

[Special Dispatch to the Republican.]

WASHINGTON, April 24.—This morning a large number of loyal refugees waited upon President Johnson. Judge Underwood, of Virginia, briefly addressed the President, pledging an earnest support to the new administration. President Johnson briefly replied by thanking the delegation for attention and expressing gratification at the assurances of support. It was hardly necessary for him to say that his impulses concerning rebellion were in sympathy with theirs. They had expressed his feelings to the fullest extent. He had entered upon the duties of President under circumstances that were perilous and responsible, and, in view of all before him, his position was particularly embarrassing and their assurances peculiarly acceptable. It was unnecessary to indicate his future course. If his past life gave no assurance of what it would be, his profession now would be of no avail. So far as he was concerned it would be bounded by caution. He was not actuated by revenge, but he had become satisfied that mercy without justice became crime. The time had come when the American people should be taught the true nature of crime.—The idea had been advanced that when traitors became numerous, treason would become respectable. He prayed God to preserve the nation from such a curse. The time had come when people should be educated in the length and breadth, the height and depth of the crime of treason. If the assassin of the President, a single man, was to suffer death, what should be the punishment of assassins of a nation. Amnesty and clemency and mercy were for those who had been deceived and driven into the rebellion; but intelligent traitors, those who had levied war against the government and given aid and comfort to the enemy, should suffer the penalty. He knew how to appreciate our great loss in the death of our late President, and the feeling of the country at large, but in the administration of the Government he should be guided by principles of clemency and mercy. In conclusion he again thanked them for their encouragement, and assured them of his intention to discharge his duties in a way to bring peace at the earliest possible moment.

The delegation was then presented to the President, with the usual ceremony of introduction.

The terms on which Gen. Sherman proposed to receive the surrender of Johnston's army have provoked a vast amount of comment here and universal censure.

The report from Nashville of the release of Howell Cobb by order of Sherman, has added to the feeling. The Washington and New York journals of to-day are very decided in their strictures.

A gentleman who has just reached here from Raleigh expressed the opinion that Johnston will yet surrender on the same terms Grant gave Lee.

This evening's Republican is expected to announce that the statement in the New York press, telegraphed from this city, that President Johnson is about to reorganize his Cabinet is without the slightest foundation in truth. Such unauthorized declarations are only fruitful of mischief, and are very embarrassing to the President.