

Legislative Proceedings.

Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NOV. 30.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. Messrs. Schneider and Huger, members elect from St. Philip's and St. Michael's, appeared, were qualified and took their seats. Mr. Schneider presented the memorial of the artillery companies of Charleston, praying a special organization; referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Myers gave notice that he would on to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill to prevent and punish all persons directly and indirectly betting on elections. Mr. Schneider was added to the Military Committee, and Mr. Huger to the Committee on Incorporations. Pursuant to notice given, Mr. Childs introduced a bill to amend the Constitution to suppress duelling; Mr. Middleton, a bill to incorporate the village of Plantersville; Mr. Thomson, a bill to repeal the 5th section of an act to regulate the office of Comptroller General; Mr. C. R. Carroll, a bill to regulate the suspending banks; Mr. W. J. Alston, a bill to alter and amend the 2d section of the 9th article of the Constitution of this State; Mr. Frost, a bill to authorize the L. C. and C. R. R. Company, and the S. W. R. R. Bank, to reduce their stock and for other purposes; to the Special Joint Committee, to whom the memorial on that subject had been referred. An unfavorable report of the Committee on Ways and Means, on the petition of sundry citizens of Greenwood, for an exemption from taxation, was considered and agreed to. Adjourned.

IN SENATE, Wednesday Dec. 2. The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. John Douglass, from the committee to count the votes for Solicitors, of the Southern and Middle Circuits, reported that, for the Southern Circuit John D. Edwards had been duly elected. Mr. Felder, from the committee to count votes for Attorney General, reported that Henry Bailey was elected. The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Hon. John B. O'Neill, asking leave of absence from the State. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. The report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections on the memorial of Thomas Legare, and others, protesting against the seat of Mr. John Rivers, from St. Andrew's Parish, and recommending that the seat of the said John Rivers be vacated, was taken up, and after some discussion, recommended to the same committee. The Senate then took up the special order of the day, which was the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, on the memorial of sundry Electors of the Parishes of St. Philip's and St. Michael's, protesting against the seat of Mr. Ker Boyce. On motion of Mr. Quash, the Senate resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Clowney in the Chair. The parties being heard by counsel, after some time spent in debate, the committee rose, the Chairman reported progress, asked and obtained leave to sit again. The committee to count votes for Solicitor of the Middle Circuit, reported T. N. Dawkins, duly elected, and James Jones, Adjutant and Inspector General. Adjourned.

December 2. The House met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Herndon gave notice that he will ask leave to-morrow, to introduce a bill to declare void all deeds, wills, or other instruments, written whereby any estate is given directly, or in trust or confidence for a slave and for other purposes. Mr. Thomson, that on to-morrow he will ask leave to introduce a bill to define what shall be legal service of process on corporations.

Pursuant to notice, Mr. Brown introduced a bill to increase the pay of Grand and Petit Jurors; and Mr. Myers a bill to equalize the salaries of the Treasurers of the Upper and Lower Divisions; which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

Mr. R. C. Griffin submitted a resolution instructing the committee on roads, to inquire into the expediency of laying a tax on persons owning slaves, who are in the habit of hiring out such slaves as boat hauls. Mr. Herndon gave notice, that on to-morrow he will introduce a bill to require the Clerks of the several judicial districts of this State, to keep in their offices the standard weights and measures fixed by Act of Congress.

The following bills were read and referred: A bill to alter and amend the law in relation to bail; a bill concerning the duties and liabilities of sheriffs; a bill to provide an additional remedy for trespasses committed upon real or personal property, was referred to the Judiciary Committee. A bill to prevent and punish, directly or indirectly betting on elections; referred to the committee on privileges and elections. A resolution submitted yesterday by Mr. Roper, respecting a new valuation and taxation of land, was read, considered, and after discussion, laid on the table.

IN SENATE, Dec. 3. The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The President submitted the 7th and 8th volumes of the statutes at large. Message No. 3, from his Excellency the Governor, in relation to the College commencement. Referred to the Committee on the Col. Ed. and Religion. The Senate then proceeded to the special order of the day, which was a memorial of sundry electors of St. Philip's and St. Michael's, protesting against the claim of Mr. Ker Boyce to a seat in the Senate, and resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. Clowney in the chair. After some time spent in debate, the committee rose, reported progress, and the subject was made the special order of the day for to-morrow at half-past 12 o'clock. Adjourned.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 2. The House this day refused to send a message to the Senate to go forthwith into an election for Superintendent of Public Works. There is a resolution before the Internal Improvement Committee, on the subject of abolishing the above office. It is supposed that committee will not recommend the abolition. The bill to authorize and permit John Jones, a free person of color, his wife and family, to return to this State, after being sent in the House twice, was on the question to be sent to the State, postponed indefinitely by a large vote. A resolution of inquiry as to the expediency of equalizing the taxation of the State, and with reference to the actual and not imaginary value of property, came up today for reference, the resolution having been laid on the table by rule, yesterday, to await action to-day. A spurious argument ensued, in which Messrs. Henry and Thomson, of Spartanburgh, Mr. Rhoet, of St. Luke's, and Messrs. Roper and Memminger, of Charleston, and Lewis of Darlington, took part. The resolution was disposed of, by a motion to lie on the table, which prevailed.

In the Senate, the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, in the contested seat of Mr. Rivers, came up for discussion. The committee recommended substantially that another election take place, on the ground, chiefly, that one box was used by the managers for the election of Senator, Representatives, Member of Congress, &c. After some discussion, in which Senators Huger, Verrier, Gregg, McWille and Quash, took part, the Senate decided to recommit the report to the same committee. It is not positively certain what will be the decision of the Senate on this subject, as it is admitted there was no fraud, and that the votes were equally divided at the particular poll. The Senate, it is supposed, will confirm the election of Senator Rivers. The report also, of the same committee on Mr. Boyce's election, was immediately thereupon taken up. The Senate resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Senator Clowney in the Chair. The parties were allowed counsel at the bar of the Senate—Messrs. Hunt and Carroll for Mr. Boyce, Mr. Wilson for the memorialists.

Mr. Carroll, who is speaking now, (half past 3 P. M. opens—and will be followed by Mr. Wilson—when Mr. Hunt will have the reply. Several Senators will take part in the debate on this question. The committee have recommended that witnesses and papers be sent for—and that the memorialists state the names of the persons, the time when, and the place where, the alleged bribery, corruption, &c., suggested in the memorial, transpired. Mr. Carroll, for the sake of argument, admits the facts, to insist upon his plea against the jurisdiction of the Senate in this case—in the nature of a demurrer.

COLUMBIA, Dec. 1. The House of Representatives has at length got fairly into business. Most of the elections have been decided. The most interesting to our city that of Attorney General, has resulted in the reelection of Mr. Bailey. You could scarce have a conception of the extent of excitement and electioneering displayed in this matter. Another matter of the deepest interest to all lovers of justice and fair faith, and peculiarly so to every elector in our parishes, is the memorial against Mr. Boyce. This was presented, as you are advised, by Judge Jager, in a manner which displayed the conflict of his feelings; he shewed at once a determination to perform his duty strictly to his constituents, who had signed that paper—his regret that charges of so deep a dye could be preferred against his colleague, and his firm belief and earnest trust, that that gentleman could pass that ordeal unscathed.

The memorial was referred to a committee, of which Col. McWille, of Kershaw, is chairman. Upon the reading in the Senate, Mr. Boyce rose and expressed his joy that it had come to light, his readiness and ability to meet the charges. Col. Hunt and Mr. B. R. Carroll appeared as his counsel before the committee, and these gentlemen, although entirely satisfied of their ability to meet the charges, yet deemed it their duty to require the committee and the Senate to consider their right to go into these investigations. The grounds taken by counsel were in substance these: that the right of Mr. Boyce as a citizen, to be tried by due form of law, for any offence known to the law, was paramount to any liability which as Senator he might be under to submit to the decision of the body of which he is a member; and secondly, that neither under the Common Law, the Statutes, nor the Constitution, had the Senate a right to vacate a seat for offences prior to election and qualification, granting even that such offences had been committed.

John Lide Wilson, Esq. enforced the right of the Senate and of their Committee. I hope to be able to furnish you with a sketch of Col. Hunt's able speech, and of Mr. Carroll's Constitutional argument. The Committee on consideration decided by a vote of 4 to 1, that they had jurisdiction, and reported to the Senate. On submitting which report, Col. McWille, the minority on the question, made a very able argument against the jurisdiction. The case comes up before the Senate to-morrow, and powerful speeches may be expected pro and con.

The Committee are in active occupation, and most of them will soon report.—The special Committee on Temperance, I understand, advise no legislative action on the subject.

ST. AGUSTINE, NOV. 27. From the South.—We are informed by Mr. Dabose, of Key West, that about the first of the month Mr. How, of Indian Key, sent a small vessel with three men to Cape Florida for turtle. The men not returning, a search was made along the coast, and the schooner was found 35 miles beyond the Cape on shore, stripped and burned—men not found—probably murdered.

About the same date Capt. Pent and Capt. Bethel were lying with two small turtle-fishing vessels near Sand Key when about breakfast time Capt. Bethel discovered a large party of Indians coming round the Key in Capt. Housman's whale boat (stolen from Indian Key) and three canoes. The vessels got under way and escaped, but not before the Indians were within 50 yards of Capt. B.; the water being rough they did not fire. On Sunday last Mr. Gidron Hague, while out turkey hunting in Abchua, seeing an Indian by a fire crept up and shot him dead the first shot.

This is all the Indian news we have to offer this week, and at a distance it may be thought of small moment, but it is more towards ending the war than the reports of ten scouts and one campaign—with no Indian killed or seen. The death of one Indian is of more importance to us than the storming of Beyrout.—Herald.

To Texian Emigrants.—The Red River Republican, of the 15th ult., contains the following notice which will, no doubt, be interesting to western emigrants.—“Persons from the western states, who may be coming by land to this section of country, or emigrating to Texas, may be pleased to hear that a new road has lately been cut, that is better and more convenient than any of the old roads. It commences near the mouth of Red River on the Mississippi, and crosses Simmes' new ferry on the Atchafalaya. By taking this road, travellers will avoid the much dreaded Atchafalaya swamp.”

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A DREADFUL STORY.—Abduction of White Girls from New York.—The New York Sun contains the particulars of a most painful rumor in relation to the kidnapping of some fifteen or twenty young white women from that city, and of their captivity among the native chiefs of the slave coast of Africa. The Sun says—“For the last two or three years, several vessels have left this port whose appearance was any thing but mercantile, and general rumor called them pirates—some came nearer the truth, and rightly called them slavers. It is said that one of these vessels assumed the character of a passenger packet, bound to New Orleans and Havana, and the captain by the aid of a person well known in this city, went to the Points, and also to the other infected districts of our city, and addressing themselves to the best looking girls, tendered them a free passage, and even went so far as to give them new dresses, trinkets, &c. The poor girls were taken on board in the stream in detachments, and every thing was given to them to render their position comfortable, and committed to the care of a matron, who assumed the character of the captain's wife. Thus freighted, the vessel left our waters and reached Havana in a few days. There the unsuspecting girls were informed that they could not then land, because the authorities of the island had ordered the vessel to be quarantined at Mantanzas. In a few days she sailed apparently bound to Mantanzas, but in truth her sails were spread for the coast of Africa on a slaving expedition.

The length of the voyage created some uneasiness, which however, was quieted by the good usage and continued frolics of the whole party. On their reaching the coast, preparations having been made for their arrival, they were sent on shore, and, as the painful rumor says, they were exchanged by these abductors, with the chiefs for slaves, and one young white woman was exchanged for 50 prime negroes. The whole party was thus instantaneously sent into the interior of Africa as the slaves of the chiefs, perhaps never to hear from their own land again. This account is said to have reached this city by the capture of one of the war parties, in which two of the white girls who were owned by one of the chiefs, and who gave a letter to be sent to the coast, narrating the manner of their abduction and captivity. We trust that this letter may turn out a fabrication, because we would hope that the accused love of gold has not driven any of our sailors to such an infamous and diabolical traffic as that of poor unfortunate woman. At the time these vessels were leaving, a rumor of the kind was afloat, but it was thought rather idle, and we sincerely trust that this whole matter will be only one of Madam Rumor's brood.

Bella, Florida Bella.—We perceive that the leaders of the abolition host have lately changed their tune. A little while ago they were for drawing the line between themselves and the iniquitous slaveholders of the South. They would neither receive the latter to their communion, nor even permit their contributions to pollute the sanctuary of their holy dollars and cents. But now, since the South have shown a determination that a line shall be drawn; that if northern baptists will not draw it, they will draw it themselves; that if northern baptists do not drop their connexion with the ultraists, they will dissolve their connexion with northern baptists; the state of the case has become vastly altered. Now we hear not a word about non-fellowship, “the price of blood,” withdrawing from the general institutions, &c. On the contrary, the determination now seems to be, to adhere to the general institutions at all hazards and under all circumstances.—Accordingly the leaders are vehemently calling their forces to arms, exhorting them to prepare for the onset, and urging them “to put forth their whole strength, in April next—to do what? Not to expel the South. Not to put away from them the ‘price of blood,’ as is their erst phrase. But to defend themselves—to maintain their standing in the general institutions—and thereby to continue their relations with the South!! So much for that sort of consistency which blows cold to-day, hot to-morrow, and next day nothing at all.

We now take it upon ourselves to inform our abolition friends, that they may make themselves entirely easy on the score of war with the South. The day for controversy between themselves and the South is past. If they expect the South to contend with them for existence in our general institutions, or indeed for any thing else, they deceive themselves. The baptists of the South have done just about all that they design to do. They have resolved that they and the abolitionists cannot occupy the same platform nor associate in the same proceedings. If the abolitionists are removed they will continue. But if the abolitionists continue they will withdraw. The question to be settled then is, will it be settled by Southern baptists, nor by Abolitionists, much less by both these together; but by northern baptists of the neutral party. We trust that our northern friends may be prepared to decide this question in such manner as shall be most compatible with our general constitutions, and most advantageous to the kingdom of Christ.—Biblical Recorder.

A BOLD EXPERIMENT.—The New York Sun states that the Great Western steamship company are now building at Bristol, England, an immense iron steamer, to run between that port and New York, which if it succeeds, as it most probably will, will change entirely the system of steam navigation. It is constructed with iron 5-8ths of an inch thick, tightly joined together with rivets and ribs, and keel of cast iron. It is divided into small compartments, so that should a hole be knocked into any part of it, which seems impossible, only one compartment would fill and the boat could never sink. But what is the most extraordinary about the construction of this immense boat is the manner of propelling it. It is to work by a screw placed behind, and on the principle of skulking, which is to turn around under water at the stern, thereby saving the use of paddle boxes. In case this succeeds, it will be of great utility in armed steamships, as then, having no wheels on the side, shot would not injure or impede the manner of propelling them as it would now.

The vessel, which is the largest yet made by that company, will be finished in 1842, and is calculated to be the fastest on the line.—Penn. Inquirer.

Western Texas, its Resources.—We were shewn, a few days ago, by Col. Perry, some very interesting specimens of the Western part of Texas. Among other things, and which particularly attracted our attention, was a kind of grass, very much resembling wheat, and might with propriety, be called wild wheat. It was nearly four feet high on the 4th March, the time when cut. He also exhibited many other kinds of wild grain, besides several specimens of soil, which we have not room to notice at length. Col. Perry was formerly of this State, but now hails from Port Preston, a Town, which he has with much enterprise and industry laid out, and which was incorporated by the Texian Legislature, in 1839. It is situated on the Arroun Bay, at the confluence of the Mission river, and has been named by its founder, after our distinguished statesman and Senator, in honor of his able defence of Texian Independence. Those who may wish to become interested in the soil, or are curious to learn particulars of that country, would doubtless be gratified by calling on Col. Perry, at the U. S. Hotel.—Southern Chronicle.

MANMOUTH POTATO.—The old saw says that “it is better to be born lucky than rich.” and we certainly have been uncommonly fortunate this season, in the potato line. Our brother Editors have been boasting of four and six pounders, and one even of a seven pound potato, but we have, during the past week feasted upon one from the plantation of A. H. Boykin Esq. which weighed seven and a half pounds. And a most beautiful specimen it was—none of your long gaudy serpentine stringy fellows all legs and arms, and no body—but a most exquisitely proportioned root—largest in the centre and gradually tapering at the ends, with only one graceful curve in its whole length; and then such well defined parallel lines equal in beauty to the handsomest Muskmelon we ever saw. But appearances are nothing; the quality and quantity were its greatest virtues. Now brethren if any of you can beat this, this, we only envy you—that's all.—Camden Journal.

Texas and Great Britain.—The New York Journal of Commerce, of 25th ult. says:—“It is reported by the Great Western, that Gen. Hamilton, the Ambassador of Texas, had agreed with Lord Palmerston upon the terms of a treaty between these two high contracting parties, by which Great Britain consents to acknowledge the independence of Texas, and use to her endeavors to obtain the same recognition on the part of Mexico. It is included in the report, that this treaty with Great Britain would probably enable Gen. Hamilton to consummate his arrangements for a loan. Of course, the loan had not been made when announced some weeks ago by several of our contemporaries.”

Georgetown, S. C. At a late term of the Superior Court of this county, one of the presiding Judges appeared on the Bench with Silk Stockings, Silk Handkerchiefs, &c., made by his own family or some of his friends, of the production of their own economies. The next day another of the Judges, A. E. Ernest, Esq., appeared in a full suit of Silk, (including coat, vest, pantaloons, stockings, pocket handkerchief and necktie, produced and manufactured wholly and entirely in his own family. Judge E. is of opinion that domestic silk will, before many years, be found the most economical article for negro clothing as well as ladies and gentlemen's dresses. Mason Telegraph.

Census of New Hampshire.—The New Hampshire Patriot publishes the census of that State, and also furnishes a comparative table from which it appears that the population of New Hampshire in 1800 was 183,858, in 1810, 214,490, in 1820, 244,161, and in 1830, 269,933. It now contains a population of 284,431.—The increase during the last ten years is 14,848.

The Poor Man's Party.—In Louisiana no man can vote unless he is a freeholder. A late proposition to extend the right of suffrage was voted down in the Senate, every Harrison man voting against it and every Van Buren for it. This is the position of the two parties throughout the whole country. Webster declares “it is the part of wisdom to found government on property.” Trace the two parties wherever you will and this same difference is found. In Rhode Island none but freeholders are allowed to vote, and at every attempt that has been made to obviate this state of things the federal party has been in opposition, and the Republicans in favor. So it always has been—so it always will be and that laboring man who would vote for such a party deserves to have his rights taken from him in the way and manner they would be were it not the vigilance of the Republican party—the poor man's unflinching friend.—Republican Journal.

Nathaniel Prime.—Formerly the head of the New York banking house of Prime, Ward, King & Co., put an end to his life on the 27th ult., by cutting his throat with a razor. No sufficient reasons for the desperate act are given in the New York papers. He was rich, happy in his domestic relations, and enjoying a vigorous and hale old age, amid the general respect of the world. It would seem that we drop most easily from the perch of life, when we are sitting most securely and pleasantly—while the wretched, the outcast, the hopeless, like the wounded bird, cling to it but the more convulsively, for the mortal pang that renders its support unavailing.

The verdict of the Coroner's Jury, was that the deceased put an end to his life during a temporary fit of derangement, produced by indisposition.—Char. Cour.

Printers.—Intellectual smelters, who receive the dross for their labor, while the world gets the metal.

N. C. Senators.—Messrs. Willie P. Mangum and Wm. A. Graham, were on the 24th ult. elected U. S. Senators, in the place of Messrs. Brown, and Strange, resigned.

On the 1st inst., the following gentlemen were chosen Electors for this State: Messrs. John Crawford, James J. Caldwell, J. S. Ashe, Alexander Mazzyck, H. D. Johnson, Wm. Willie, J. S. Jeter, W. H. Cannon, John Buchanan, T. J. Goodwyn, and John Jenkins. The Electors met on the 2nd inst., and voted for Martin Van Buren for President, and Littleton W. Tazewell, for Vice President.

It affords us great pleasure to announce to our readers, that Julius J. Du Bose, the talented editor of the S. C. Temperance Advocate, has been elected Treasurer of the Upper Division. A more judicious selection could not, in our opinion, have been made. Mr. D. is a gentleman and scholar, and well qualified to discharge the duties of his office.

On the 1st inst. the following gentlemen were, admitted by the Court of Appeals, to practice in the Courts of Law, in this State. Messrs. R. G. Barnwell, Samuel D. Barron, Levi S. Bowers, C. R. Rryce, W. W. Boyce, John Coleman, E. M. Chambers, J. W. Cooke, J. H. Creswell, Wm. Curriel, Geo. G. DeWalt, Alex. Gregg, John A. Inglis, Henry A. Jones, Wm. R. Robertson, A. Summer, R. L. Tillinghast, P. S. Vandiver, J. M. Wallace.

At the same time the following, gentlemen were admitted to practice in the Courts of Equity. Messrs. Jno. Cunningham, Wm. Curriel, Saml. B. Massey, Robt. H. Speers, R. L. Tillinghast.

The weather for some weeks past, has been unusually mild and pleasant, until within the last few days, during which, it has undergone a material change. A cold northeast wind, accompanied with rain, has induced many of our citizens to draw on their overcoats and caps, and produced quite a sensation in the wool market. Many similar movements, indicated a readiness on the part of our community, to welcome the stern monarch of the North. Winter has indeed arrived. The energies of nature are prostrated. The leaves of the forest are fast falling to the ground. The branches are stripped of their verdure, and the cold north wind chants the requiem of the dying year. The woods are silent and deserted, and where but a short time since, the blithe melodies of birds, was heard nothing now meet the ear, but the creaking of some broken branch as it swings in the chill blast, in symphonious cadence, with the solitary hooting of the distant owl. The long evenings are enjoyed by the young and gay, while the man of contemplation, is drawn to reflect on that final close of earthly interest, desires and anticipations, which usher in the winter of death.

We perceive by our exchange papers, that the United States Mint are coining dollars smaller in diameter, than those now in circulation. We shall not oppose this alteration, provided the number is increased in proportion, for we now find it impossible to retain any of them long enough in our possession, to ascertain whether they are large or small.

Nathaniel P. Howard, Esq., of Richmond, Va., has been appointed Professor of Law, in the Virginia University, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Prof. Davis. Mr. H. is said to be a gentleman of accurate and extensive legal acquirements, and an accomplished scholar.

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The weather for some weeks past, has been unusually mild and pleasant, until within the last few days, during which, it has undergone a material change. A cold northeast wind, accompanied with rain, has induced many of our citizens to draw on their overcoats and caps, and produced quite a sensation in the wool market. Many similar movements, indicated a readiness on the part of our community, to welcome the stern monarch of the North. Winter has indeed arrived. The energies of nature are prostrated. The leaves of the forest are fast falling to the ground. The branches are stripped of their verdure, and the cold north wind chants the requiem of the dying year. The woods are silent and deserted, and where but a short time since, the blithe melodies of birds, was heard nothing now meet the ear, but the creaking of some broken branch as it swings in the chill blast, in symphonious cadence, with the solitary hooting of the distant owl. The long evenings are enjoyed by the young and gay, while the man of contemplation, is drawn to reflect on that final close of earthly interest, desires and anticipations, which usher in the winter of death.

We perceive by our exchange papers, that the United States Mint are coining dollars smaller in diameter, than those now in circulation. We shall not oppose this alteration, provided the number is increased in proportion, for we now find it impossible to retain any of them long enough in our possession, to ascertain whether they are large or small.

Nathaniel P. Howard, Esq., of Richmond, Va., has been appointed Professor of Law, in the Virginia University, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Prof. Davis. Mr. H. is said to be a gentleman of accurate and extensive legal acquirements, and an accomplished scholar.

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