Items.

SECRETARY STANTON has presented the colored Episcopalians of Washington with brick to build a church.

SOLOMON JOHNSON, a colored man, formerly President Lincoln's barber, has been appointed a first class clerk in the Treasury Department at Washington with a desk in the Secretary's office.

CONVENTION.—The colored people of Texas held a convention in the early part of December.

IN MISSISSIPPI the demand for labor is so great that freedmen are brought from other States, and are paid from ten to fifteen dollars per month, including rations, quarters and medical attendance.

BOTH houses of the Missouri Legislature are agreed in proposing such an amendment of the State Constitution as shall do away with distinctions of color.

THE CITY COUNCIL of Baltimore has appropriated $200,000 to the colored schools of that city.

FIFTY-FOUR contracts were made by freed people in Kentucky during the month of December. The average wages of men were $16.11, and of women $8,50, monthly, besides rations and quarters as usual.

THE FREEDMEN of Georgia support fifty-six schools, fifty-six teachers, and have organized a State Educational Association.

A BILL has passed the Pennsylvania Senate, and is pretty sure to pass the House, forbidding the practice of excluding colored passengers from the public conveyances simply on account of their color.

A BILL is before the Alabama Legislature to divide the school fund *pro rata* between the white and black schools.

THE NEW ORLEANS *Times* says:—'The contracts which assure them a portion of the crop seem to be more effectual in compelling a regularity of work than the highest wages which can be offered. It identifies their interests with those of their employers, it restores more amicable relations between them, and above all things it suppresses that love of change which sent them causelessly from plantation to plantation during the last disastrous season.

"The first object of the freedmen seems to be the instruction of their children. If the means are not provided them on the plantations where they work, they send them to the nearest towns or other places where freedmen's schools happen to be established."

SURRATT.—The prisoner John Surratt is confined during the night in one of the three cells opening on a corridor, about 25 feet long, in which, during a good portion of the day, he paces back and forth. He seems to be in excellent health, sleeps well and eats heartily, speaks but little, and then only in regard to his personal wants. The door at each end of the corridor is planked up, and consequently he cannot see or have any intercourse with any of the other prisoners. He is very closely watched by guards, and while in the corridor there is a guard with him. It is now stated that Messrs. Bradley and Mr. Merrick have been retained as his counsel, and Mr. Bradley, jr., had an interview of some length of time with him.

QUEEN VICTORIA now weighs one hundred and seventy pounds, it is said, and threatens to be colossal.

☞ The Colored people of Charleston have deposited *one hundred thousand dollars*, in the Freedman's Saving Bank of this City. The greater portion of this amount was deposited within the last six months; and nearly all of the deposits have been made by freedmen. The daily average of the amount deposited is largely on the increase. This is encouraging, and seems to foreshadow a more prosperous state of things. It appears that *some* freedmen, at least, will not only work, but save their money too.

A fine two story frame school house will soon be erected in this city by the United States Government in furtherance of the above object. A large number of pupils of both sexes now regularly attend the day and night schools established, and, we are informed, have gratified their teachers by evidences of improvement. The new structure will be plain, but convenient for its purpose, and be located in the vicinity of the African Church between Plain and Washington streets. The contract has been awarded to Mr. Clarke Waring.—*Carolinian.*

☞ We wonder who will fight the most successfully and stand the longest, those who fight under the Old Flag, or they who fight against it? When the secession dividend is declared, it may throw some light upon the subject.

☞ Attention is called to the advertisement of a Fair for the benefit of the Mission Presbyterian Church, Rev. E. J. Adams, Pastor, which will be found in another column.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—A bit of glue dissolved in skim milk and water, will restore old crape. Half a cranbury bound on a corn will soon kill it. An inkstand was turned over upon a white table cloth; a servant threw over it a mixture of salt and pepper plentifully, and all traces of it disappeared. Picture frames and glasses are preserved from flies by painting them with a brush dipped into a mixture made by boiling three or four onions in a pint of water. Bed bugs are kept away by washing the crevices with strong salt water, put on with a brush. Soft soap should be kept in a dry place in a cellar, and not used until it is three months old.

The thirteenth article of the Constitution of Indiana, known as the "black article," forbidding negroes from entering the State, has been pronounced unconstitutional and void by the Supreme Court of the State.

A society has been formed by the colored Baptists of Tennessee to aid young men in preparing for the ministry. Under its care, a theological college has gone into operation, with eighteen students. There is also a normal class.

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—:o:—

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