

THE GREENVILLE ENTERPRISE.

DEVOTED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL INTELLIGENCE AMONG THE MASSES.

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THE GREENVILLE ENTERPRISE

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The Presbyterian Church.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, one of the ablest ecclesiastical bodies in the country, which assembled in Macon, Georgia, last month, issued a pastoral letter to the churches under their charge, which has been greatly admired by all denominations for its clear, calm and Christian counsel. After reviewing the action of the Church in the past in relation to slavery, and in commenting on the present condition of the freed people, the address says:

"But in this dispensation of Providence which has befallen the negroes of the Southern States, and mainly without their agency your obligations to promote their welfare, though diminished, have not ceased. Debtors before to them when bond, you are still debtors to them when free. You are bound to them not only by the ties of common nature, a common sin, but a common redemption also. They have grown up around and in your households, have toiled for your benefit, ministered to your comforts and wants, and have often tenderly, faithfully nursed you in sickness. They are still around your doors, in the bosom of your community. Many of them are your fellow-heirs of salvation. Together with you, they need it; greatly need it for time—for eternity. We are persuaded you will not turn away from them in this day of their imagined millenium—we fear, of terrible calamity. Do all you can for their best welfare, and do it quickly, for they already begin to pass rapidly away. By piety, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the Word of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report, let it be shown to all men that nothing shall withdraw the sympathy of your heart or the labor of your hand from a work which must of necessity and ever rest chiefly upon those who dwell in the land, and not upon the strangers who visit it. If their condition is made better, if souls are plucked as brands from the burning, you will have the comfort of knowing that you were, under God, instrumental in such happy results."

The above eloquent and Christian language must commend itself to the hearts of all who have an interest in the welfare of their country.

The report of the commission appointed by the Provisional Governor in pursuance of a resolution of the Convention to frame laws for the government of freedmen, was read in the House of Commons of North Carolina on the 24th. It provides, among other things, that the freedmen shall testify in all cases wherein the rights of property or person shall be directly concerned, either civilly or criminally. By this means this class is protected against personal wrongs and against violence, threats, and frauds on their persons and rights.

The report specifies some thirty sections dedicated to the freedmen; and, besides this, eight bills affecting both classes of the population. It recommends the establishment of a work-house in each county for the idle vagrants, and others who will not support their own offspring. These provisions are without distinction of color. Many provisions are designated to encourage field laborers of all classes, white and black, by securing the reward stipulated for labor, and to prevent and to discourage all lawlessness over the lands of others. The arguments for every provision are extended for the calm consideration of the Legislature.

A wag having married a girl named Church, says he has enjoyed more happiness since he joined the Church than he ever did before.

What Congress has Done.

The New York Herald thus sums up what Congress has done since its meeting in December last:

Two months of the present session of Congress having expired, the question naturally recedes what progress has been made by the two Houses in the heavy schedule of work before them touching the reconstruction of our domestic and foreign affairs. We can only answer that we have had any quantity of speeches, resolutions, bills, constitutional amendments, &c., submitted in each House, but that the practical results, so far, have been small. One bill has been passed into a law—that providing against the cattle disease by prohibiting the introduction into the United States of European cattle. The House has passed a bill by a two-thirds vote extending the right of suffrage without restriction to the blacks of the District of Columbia, and the Senate by a similar vote has passed a bill enlarging the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau; and beyond these achievements and the reconstruction powers accorded the joint committee of fifteen, otherwise known as the Committee of Public Safety, we have nothing in the way of business to report. Yet there is the constitutional amendment reported from that committee, and which, for a week past, has been under discussion in the House. This amendment, excluding from the basis of Federal representation the whole race with regard to which any State may deny or abridge the right of suffrage, will, we guess, be referred back to the committee tomorrow. The District negro suffrage bill, meantime, will probably come up in the Senate; and thus, upon this bill, that amendment, or something else concerning the rights of the negro, all other subjects of Congressional legislation may be superseded for a month or two to come.

THE TRIAL OF EX-PRESIDENT DAVIS.—The Congressmen who believe with a prominent Government official, that "courts-martial are organized to convict," and that Jefferson Davis should be convicted, are impatient at the President's delay in forwarding a report prepared by Judge Holt, showing that the deposed rebel ruler was an accomplice in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. They are of the opinion that the evidence is so strong as to insure a popular endorsement of their wish to have both Davis and Clay tried by a court-martial and "hung to a sour apple tree," or to a gallows beam, constructed of some other wood. General Butler, in a speech which he delivered last night before a soldiers' convention, went further, and included Robert E. Lee among those who should suffer death on the gallows.

There are others, in Congress and occupying high official positions, here, who think that Davis should be tried by the laws of the land, and who are opposed to any more courts-martial, except for the trial of those in the armies or navies of the Union for military offences. Admitting that the laws of the land, as at present construed, do not perhaps cover the case, on account of a conflict of opinion, they seek to so modify and reform the ruling and practice as to insure uniformity and to insure a trial of the great criminal of the age.

This bill, now before the Senate, is to be discussed in the Senate, and will be opposed by those who desire that Davis be tried by a military commission as it would insure his trial before a United States Court. It but enacts what is now the doctrine in Illinois and other States, that an opinion based upon rumors, newspaper reports or common notoriety, is but a hypothetical opinion, which should not exclude a juror, provided the Court is satisfied that he would act impartially. But the passage of this bill will secure the trial of Davis before a civil court, and it will consequently meet with decided opposition.

[Washington Cor. N. Y. Commercial.

A toast at an Irish society's dinner at Cincinnati—"Here's to the President of the Society, Patrick O'Rafferty, an' may he live to ate the hen that scratches over his grave."

Washington News and Rumors.

The unconditional Union men from the South, who are sojourning in Washington, and who delight in the designation of "Hard-pan Reconstructionists," have prepared the following specifications as an epitome of their construction of the Constitution, and had the same printed for circulation among Congressmen:

1. The exclusive power of Congress over the subject of citizenship and naturalization.
2. The power of Congress to give effect, by the enactment and enforcement of laws, to all the protective provisions of the Constitution, and to make the principle of protection practically co-extensive with citizenship.
3. The positive constitutional interdict upon the power of Congress, and upon the Legislatures of the different States, to subvert or impair the natural or personal rights enumerated or implied in the Constitution.
4. The power of Congress to compel the enforcement and maintenance of republican government in every State, making the enumeration of personal and natural rights and the protective features of the Constitution the definition and test of what is republican government; and further, in order to establish and maintain such local republican government in every State, to prescribe, in case of necessity, the rule of suffrage or qualification of voters.

The applications filed for clerkships at the Treasury Department have now reached 22,000, and every day augments the number. It is a singular commentary upon this strife for office, that no class of persons in this country are so notoriously put to it to live on their incomes as the clerks in Washington. Congress is incessantly importuned for their relief; many resign from sheer inability to live here and yet the pressure for clerkships is unprecedented.

Some of the most indefatigable workers against reconstruction are to be found among the subordinate officers of the Freedmen's Bureau in the South. They as yet only supply members of Congress with data for speeches, and do not confine themselves to the channels prescribed by the regulations in their transmission. This procedure flanks General Howard, whose innate honesty would prompt him to suppress many of the exaggerated yarns if they came through the office of the bureau. In several districts, they control a newspaper or two, and they manufacture public sentiment, which comes to congressional dead-head subscribers through the mails as the expression of a free and independent press, is dove-tailed into speeches, and of course has its weight with the uninitiated. The New Orleans Tribune, a paper of this class, bound hand and foot to the Conway clique, is regularly furnished to radical members of Congress for the above named purpose. Since Gen. Pullerton's visit to the Louisiana district, and his correction of corruptions there, there has been considerable discussion and some ill feeling among the officers of the Bureau in that district especially, and many of their little secrets have come out. It is evident that, notwithstanding Gen Howard's efforts to prevent it, the Bureau has come to be quite a political machine. Unofficial news from officers of the Bureau and Southern newspaper extracts quoted in congressional speeches should be taken with a grain of salt.

THE NEGRO BILL.—The New York Times, edited by Henry J. Raymond, a leading Republican member of the House of Representatives, thus speaks of one of Sumner's negro bills:

"This is the 'shadow' of 'coming events.' It indicates the character of future legislation, should the power reside in such hands. Returning a moment to the question of colored suffrage in the District of Columbia, it is proposed to say that its real purpose is to signalize and crown the event by the election of a colored man for Mayor of the city of Washington. Without inquiring what chance of success the scheme has, it is certain that such is the undeclared purpose of the bill introduced by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives."

Important to Tax Payers.

We present our readers with, says the Charleston Courier, and direct their attention to, the following extracts from a circular issued recently from the office of the Comptroller General of this State, with regard to the construction of the Bill "to raise supplies," passed at the recent session of the Legislature.

"The tax on spirituous liquors brought into this State must be levied on all such liquors brought in at any time between the 1st October, 1864, and the 1st October, 1865."

This is a distinct tax, and is to be paid by the importer; if the same liquor is sold by him with his general stock of goods, wares and merchandize, the amount of such sales is not to be included in his "general return of goods, wares and merchandize." If liquors are purchased here and sold with a general stock, then such sales are to be included with and reported to the Collector on the "general return of goods," &c., made from 1st May, 1865, to 1st January, 1866.

In collecting the tax on the sales of cotton made from 1st May to 1st October, 1865, the Collector should look in general to the party who actually makes the sale; but, on a past transaction, if it is made plain that the seller was but an agent, and the owner who is benefited by the sale is pointed out, and is within the State, the tax should be collected from the owner."

"The tax on the value of grade turpentine, spirits of turpentine and rosin, should be paid to the Collector of the District where the property was located on 1st October, 1865."

"The capitation tax on male residents, applies both to white residents and to freedmen."

"The exemption from tax of lands and of lots and buildings in cities, towns, &c., that have been in possession of the Freedmen's Bureau during the year, is construed to refer to such lands, lots, &c., as were in possession of the said Bureau during the greater part of the year."

Real estate that was in possession of the Freedmen's Bureau the "greater part of the year," should be referred to the Tax Collector, accompanied by evidence of that fact, as it will otherwise appear, when his books are closed, upon the list of property not returned.

NEGROES.—The Constitution of the State of Indiana, adopted in 1851, contains the following sections:

"No negro or mulatto shall come into, or settle in the State after the adoption of this Constitution."

"All contracts made with any negro or mulatto coming into the State contrary to the provisions of the foregoing section, shall be void; and any person who shall employ such negro or mulatto, or otherwise encourage him to remain in the State, shall be fined in any sum not less than \$10, nor more than \$500."

It follows that titles of negroes to property are good for nothing. The above sections were adopted by the people of this State by about 90,000 majority.

How are they respected? The Southern negroes are pouring in here, forcing our white laborers to wander the streets in search of employment, and at the same time they are purchasing real estate with money they stole before leaving the South, thus injuring the property of whole neighborhoods. The people on Tennessee street drove them from building a nuisance in the shape of a church on that street. Let the people wake up on this subject, or the city will be well nigh ruined.

Was it to bring such a population here to drive white citizens out of employment, that our one-armed and one-legged soldiers, which daily excite the sympathy of every one on the streets, went into the war and became crippled for life?

[Indianapolis Sentinel, 15th.

The Indianapolis Journal says there is an editor in Wayne County, Indiana, whose oath would not convict a vessel of robbing a hen roost, if found in a coop with blood in his mouth.

WIDOWS IN MAIDENS.—A Richmond paper says that young men are scarce in that city, and maidens and widows in search of husbands, very plenty. The latter seem to be the most successful, and the editor, speaking in behalf of the maidens, says:

"We do not think, in view of the great scarcity of men, that it is fair for widows to marry a second time, until all the young maidens have secured husbands. The Legislature ought to attend to this matter, and protect the interests of the young ladies, for, without the aid of legal enactments, the widows are sure to play the grab game. They will, therefore, have to be restrained by the strong arm of the law, as was done in the early colonial history of Virginia, when the House of Burgesses passed an act of the very character indicated. It was found that all young men imported into the colony were at once caught by the widows, by superior wiles and stratagems, without any chance being allowed to the modest and retiring young maidens; so the Legislature took the matter in hand, and will have to do so again."

A New York correspondent of the Baltimore Transcript states: "It is reported in political circles that Mr. William P. Lyarts, one of our most prominent lawyers, is daily elected all alone with his law books, preparing for the trial of Jefferson Davis. He has been engaged by the Government for the sum of \$100,000, and the great jurist now has his entire soul in the matter. He is studying all the old law books he can lay his hands on, for the purpose of procuring a conviction, and all his other law business for the time being laid aside."

A RICH BALE OF COTTON.—Many cotton bales arriving in New York have to be overhauled, dirt and stained cotton thrown out, and then rebaled. The other day, two bales in the docks of this duty, found in one of the bales \$27,000 in gold. One of them proposed to the other to divide and keep none, but the other said he would report to the "boss." The purchaser of the cotton claimed the gold, and the seller claimed it, because the cotton was not delivered, and for other reasons; and probably the court will decide to whom this rich mine belongs. The purchaser gave the two laborers \$400 each in greenbacks.

The Macon Telegraph justly denounces the practice of the telegraphic reporter, at Washington, in speaking of Admiral Semmes as the "Pirate Semmes." The Telegraph says: "As a patron of the Associated Press, we shall stand in no such insults to the Southern press and people, and we call upon the President of the Association to have the abuses corrected forthwith. Capt. Semmes is a high-minded and honorable gentleman, and is no more deserving the name of 'pirate' than the Washington correspondent of the Associated Press is deserving the title of thief or puppy."

THE END.—The Rev. Dr. Cumming, of London, is still preaching his favorite theme of the second advent, and, in a recent discourse, placed the time in the year 1867, at the autumnal equinox. An American gentleman who heard him, writes to one of our religious papers that "he cited a large number of authorities, which seemed to confirm his view." There is one "authority" which the preacher evidently forgot: "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man; no, not the angels which are in heaven."—Mark xiii, 32.

BACKING OUT.—A telegram says that a Major Graham has just arrived at Brownsville from the Mexican capital, who gives intelligence that Maximilian has recently unreservedly expressed himself ready to make his exit from Mexico whenever the United States shall demand it.

It is proposed to make provision for carrying on the under ground road which is to be started in New York, 100 passengers per day, or 25,625 each year. The trains are not to run at a rate exceeding twenty miles per hour.