

The Fairfield Herald.

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THE FAIRFIELD HERALD,

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The Burning of Columbia—Letter from
Hon. Alfred Huger.

CHARLESTON, S. C., August 22.

To the Editor of the World:

Sir: I most unwillingly leave the retirement and obscurity which old age and circumstances have provided; but a remark in your paper of the 13th seems to demand it. A writer signed "S," replying to an article in Harper's Magazine for August, introduces my name in these words: "They must refer to Alfred Huger, for many years postmaster at Charleston, &c., &c. I turn to the Magazine, and to my surprise find a contributor whose purposes and motives it is not my business to define, making a capital out of so barren a subject as myself. Beginning with the 'Burning of Columbia,' and the abuse of General Hampton, he says: 'Among others to whom I was sent to give assistance was Mr. Huger, a well-known citizen of South Carolina,' and then recounts an elaborate conversation about a band of thieves, calling themselves Wheeler's cavalry, &c.; and in another part of his narrative writes: 'When the citizens of Columbia begin their investigations of the burning of that city, and the pilaging of houses and robbing of citizens, let them not forget to take the evidence of Mr. Huger!' I am thus put on the stand without being consulted, and shall commence by saying that if this individual or any other was ever sent to my 'assistance,' the mission has been strangely disregarded. I never saw such a person as he claims to be, though I was an eye-witness to the burning of Columbia. I never had any such intercourse with any human being in Sherman's camp, or out of it; and if investigations are made and the evidence of Mr. Huger is called for, I shall, with a deep consciousness of what is due to truth, say that, before Almighty God, all that I saw, all that I heard, all that I suffered, all that I believe, is in direct opposition to what is affirmed by the writer for Harper's Magazine, and for which he quotes Mr. Huger as a portion of his authority; and I ask leave to add, after maturely reflecting upon the events of that fearful night, when every feeling of humanity seemed to be obliterated if my 'well-being' here and hereafter depended on the accuracy of my statement, I would say that the precision, order, method, and discipline which prevailed from the entrance of the Federal army to its departure, could only emanate from military authority. How could I come to any other conclusion, with the fact, regarded as indisputable, that the city was doomed before it was taken? and that as the tragedy progressed, everybody saw the pogrom carried out, as they previously expected or how am I to believe my own senses when an individual, pretending to be an officer, talks of burning the city, pillaging houses, robbing citizens, &c., as if 'these' were unfounded charges? Why, sir, I never supposed I was dealt with more harshly than others, because I know that the 'plunder' was universal. Yet, Mr. Huger, who is to bear witness for one who was sent to assist him, now declares 'that he was mercilessly robbed; that his person was ruthlessly violated; that food was taken away from his orphan children, and that his family were brutally insulted by well-mounted and well-armed men in the uniform of the United States!' For aught I know, it may be usual or even necessary to grant this license, while the denial is equally absurd and wicked, and the attempt to implicate other people is the consummation of both! But this is the end that such things come to, and the natural consequence of calling witnesses to prove what the witnesses themselves know to be false. I saw those who were apparently plying their vocation deliberately set fire to houses, carrying with them combustible preparations for doing so. Of the effort made to prevent them I say nothing, because I saw nothing. It gratifies me, however, to relate this instance of kindness. My own house was about to be destroyed by the firing of an adjoining building. There were two Western men looking on—soldiers in the true sense of the word. I asked one of them (their names were Elliott and Goodman, one from Indiana, the other from Iowa). 'Have you a family at home?' He answered 'Yes.' I said to him, 'My family are ill in that room; have you no thought of your own?' The man showed that he had a heart, and, as the incendiary moved off to other objects, he did assist me, without being 'sent,' and with my servants, and the only child big enough to hand 'a bucket' saved the house, with its helpless inmates, thanks to this good Samaritan.

My conviction is that Columbia was cruelly and uselessly sacked and burned without resistance, after being in complete possession of Gen. Sherman's army; but who gave the order to apply the torch, is not for the victims either to

know or to care. Hundreds of helpless women and children were turned out to their fate. It is the historian's business to find evidence to meet the case, not mine, and my voice would never have been heard had I not been unjustly dragged before the public. The 'truth and the whole truth,' will probably never appear; but it is 'recorded in the High Chancery of Heaven,' where no human power can make the erasure.

Mr. Editor—I crave your patience a little longer, and beg your attention to the first sentence in the article of which I complain. It reads thus: 'If Mr. Wade Hampton is anxious to add a deeper shame to a dishonored name, he has attained that end by his renewed attempts to hold General Sherman responsible for the burning of Columbia and its terrible consequences.' &c. Now, sir, I speak for every honest man between the mountains and the seacoast, and between the Savannah River and the Peedee, when I say, 'If this opinion and this epithet are not equally revolting and insulting, then the common sensibilities of nature are made extinct by the sufferings we have endured.' If Hampton is a 'dishonored name,' there is none within the limits of this down-trodden and persecuted State that can be considered as sullied. Here in South Carolina, and throughout the South, every human being feels that where the name of Hampton is best known it is the most revered, and he who bears it is the most beloved. Before the present incumbent saw the light that name was identified with all that was brave and honorable and generous. What a noble sire (who emphatically and habitually 'did the honors' of his native state) has left impressed upon the hearts of his countrymen as a legacy to his children, this slandered Mr. Wade Hampton, late Lieutenant-General of the Confederate army, will transmit to another generation, bright and untarnished. If there is one among us more cherished than the rest, it is he upon whom this gratuitous assault is so brutally and yet so feebly made. And if to-day or to-morrow a canvass should be opened for our 'representative man' to fill the highest office in the gift of a broken-hearted but grateful people, none could be found strong enough to compete with him for their favor; and it would be untrue to the living and the dead if such were not the unanimous decision. I have said that the historian must get evidence as to the burning of Columbia, and he will find it; the foolish attempt to hold Hampton responsible is beyond the tether of his last cannibalizer, and is hardly of a serious refutation. These few questions, when they are asked, will be found difficult to answer. Where was Hampton when the conflagration began to take its regular course at eight o'clock at night? Did the cotton which was burning at the east end of Main street travel against a gale of wind to the extreme west, more than a mile off? Was it not there and then that we were called on to perceive that our doom was sealed? Why talk of putting out the fire in a church yard when it is notorious that the sacrament silver belonging to the altar was stolen, and I think, subsequently given up? Did Hampton burn the country seats surrounding Columbia, leaving his kith and kindred without a shelter? Did he burn every farm house on the way-side? every grist-mill and flour mill? Did he burn Camden and Winnsboro, and Cheraw? Was the quantity of silver plate taken from the citizens of Columbia sold for Hapton's benefit in New York and elsewhere? Is it the necessary province of war to obliterate all mercy and all shame? But enough; when the Searcher of Hearts commences His 'investigations,' Hampton will be found entrenched by truth—surrounded by that strength which 'prosperity and victory cannot give, and which adversity and malignity cannot take away.

Mr. Editor: We are doing our best with Heaven's help, to have a country once more. North, South, East and West, are enlisted in this holy enterprise. All have joined hands in the sacred work, and a Chief Magistrate, distinguished for his high 'sense of duty,' and for his inflexible 'courage' in its performance, wisely tells us, 'if we cannot forget the past we can never have a future; and standing as I do, almost in sight of the grave, among the oldest men in the State that gave me birth, I will say Amen to their sentiment. Let the past be forgotten, if such is possible; at any rate, let it not be referred to if the object is 'peace, and the hope is in the future.'

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
ALFRED HUGER.

The Richmond Examiner says: 'Passengers from Hampton report that General Armstrong has recently made a speech to the freedmen at Hampton, informing them that on the 1st of January they must leave the lands they now occupy, and emigrate to Florida. Some forty families we hear, have enrolled their names. This is the only mode by which they can escape great suffering from want during the coming winter.'

Why is a selfish friend like the letter P. Because, though he is the first in pity, he is the last in help.

When sorrow 'has left its traces' what becomes of the rest of the hor-tress?

LEGISLATURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1866. SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 m.
Messrs. Davant, Thompson and Buist presented reports of sundry committees.

A message was received from the House, refusing to concur in the resolution relative to the action of the General Assembly at this special session, sent to the House by the Senate.

At 1 p. m., Message No. 2 was communicated to the Senate.

Mr. Weatherly introduced a bill to secure advances for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Shingler introduced a bill to prohibit the sale of agricultural products by laborers and employees. Also, introduced a bill to prohibit and punish hunting and fishing on the premises of the others without permission.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill to enable certain banks to be put in liquidation.

Mr. Thompson introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to establish and regulate the domestic relations of persons of color, and to amend the law in relation to paupers and vagrancy.'

Mr. Townsend offered a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on Roads and Buildings to examine into the expediency of finishing the new State House, in such manner as to make it suitable for the uses of the Legislature; and to this end, that they obtain reliable estimates of the cost of covering the building with a good shingle roof, and finishing off the interior of the same, together with the necessary stairs leading thereto, in such plain manner as shall be least expensive to the State, but which, at the same time, will be compatible with the convenience and comfort of the Legislature whilst occupying the building; and that the Committee be allowed until the first week of the next regular session of this Legislature to obtain the information and make their report.

After the transaction of some other unimportant business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 o'clock.
Message No. 2 was received from his Excellency the Governor, and was read by John L. Boatwright, Esq., his Private Secretary.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
EXECUTIVE DEPT. COLUMBIA, Sept. 7.
Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Congress of the United States, on the 2d day of July, 1862, passed an Act, entitled 'An Act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agricultural and the mechanic arts.' By this Act, 30,000 acres of land was apportioned to each State, for each Senator and Representative, by the apportionment under the census of 1860. Where no public lands are situated in any State, then the quota of such States shall be paid in land scrip, which shall be sold, and the proceeds applied to the uses and purposes prescribed in the Act.

All the expenses connected with the securing and selling of the scrip are to be paid by the State, so that the gross proceeds of the sale shall be appropriated as aforesaid; the proceeds to be invested in stocks yielding not less than five per cent. interest; the interest alone to be used in maintaining one college, 'where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the Legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.' Other conditions are annexed, one of which requires a college to be in complete operation within five years from the passage of the Act; otherwise, the grant to the State ceases; and another, 'that no State shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act, unless it shall expressly acceptance thereof, by its Legislature, within two years from the date of its approval by the President.' On the 14th April, 1864, the time was extended two years from that date, and on the 1st day of July, 1866, it was further extended, so that no impediment now exists to this State except the provisions of the Act.

The quantity of land scrip to which this State is entitled will be 180,000 acres, and will, perhaps, realize to the State more than \$150,000.

I recommend that the General Assembly, at its present session, accept the provisions of this Act of Congress. A joint committee of the two Houses, or a commission, can mature a plan for organizing and establishing a college, in conformity to the requirements of the Act of Congress, and report at the annual session of the General Assembly.

I communicate herewith, for your information, a copy of the Act of Congress of the 2d July, 1866.

JAMES L. ONS.
Messrs. Mikoll, J. B. Aiken, Wagner and others submitted reports of committees.

Mr. Warley introduced the following bills: A bill to amend the law in relation to tanneries; a bill to provide an expeditious mode of ejecting trespassers. Mr. Wagner introduced a bill to

amend an Act, entitled 'An Act to lend the credit of the State to secure certain bonds to be issued by the South Carolina Railroad Company.'

Mr. F. D. Richardson introduced the following bills: A bill to dissolve the corporation known as the President and Directors of the Bank of the State of South Carolina, and to transfer assets to the new Bank of the State; a bill regulating suits brought against the incorporated banks of this State for the recovery of notes issued as circulation; a bill to amend the law allowing discounts to be plead in action at law.

Mr. Hough introduced a bill to raise a fund to provide for the necessities of the people.

Mr. Lord introduced a bill to enable certain banks to be put in liquidation; also, a bill to amend the law establishing District Courts.

Mr. J. S. Richardson, jr., introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on Roads, Bridges and ferries to inquire and report, by bill or otherwise, upon the propriety and expediency of authorizing the Boards of Commissioners of Roads of the several Districts and Parishes to levy a tax upon the inhabitants of their respective Districts and Parishes, as is now done by the Boards of Commissioners of Public Buildings and of the Poor, for the purpose of keeping up the roads and bridges of the State by contract, instead of working them as now provided by law.

Mr. Maatin introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report upon the expediency of so amending the laws in relation to trespassers, on lands as to make it an indictable offence for any person to enter a diversely upon the real estate of another, whether enclosed or not.

Mr. Talley introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee of Ways and Means to consider and report some more convenient and expeditious mode for the transfer of State stocks than that now in use.

Mr. Hayes introduced the following preamble and resolutions; which were ordered for consideration on Monday next:

Whereas many persons liable to taxation under the provisions of 'An Act to raise supplies for the year commencing in October, 1865,' and ratified on the 21st day of December last, have failed to comply with the conditions of said Act; and whereas it is the conviction of this General Assembly that such delinquency has resulted not from any willful intention to evade the payment of a just and equitable portion of the expenses of the State, but is due to the embarrassed and impoverished condition of the country consequent upon the late disastrous war; and whereas it is the policy of the Government to render the burden of taxation as little oppressive as possible; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That all persons who have failed to pay their taxes are hereby allowed until the 15th day of November to do so; and all executions issued and lodged in the hands of any officer in this State for collection, are hereby suspended until after the day and date above recited; and no double tax shall be imposed or executed until after said date.

Resolved, That the time allowed Tax Collectors to complete their returns, is hereby extended until the 15th day of December next.

Mr. Shaw introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, to inquire and report at this, or the next regular session of the General Assembly as to the expediency and necessity of requiring the re-regulation, within a limited period, of all mortgages, deeds and other papers now required by law to be recorded, the records of which were destroyed or lost during the late war; with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Easley introduced a bill to alter and amend the laws of this State in relation to insolvent debtors.

On motion of Mr. Warley, the House proceeded to the consideration of resolutions (by Mr. Garlington) in relation to the condition of the people, growing out of their indebtedness as effected by the results of the war, and the necessity of remedial legislation; which were discussed and finally made the special order of the day for Monday next, at 1, o'clock p. m.

House adjourned.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1866.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 m.

Mr. Thompson introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to establish District Courts;' and a bill to make parties plaintiffs and defendants, in all cases competent to give testimony in such cases in like manner as other witnesses.

Mr. Tilman offered a resolution, which was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the House for concurrence. That the Attorney-General and Solicitors, of this State be, and they are hereby, instructed and required to take immediate measures to check any and all violations by the several railroad companies chartered by the Acts of the General Assembly of the State, in the matter of the over-charge of the said companies, or either of them, for freight or passage money; and that the said Attorney-General and Solicitors be required to institute the necessary proceedings by rule, quo warranto, otherwise, for the forfeiture of any one or more of the charters of said companies, who may, in the particulars indicated, have hitherto violated, or are now violating, the Provisions of their charter or charters; and that the Attorney-

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1866.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 12 m.

A resolution was received from the House, that the bill providing artificial legs for all citizens of the State, who have lost their legs during the recent war, be referred to a special joint committee, consisting of three members of the House and two of the Senate, which was agreed to, and Messrs. Wetherly and Winsmith were appointed the committee.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill to provide for the funding of the interest and principal of the stocks and bonds of the State past due.

Mr. Hemphill submitted a report of the joint committee relative to the establishment of a penitentiary in this State, and recommended the adoption of a resolution that the Governor be, and he is hereby, instructed to appoint a commission, to consist of one or more persons, to prepare a plan for the establishment and discipline of a penitentiary in this State; to make investigations in respect to a suitable location for the same, and furnish estimates as to the probable cost of construction, and report to the General Assembly at its next regular session; which was laid on the table.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Wm. Wallace presented the petition of 'The Ladies' Memorial Association of Columbia,' asking permission to use certain granite and marble belonging to the State, for head-stones for the graves of Confederate dead.

Mr. J. S. Richardson, jr., introduced a resolution, which was agreed to: That the Commissioners of the Poor for this District, through misapprehension as to their tenure of office, have failed to levy and collect Poor Tax for the said District; and whereas the distress and suffering in this unfortunate class in said District, owing to the great scarcity of

General and Solicitors each make a specific and separate report to this General Assembly, on the first day of the ensuing regular session, of their action respectively under the resolution.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Sheridan presented the memorial of sundry citizens of Colleton District, and accompanying documents, in relation to the financial condition of the country and the relief of debtors.

Mr. Warley introduced the following preamble and resolution, which were made the special order of the day for to-morrow, at half-past 1 o'clock p. m.:

Whereas, the condition of the country demands that the Legislature shall, by all legal means, interpose to prevent the sacrifice of property at sheriff's sales;

Be it resolved, That a committee, to consist of five members of the House and three of the Senate, be appointed to inquire and report upon the propriety and expediency of appointing three assessors in each District, whose duty it shall be to assess and determine the real value of any property upon which levy, under execution, has been or may be made, and to return such assessment, under oath, to the sheriff. And to report further upon the propriety of a law which shall provide in substance: That if the property levied on be sold for more than its assessed value, the plaintiff in execution shall pay five per cent. on the assessment; if he be sold for less than its assessed value, the plaintiff shall pay fifteen per cent. upon the assessment; if he be sold for more than one-half and less than three-fourths of its assessed value, the plaintiff in execution shall pay thirty per cent. of its assessed value; if he be sold for less than one-half of its assessed value, the plaintiff in execution shall pay forty per cent. upon the assessment. That the tax thus imposed shall be retained by the sheriff, and be subject to the order of the Commissioners of the Poor of the District in which the sale is made.

Mr. J. S. Richardson, jr., introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that it be referred to the Committee on Officers and Clerks, if any, is necessary, to continue until the next general election, and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. John S. Richardson, jr., introduced a bill to alter the law in regard to liens and imparlance in certain cases.

The following bills were ordered to be laid on the table: A bill for the establishment of agricultural and mechanical schools in the various Districts of the State, and a technical night school for apprentices and youths in business in Charleston; a bill to create the office of Superintendent of Free Schools; and a bill to provide for the election of Commissioners, Masters and Registrars in Equity by the people; a bill to alter and amend Sec. 28 of Art. 1 of the Constitution of this State.

Mr. Kett introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that all the unfinished business of the last regular session be continued to the next regular session of the General Assembly.

The resolutions (by Mr. Garlington) in relation to the condition of the people, growing out of their indebtedness as effected by the results of the war, and the necessity of remedial legislation, were considered, and, on motion of Mr. Warley, referred to a special committee, with instructions to report thereon, at this session, by bills or otherwise.

Mr. Bonham introduced a bill to amend the law in relation to the bonds required of public officers.

Mr. DePass introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that the bill to provide artificial legs for all citizens of the State who have lost their legs during the recent war, read for the first time in this House, be referred to a joint committee, consisting of three members of the House and two of the Senate; and that this resolution be sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1866.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 a. m.

Mr. J. H. Williams presented the petition of W. W. Houson, Sheriff of Newberry District, praying an appropriation for subsistence of prisoners.

Messrs. McCutchen and Hemphill submitted reports of committees.

A bill to amend an Act to lend the credit of the State to secure certain bonds of the South Carolina Railroad Company, received from the Senate, was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the House of Representatives.

The report of the Committee on the Lunatic Asylum and Medical Accounts on the memorial of George E. Trescott and Sam'l Logan, relative to supply of limbs to soldiers, was read, and referred to the regular session.

After the discussion of several matters, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 o'clock.

Messrs. Easley, J. J. Ryan, Coker, Shaw, Hammett, McKewen, Campbell, Trescott and J. B. Aiken, jr., submitted reports of committees.

Messrs. Bachman and Price gave notice of the introduction of bills.

Mr. Haskell introduced a resolution, which was made the special order of the day for to-morrow, at 12 o'clock p. m.: That a committee, consisting of three members, shall be appointed to frame an address to be issued by this House, to the people of this State, concerning the pecuniary difficulties of the country, and recommending that which is deemed the best manner in which these difficulties may be satisfactorily met, and this committee report the address proposed by them to this House.

Mr. Haskell introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence—that as the South Carolina Railroad and the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad have been, for some time, allowing refugee families in reduced circumstances to travel over their roads at reduced rates of fare, and as there are many refugee families in the upper Districts anxious to return to their homes, but are unable to do so at the present cost of traveling, that the directors of all the railroads of the State be requested to reduce the fare of their roads for refugee families and their servants.

Mr. DePass introduced a bill to further provide for the collection of debts and for the relief of debtors.

Mr. Trescott, from the Special Committee, made a report on a bill to raise a fund to provide for the necessities of the people, and reported a bill for the purpose; which was read for the first time, and made the special order of the day for to-morrow, at half-past 1 o'clock p. m.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1866.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 a. m.

Messrs. Sullivan, Tillman, Tracy, Williams and Townsend submitted reports of committees.

Mr. Frierson presented the petition of H. C. Bess, Clerk, Goodwyn, Hutson, J. B. Aiken, Perry, Butler and Garlington, praying an appropriation for the purchase of a building to be used as a library for the University.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 12 o'clock.

Messrs. Easley, Coker, Goodwyn, Hutson, J. B. Aiken, Perry, Butler and Garlington presented reports of committees.

Mr. Price introduced a bill to suppress the distillation of spirituous liquors from any of the cereal grains of the State.

Mr. Butler introduced a bill to declare the law in regard to the liability of purchase of slaves.

Messrs. Hutson, Lord and Milling gave notice of the introduction of bills.

Mr. T. P. Mikell introduced a bill to provide compensation for the services of certain officers of the Senate and House.

Mr. Bachman introduced a bill to vest in the city of Columbia the right and title of the State in certain lots.

Adjourned.

The Committee on the Judiciary.

To whom was referred 'A Bill to alter and fix the time of holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State,' respectfully

REPORT:

They have considered the same, and recommend that said Bill be amended, by striking out all parts thereof after the enacting words, and inserting the following:

SEC. 1. That from and after the ratification of this Act, the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law in this State shall hold the first and next sitting of the Court of Common Pleas for the trial of civil cases, on the several Circuits now established by law in this State, in the ensuing Spring at the times and places in each District already fixed by law.

SEC. 2. That all suits and other process of the said Courts, *mesne* and final, now made returnable to the Fall Terms heretofore established, shall be returnable to the Spring Terms of the Court, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, the same as if already so directed; and that the same rules of imparlance, and the same order of proceedings now existing, shall apply to the Courts as established by the first section of this Act.

SEC. 3. That all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

The Committee further recommend that the title of said Bill be amended, by striking therefrom the words 'Sessions and'

Respectfully submitted,
G. W. WILLIAMS,
For the Committee.

IN THE SENATE, SEPT. 6, 1866.

A BILL.

To alter and fix the Times for Holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the ratification of this Act, the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law, in this State, shall hold the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas, on the several Circuits now established by law, in this State, annually in the Spring of every year, at the times and places in each District, already fixed by law.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That all writs and other process of the said Courts, *mesne* and final, now made returnable to the Fall Terms heretofore established, shall be returnable to the annual Spring Courts, the same as if already so directed; and that the same rules of imparlance, and the same order of proceedings, now existing for the semi-annual Courts, shall be extended to and apply to the Courts established by this Act.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THE CROP.

1850-51 2,353,800
1851-52 3,007,586
1852-53 3,266,211
1853-54 3,929,139
1854-55 4,855,729
1855-56 5,524,242
1856-57 2,944,805
1857-58 3,117,496
1858-59 3,851,691
1859-60 4,664,417

SEA ISLAND COTTON.

1853-54 39,686
1854-55 40,841
1855-56 44,512
1856-57 45,314
1857-58 40,566
1858-59 47,592
1859-60 46,413

The estimate of this year's yield varies from 4,000,000—a most egregious error—to 2,207,700. This latter estimate, a Southern one, is almost exactly that of the New York market, 2,200,000. The truth is, the crop will not reach even that, and producers should be careful to get full value. Georgia is estimated, in the foregoing aggregates, at 260,000 bales, South Carolina at 158,000, Alabama at 360,000, and Florida at 65,000—all doubtless much too high. Between 1,300,000 and 1,800,000 will about hit it.

'I say, Mister, did you see a dog come by here that look as if he were a year, or a year and a half, or two years old?' said a Yankee to a countryman at the roadside.

'Yes,' said the countryman, thinking himself quizzed. 'He passed about an hour, or an hour and a half, or two hours ago; and is now a mile, or a mile and a half, or two miles ahead; and he had a tail about an inch, or an inch and a half, or two inches long.'

'That'll do,' said the Yankee; 'you're into me a foot, or a foot and a half, or two feet.'

The rapid accumulation of gold in the Treasury will, if continued, soon afford a metallic basis for the Treasury notes in circulation. It is estimated that by the end of this month the Treasury will have nearly, if not quite, one hundred millions in gold.

The Committee on the Judiciary.

To whom was referred 'A Bill to alter and fix the time of holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State,' respectfully

REPORT:

They have considered the same, and recommend that said Bill be amended, by striking out all parts thereof after the enacting words, and inserting the following:

SEC. 1. That from and after the ratification of this Act, the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law in this State shall hold the first and next sitting of the Court of Common Pleas for the trial of civil cases, on the several Circuits now established by law in this State, in the ensuing Spring at the times and places in each District already fixed by law.

SEC. 2. That all suits and other process of the said Courts, *mesne* and final, now made returnable to the Fall Terms heretofore established, shall be returnable to the Spring Terms of the Court, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, the same as if already so directed; and that the same rules of imparlance, and the same order of proceedings now existing, shall apply to the Courts as established by the first section of this Act.

SEC. 3. That all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

The Committee further recommend that the title of said Bill be amended, by striking therefrom the words 'Sessions and'

Respectfully submitted,
G. W. WILLIAMS,
For the Committee.

IN THE SENATE, SEPT. 6, 1866.

A BILL.

To alter and fix the Times for Holding the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas in this State.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the ratification of this Act, the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law, in this State, shall hold the Courts of Sessions and Common Pleas, on the several Circuits now established by law, in this State, annually in the Spring of every year, at the times and places in each District, already fixed by law.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That all writs and other process of the said Courts, *mesne* and final, now made returnable to the Fall Terms heretofore established, shall be returnable to the annual Spring Courts, the same as if already so directed; and that the same rules of imparlance, and the same order of proceedings, now existing for the semi-annual Courts, shall be extended to and apply to the Courts established by this Act.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THE CROP.

1850-51 2,353,800
1851-52 3,007,586
1852-53 3,266,211
1853-54 3,929,139
1854-55 4,855,729
1855-56 5,524,242
1856-57 2,944,805
1857-58 3,117,496
1858-59 3,851,691
1859-60 4,664,417

SEA ISLAND COTTON.

1853-54 39,686
1854-55 40,841
1855-56 44,512
1856-57 45,314
1857-58 40,566
1858-59 47,592
1859-60 46,413

The estimate of this year's yield varies from 4,000,000—a most egregious error—to 2,207,700. This latter estimate, a Southern one, is almost exactly that of the New York market, 2,200,000. The truth is, the crop will not reach even that, and producers should be careful to get full value. Georgia is estimated, in the foregoing aggregates, at 260,000 bales, South Carolina at 158,000, Alabama at 360,000, and Florida at 65,000—all doubtless much too high. Between 1,300,000 and 1,800,000 will about hit it.

'I say, Mister, did you see a dog come by here that look as if he were a year, or a year and a half, or two years old?' said a Yankee to a countryman at the roadside.

'Yes,' said the countryman, thinking himself quizzed. 'He passed about an hour, or an hour and a half, or two hours ago; and is now a mile, or a mile and a half, or two miles ahead; and he had a tail about an inch, or an inch and a half, or two inches long.'

'That'll do,' said the Yankee; 'you're into me a foot, or a foot and a half, or two feet.'

The rapid accumulation of gold in the Treasury will, if continued, soon afford a metallic basis for the Treasury notes in circulation. It is estimated that by the end of this month the Treasury will have nearly, if not quite, one hundred millions in gold.