of Stamps, the bidder will state the additional charge, per letter or figure, for inserting, within the circle when required, such words and figures as Paid, Paid 5 and 10, Ship, etc.

Class 2. Circular Marking Stamps of iron or other material equal thereto, for the use of postoffice and route agents on the railroads and steamboat mail lines, with the name of the office and state, or the name of the railroad or river line, with type for months and dates, in blocks of the same material, with suitable thumb screw, and handles of black walnut or cherry tree, of a model best adapted for use, the circumference of the stamp to the same as described in class No. 1.

Class 3. Circular marking stamps of box wood, or other materials of equal durability, of the same size as Class No. 1, with the name of the office and State, with type for months and days, of printers' type metal, in blocks or single letters and figures, with thumb screw and handles the same as described in Class No. 2.

Class 4. Marking stamps for foreign mails similar to those now in use in the Post Offices at New York, Philadelphia and Boston, U. S., or of any other style adapted to the above purpose.

Also, the following rating stamps to correspond with the circular stamps in Classes 1, 2 and 3 in material, handles and workmanship, and such other rating stamps not named herein as may be required, of a like description, at pro rata prices; and if the style or material thereof shall be altered by direction of the department, the price shall be increased or reduced in the same proportion, viz:

Paid	Missent or Forwarded
Free	Cancel
Missent	Due
Forwarded	Due 2 cents
Postoffice Business, free	Drop 2 cents
Advertised	Due 5
Steamboat	10
Ship	15
Held for postage	20
	Paid 5
	Paid 10
	Paid 15
	Paid 20

Proposals for improved or patented stamps, with cylinders for the months and days, or with points to pierce the envelopes, or with other improvements will be considered;

The right to change or alter the style of the stamps described in either class, upon equitable terms, reserved to the Postmaster General.

Proposals will be received for furnishing the whole of the above named circular stamps, or for EACH CLASS separately.

Stamps will be ordered for the different classes of offices according to such rules and regulations as may hereafter be adopted by the department.

Models of the stamps must accompany the proposals.

Each bidder must furnish with his proposals evidence of his ability to comply with his bid.

Sufficient sureties will be required to a contract, and the stamps must be delivered at this department at the expense of the contractor.

Proposals must be endorsed on the outside of the envelope with "Proposals for Postoffice Marking Stamps," and addressed to the "Chief of the Appointment Bureau," Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap22

PROPOSALS FOR MAIL LOCKS AND KEYS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until 12 o'clock M., the 1st day of May next, for furnishing for four years from the date of contract, in such quantities and at such times as may be required and ordered for the postal service of the Confederate States, MAIL LOCKS of the following description, with KEYS to the same, viz:

Brass Mail Locks, with Keys of the same metal.
Iron [illegible]

The Locks and Keys must be of superior manufacture, and adapted to the service, in the essential elements of security and durability, and freedom from liability to get out of order, and must be promptly delivered to the department without additional expense to the government. Each Mail Lock and Key must be stamped thus: "C. S. Mail."

Bidders are required to furnish samples of Locks and Keys, and satisfactory evidence of their ability to execute their contract, in case their proposal be accepted. The samples must be delivered at this department on or before the 1st day of May next, and those which shall have accompanied the accepted proposals will, in connection with such proposals, form the basis of the contract to be made.

A decision on the bids will be made on or before the 10th day of May next, and the accepted bidder or bidders will be required to enter into contract with sufficient bond and securities on or before the 1st day of July next.

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the article bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July for the delivery of supplies.

The number of the different kinds of Mail Locks and Keys which will probably be required has been estimated at 1,000 of the Brass Locks and 6,000 of the Iron, with the same Keys for the entire number, but the Postmaster General reserves the right to increase or diminish the number of each kind, according to the exigencies of the postal service, without change in the cost of supply or delivery.

The Proposals should be addressed "Chief of Contract Bureau," Postoffice Department, Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap 22 d

PROPOSALS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27th, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until [illegible] o'clock P. M. of the 1st day of May next, for furnishing for the use of the Postoffices in the Confederate States postage stamps of the denominations of 2, 5, 10 and 20 cents.

The postage stamps must be perforated around their edges, and well gummed, [illegible] packages of 100 sheets each, and delivered at the Department free of charge, and in such quantities as may be required to fill the orders of postmasters.

Proposals are also invited for furnishing strawboard boxes for packing parcels of postage stamps of from 100 to 500 sheets each, and of 20 boxes of equal capacity, to be delivered at the Department. [illegible]

[illegible]

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap22

PROPOSALS FOR PRINTING POSTOFFICE BLANKS AND PAPER FOR THE SAME.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until the 1st day of May next, at 12 M., for furnishing the Postoffices in the Confederate States for one year from and after [illegible] the following blanks, viz:

[illegible]

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the awards. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st July next for the delivery of supplies.

Samples of the style of printing and of paper must accompany each proposal, and each bidder must furnish with his proposal evidence of his ability to comply with his bid.

Sufficient sureties will be required to a contract, and the blanks are to be delivered at the department at the expense of the contractor.

If the contract for paper be awarded separately from the contract for printing, the party so contracting will be required to deliver the paper to the contractor for the printing, without expense to the department.

Proposals must be endorsed on the outside of the envelope with "Proposals for printing Postoffice blanks, and paper for the same," and addressed to the Chief of the Appointment Bureau, Montgomery, Alabama.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

ap 22 d

PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONTGOMERY, March 27, 1861.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this Department until [illegible] the 1st day of May next, for furnishing [illegible] this Department may require for [illegible] years, viz:

[illegible] STRAW BOARD BOXES [illegible]

[illegible]

Bidders will state the earliest period at which they will be able to furnish supplies of the articles bid for, in the event of the contract being awarded to them, as it will have an important bearing upon the award. But bids will not be entertained which fix a period beyond the 1st of July next for the delivery of supplies.

All stamped envelopes that may be required by the department to fill the orders of Postmasters are to be promptly delivered at this department without additional charge.

The rates of postage to be stamped upon the envelopes are two cents, five cents, ten cents, and twenty cents.

The bids should be marked, "Proposals for Stamped Envelopes," and addressed to the "Chief of the Finance Bureau," Postoffice Department, Montgomery, Ala.

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

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