

became vacant on the third of March, 1861, and your election will be for the unexpired term of that vacancy, which will be till third of March, 1867.

The subject of finance is one of great embarrassment and serious difficulty at this time in South Carolina, and will require great wisdom and sagacity in your legislation. The people are in a most destitute condition, without money, and without the means of paying their taxes. Their gold and silver were exported during the war as a species of commerce. The State banks are all broken, and their bills have ceased to circulate. The Confederate money, with which the country was inundated, is utterly worthless. The Federal currency is inaccessible to our people. Their cotton has been destroyed, and their provisions consumed by the armies, and they have nothing to procure money with. Under these circumstances, it would be well for you to consider whether or not it is possible to defray the necessary expenses of the State by issuing and selling State bonds, so as to avoid levying any tax during the ensuing year. The present indebtedness of the State is not large, and her credit ought to be such as to secure the sale of her bonds at fair prices. If you conclude to raise money in this way, you ought to include the payment of the direct tax, and which South Carolina now owes the United States, and which her citizens will soon be called upon to pay.

It is important that the courts of justice in this State should be once more fully opened, civil law restored and properly administered. This cannot be done till you fill the several vacancies on the bench. You will have to elect a Chief Justice of the State, two law Judges and one Chancellor. Opening our courts, and the administration of civil justice once more, would have a most salutary influence on society, and do more than anything else to preserve the peace and quiet of the State. We have been living without law long enough, and have suffered enough from lawless violence.

The Act to prevent the collection of debts, known as the stay law, was wholly unnecessary at the time it was passed, but is now a matter of prime necessity to the community. This Act should be continued, with permission, however, to collect the interest on debts due. There are many widows and minor children whose sole subsistence depends on the payment of interest due them on their estates.

The re-organization of the militia is a measure of the highest importance, under existing circumstances. I have received information from the Secretary of State at Washington, that as soon as our State Government is organized, all the Federal troops would be withdrawn from South Carolina. We must then rely on the militia for the protection of the State against insurrection and domestic violence. It is a matter of serious consideration, however, whether we should not desire to retain, for the present, a portion of the Federal troops in the State. The freedmen and colored people look to these troops as their friends and protectors, and would be much less likely to have any collision with them than with the militia. The colored garrisons, which were at one time stationed throughout the country, have done infinite mischief, by inducing the negroes to believe that all the lands of their former owners were to be divided out amongst them. This has made them discontented and unwilling to make contracts for the ensuing year. In many portions of the State, there are serious apprehensions of disturbance at the beginning of the next year. Strong garrisons ought to be continued in Charleston, Beaufort and Georgetown, where there is such a preponderance of the negro population. But these garrisons should not be permitted to exercise any civil jurisdiction, and should be subordinate to civil law. Otherwise, their presence would be productive of more mischief than good. You will take such action in this matter as in your judgment shall seem best for the State.

The education of our young men and boys, during the past five years, has been sadly neglected. Your College, which has been the pride of the State for more than half a century, is closed, and should be at once reopened. The buildings are all standing and uninjured. The Professors are ready to resume their labors, and the young men are anxious to commence their College course of studies. I hope you will make the necessary appropriations for sustaining the institution. But it may be well, under existing circumstances, to consider the propriety of converting the College into a University, and making it, in part, a self-sustaining institution. Give the Professors moderate salaries, and let them depend for further compensation on the tuition fund. In a University, the student may pursue such a course of studies as will most contribute to the particular profession or business which he expects to follow in after life. In a College, he is required to spend four years in a regular course of studies, many of which will be of no service to him in after life, and for which he has no taste or talent. In consequence of the impoverished condition of the country, there are very few young men, now, able to defray their expenses for four years in College. Having been so long in the army, and their education neglected, they are not prepared to enter College. Moreover, being advanced in manhood, they cannot afford to go through a College course of studies before commencing the active pursuits of life. The University system of education will meet all these objections. It would bring to your institution of learning three times as many students as you could collect in a College, and in this way the salaries of the Professors might be paid out of the tuition fund.

The State Military Schools, in Columbia and Charleston, have likewise been suspended, and the buildings of the former were all destroyed by fire during the occupancy of the town by General Sherman. It is for you to determine what course you will pursue in regard to these schools. In them have been educated many of your most valuable and eminently practical men. Very few have graduated at the Citadel who have not been successful in after life.

The Congress of the United States passed an Act, during the war, authorizing the Freedmen's Bureau to take possession of all lands which were voluntarily abandoned by their owners for the purpose of going into the army, or aiding the rebellion. Under a most unwarrantable construction of this Act, a large portion of the lands of the lower country, where the planters were driven off by the Federal troops, or forced to leave by imperative orders of the *de facto* Governments, State and Confederate, have been seized and appropriated, as abandoned lands. In many instances, the homes of widows and minors, and old men, incapable of serving in the army, and never aiding, in any way, the rebellion, have been taken possession of, and kept for the use of the negroes, whilst the proprietors were starving wanderers and refugees throughout the State. But with that sense of justice and kindness which has characterized every act of his administration, the President has ordered these lands to be restored to the proprietors on their taking the oath of allegiance to the United States,

or receiving a special pardon where they fall within the excepted classes under the Amnesty Proclamation. The Convention ordered the Provisional Governor to appoint a suitable agent to represent the State at Washington, in regard to these lands, and other matters. I immediately appointed the Hon. William Henry Trescott, a gentleman well known to you for his high character, talents and diplomatic experience. His report will be communicated to you as soon as it is received.

As soon as the Convention adjourned, I communicated to the President and Secretary of State copies of the new Constitution of South Carolina. I have the pleasure of informing you that President Johnson has expressed to me his gratification at the amendments made in our Constitution, and his confident hope that we should soon be, once more, "a united, happy and prosperous people, forgetting the past, and looking only to the future welfare of our common country."

There is one matter of embarrassment in your legislation, under the new Constitution, which I think it my duty to bring to your notice. The Constitutional Governor will not, and can not be inaugurated, till the first week of your regular session. And yet the Constitution requires all Acts to be presented to the Governor for his signature. If he does not approve them, he must return them with his objections; and then, to become a law, they must be passed by a majority of the whole representation of both Houses. Although the State Convention acknowledged the authority and existence of the Provisional Governor by several of their ordinances, yet they omitted to authorize him to act as Governor till the inauguration of the Governor elect. All your Acts should, therefore, be passed by a majority of the whole representation of both Houses, unless you are disposed to recognize the Provisional Governor as Governor of the State. But even with this recognition, I think it would be safe to see that your Acts are passed by the constitutional majority required, in the absence of the approval of the Governor. This will place beyond controversy any Acts which you may see proper to pass at your extra session, in the absence of your newly elected Constitutional Governor.

The State Works, at Greenville, for the purpose of manufacturing arms and munitions of war, have not been in operation since the surrender of General Johnson. They were unprofitable, and it is not likely that you will be disposed to continue them. I understand that the buildings and machinery are well adapted for a cotton factory, and that there is a company of gentlemen from different parts of the State who propose to purchase them for that purpose. I would recommend sale of the entire property, with all the machinery appertaining to the same. It would be well to dispose of the Columbia canal for the same purpose.

The State Road, over the Saluda Mountains, is in a most dilapidated condition. The former lessee of the road was released from his contract by the Legislature last session, and the Commissioners of Roads for Greenville District were authorized to let it out, for the present year, to the lowest bidder, for keeping it in repair. This was not done. No toll has been collected over the road, or work done on it, for two or three years past. It should be leased or sold.

The State House requires your immediate attention. Something should be done to preserve the building, in its present unfinished state, from ruin and destruction. If the State is not able to proceed with the work and complete it, you should provide for having a temporary roof thrown over the building, so as to preserve it and make it useful. If covered, it might be used for your sessions, and the accommodation of the public officers.

The Bank of the State, like all similar institutions, is in a most embarrassed and crippled condition by the loss of its advancements to the late Confederate States. I have not had the pleasure of seeing the report of the President. This document will be submitted to you in proper time, and then you will be able to take such action in reference to the bank as its condition requires. Whatever may be the state of our finances, I am sure South Carolina will never sully her honor by any act of repudiation. If we have lost everything else, let us, on that account, be more careful of maintaining the honor of the State.

The admirable codification of the Statute Laws of the State, by the lamented Petigru, has not yet been adopted by the Legislature. I would recommend its adoption, and the appointment of an editor to supervise its publication, and make the necessary verbal alterations, to adapt it to the present condition of South Carolina. It is a work greatly needed by the profession and the people at large, and will be an enduring monument to the fame of one of South Carolina's most highly gifted and beloved sons.

I have received several official communications from the Northern States, with public documents, asking a renewal of the exchange of such books, which I hope will be acceded to by the Legislature. I have also received from the Department of the Interior, at Washington, sixty-seven copies of the Acts of Congress, passed since 1860, for official distribution.

I have received communications from the Postmaster-General, stating that the mails would be carried over all the railroads in South Carolina, as soon as the Department was assured of their responsibility; and that he would receive reasonable offers for carrying the mails from the railroads to all the county seats or court houses till the first of January, when permanent contracts would be made. There has been some difficulty in regard to the appointment of postmasters in South Carolina. I have informed the Postmaster-General that it would be impossible to fill his appointments if he exacted the whole oath sent, till another generation had risen up in this State.

I have received a communication from the Secretary of State, enclosing information forwarded by our Consuls abroad, in reference to the spread of cholera, and requesting that the State would rigidly enforce her quarantine laws. I gave these papers to the Mayor of the city of Charleston. You will take such action as in your judgment may be necessary to prevent our State being visited by this terrible scourge.

In conclusion, I would urge you, gentlemen, to look only to the future in your legislation, and forget, so far as you can, the past. There is much to hope for and live for, yet, in South Carolina. We should congratulate ourselves and the country that civil war has ceased, and peace is restored to the land. No longer are our citizens to be forced from their homes and families and offered a bloody sacrifice on the field of battle. No longer is our beloved State to be ravaged and desolated, and our towns and villages committed to the flames. A merciful Providence has once more blessed our land with an abundant crop, and no longer have we any apprehensions of want and starvation. We are in the enjoyment of health. Our young men, noble and gallant soldiers, are peaceably resuming their former vocations, and exerting themselves in restoring the State to her wonted prosperity and happiness. No civil broils or deadly feuds are disgracing our people as in other States. We have no political divisions. South Carolina presented a unit after her act of secession, and she is now united as one man in returning to the Union; and will be as true and loyal to her plighted faith as any State north of Mason's and Dixon's line. In this respect, there is no difference between former secessionists and old Union men. They all have equally, at heart, the peace, honor, glory and prosperity of the American Republic. And I earnestly pray that all your legislation and deliberations may tend to this great purpose, under the guidance and protection of Almighty God.

B. F. PERRY.

NEW YORK MERCHANTS AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—The success of Mr. Johnson's re-organization policy is of more than ordinary importance to the merchants and business men of this, the commercial metropolis of the nation. It will revive the agricultural interests of the South and open a new field of enterprise, furnishing great inducements both to capitalists and emigration; thus bringing about a prosperity of the Southern States beyond anything ever yet known in that section. This will come back with a reward of a hundred and a thousand fold to the commercial and mercantile interests of this city. On the other hand, should the programme of the radicals be successful, and the restoration of the Southern States delayed until they can insert as its basis negro suffrage, repudiation and financial disaster are sure to follow. Anarchy will be the order of the day in the South, accompanied by a severe contest between the two races. This will re-act upon the commercial interests of the country, and delay the return of that permanent prosperity which is only to be found under the reign of peace. The national debt will be largely augmented—distress, disaster and ruin the sure result. In view of these facts, is it not the duty of our merchants to lend their aid to strengthen the hands of the Administration, and counteract the influence of the opponents of the President at the polls and elsewhere? [New York Herald.]

The carpenters and some other mechanics are holding meetings in New York city, to bring about a reduction of the hours of labor from ten hours to eight hours a day. The mechanics say they could do as much work in the shorter period as they do now. Reductions in the prices of labor of many kinds have taken place within a few months past, and the men have usually accepted the diminished rates. Demands for increased wages, nearly reaching the highest prices that were paid last year, have recently been made, however, by the men of some of the trades. A rise was this week conceded in ship-joiners' wages, and the sums most of the employers have agreed to pay are four dollars a day for "old" work, and four dollars and a quarter a day for new work. Ship-joiners have always received larger compensation, comparatively, than other mechanics. Journeymen shoemakers have demanded an increase of twenty-five per cent in their wages, and the employers who met to consider the demand, resolved that it was exorbitant, but that an increase of fifteen per cent would be fair. The shoemakers have not decided to accept the offer.

MICE MILLS.—An ingenious Scotchman has found out a method of utilizing the hitherto wasted powers of the common house mouse. He has invented a cotton spinning machine, so constructed that a couple of mice, if tossed into the right place, cannot help working it. It is made on the treadmill plan. A half-penny worth of oat meal will keep each mouse five weeks, and during that time it will do the work for which a woman is now paid ninepence. In other words, it will earn seven shillings and sixpence a year, which, after deducting sixpence for board and a shilling for wear and tear of machinery, leaves a net profit of six shillings to the employer. The inventor, it is said, is putting up ten thousand of these mice mills, with the view of getting his living out of them.

An extraordinary match of carrier pigeons has recently taken place at Brussels. Not less than 538 of these winged messengers, which had been sent to Toulouse for the purpose, were released there one morning to contend for the prizes, amounting in number to eighty-two. The first pigeon arrived in Brussels in fourteen hours. The distance is 300 leagues, and it must have flown at the speed of twenty-two leagues an hour.

RUSH OF IMMIGRATION.—Emigrants from the Eastern States are pouring into Missouri, apparently, without limit. Not only is St. Louis receiving large accessions, but all the towns along the Missouri River. On the 9th, no fewer than thirty large covered wagons entered that city and passed Westward.

The population of Paris is rapidly overtaking that of London, and has increased more rapidly. It is now over 1,700,000, whereas London must still be under 3,000,000. Formerly, the difference between the capitals was much larger.

The standing army will probably number 100,000 men.