

The New Southern Force Bill.
The proposed new force bill for the South, adopted in the Republican Congressional caucus, last Friday night, is filled with sweeping and dangerous provisions.

The first section declares guilty of felony, and punishable with a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and imprisonment at hard labor not exceeding ten years, persons, two or more, within the jurisdiction of the United States, or that of any of the States, who shall forcibly overthrow a State Government, or any of its constituted authorities.

The second threatens the same sort of penalties against those who may conspire to usurp by force any such government, or attempt to subvert it. We suppose that, of course, the military who subverted or prevented the regular organization of the State of Louisiana are excepted from these penalties.

The next section aims to prevent, again under penalties, the danger of change in State Constitutions, either by Acts of the Legislature, or by amendments to the State Constitution. This is to be done under the cover that such change may deprive citizens entitled to vote of their franchise. The use of fire-arms or other deadly weapons, for the purpose of intimidating or injuring voters at any place on the day of registrations for Congressional elections or at such elections, is to be done on peril of heavy pecuniary fine and imprisonment. Carrying concealed weapons is to be taken as presumptive evidence of intent to intimidate. If duly enforced, this will bring an immense number of Radicals into trouble; a larger number than from the other side. This pernicious habit is quite common in this State among the Radicals. It is done in conventions, at elections, and even in the courts. Registration officers and supervisors who refuse citizens the right of voting or registering, are declared guilty of a crime.

Section 6 relates to ballot-boxes, poll lists and other papers connected with elections. Section 7 enacts that the killing of any person acting under this law shall be murder. Section 8 confers civil and criminal jurisdiction under this Act on the United States courts. Section 9 provides for the appointment of general supervisors of elections in all Congressional districts, in the same manner as is now provided, in any town from 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. The supervisors may be appointed from any part of the district, and are to be appointed by the Judges of the United States Circuit Courts thirty days before registration. There is to be a chief supervisor in every district. Section 10 provides for the extension of the existing law as to deputy United States marshals, so that marshals may be appointed in every County and parish in every Congressional district. Section 11 prescribes the duties of the officers in charge of the boxes on the day of election; makes it their duty to count the votes before leaving the ballot-boxes, in the presence of the supervisors of election or deputy marshals, and to immediately send a certified copy of the returns to the chief supervisor of the district and to the clerk of the National House of Representatives. Section 12 provides that no officer acting under this Act shall receive compensation, and that the ballot-boxes, papers, &c., shall be retained by the custodian until the close of the first session of the Congress to which they relate; also, prescribes means whereby contestants in Congress may obtain certified copies of the ballot.

When we get to the fourteenth section we reach the real cream of this matter. It presupposes rebellions, powerful combinations and all sorts of things. Then comes in the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and unlimited power is placed in the hands of the President of the United States, to be exercised at his discretion. Whenever, it says, any such unlawful combinations, as defined in the revised statutes, and under this Act, shall be organized or attempted, and so numerous and powerful as to be able, by violence, to set at defiance and overturn any State authorities, in all such cases such combinations shall be deemed a rebellion against the United States, and during the continuance of such rebellion the limits which shall be prescribed by the proclama-

tion of the President of the United States, it may be lawful for the President of the United States, in his discretion, to suspend the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus; and it is provided also that all the provisions of the section of the Act of March 3, 1865, relating to habeas corpus, are hereby revived in full powers.

The latest outgiving from Washington is, that the President gives his entire approval to the bill, and desires it to become a law. When doubt was expressed about its passage, he said that if it failed to command a majority in either branch of Congress, it would do good at least to press it to a vote. The moral effect of passing it would have so happy an effect as to dispense with all necessity for executing its provisions. If, on the other hand, Congress did nothing, it would be a sort of encouragement of the bad element in the South, and "it might become necessary for him to proceed to greater extremes than a mere suspension of the habeas corpus. He would do what he conceived to be his duty at all hazards, then appeal to the people to support him." This means that he must have power to do his will towards the Southern States. If granted regularly to him, it will be his option to use it or not. If not granted, he will take it and expect "the people" to approve whatever he may do. This is the Napoleonic style. This is the plebiscite which can do no better than legalize tyranny and gloss over outrage. This is hanging first and trying afterwards.

Timely Words.

As a general thing no one can say that the General Assembly is in any hurry. It takes no note of time. But let a money question arise, or a supply bill come up, and certain members become fidgety, and wish to rush it through before its merits can be inquired into. This hot haste in the midst of the most abundant leisure was nobly rebuked yesterday, in some practical and telling remarks of Hon. George A. Trenholm. Upon arriving at the special order for 2 P. M., the bill to raise supplies for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1875, it was proposed to go into Committee of the Whole. Considering that this would limit the time of each speaker to ten minutes, and prevent a call of the yeas and nays, Mr. Trenholm urged upon the House that it should not forego these privileges. The peculiarly anomalous situation the State is in, rendered a rigid scrutiny into expenditures a moral duty and a vital necessity. Otherwise the appropriation of the needed funds to carry on the State Government would be, as it ought to be, only a matter of form and routine. We cannot disregard such startling facts as these. We must consider that there are included in last year's levy \$540,000 for deficiencies of preceding years; that out of the taxes for the present year, \$300,000 more must come for other past deficiencies, and that after all this \$800,000 and upwards have been collected and expended, we have the authority of the Comptroller-General's report for conclusion that \$300,000 more remain unprovided for. The Committee of Ways and Means, while reporting this bill, were perfectly willing to have every section of it to come under examination, and to concede any reductions that can be shown to be feasible and proper. He impressed upon the House its great duty to be grave, earnest and deliberate in so serious a part of its work as this bill. There was no motive for haste, no reason for excitement. He was grateful that the Republicans were prompt to claim the credit of measures of retrenchment and reform. Every gentleman on his side of the House had felt satisfaction at this, and all desired that it should be fully deserved. They were only anxious to be silent and quiet co-workers with them in this good cause. He trusted that they all would unite in availing themselves of every guarantee that only proper levies should be made, and only just and necessary expenditures incurred. He was against going into Committee of the Whole, and deprecated any hurry or agitation in so important a matter as this.

The Havana *Diaro de la Marina* says that the United States consumes the greater part of the sugar and coffee of Cuba, and that the value of the imports from the island for the last fiscal year is over \$85,000,000. Consequently, it is not to the interest of the United States that Cuba should be emancipated only to fall into the hands of the other Antilles as regards agriculture, but it should continue to produce on the largest possible scale. The argument of the almighty dollar is always the best. Right, justice and freedom seem to be empty words now-a-days.

Publicity to be Required.

Senator Cochran has introduced into the Senate an excellent bill. It provides that the State Treasurer shall publish, on the first Monday of every month, in one daily newspaper in Columbia and in one in Charleston, a statement of all moneys received by him during the preceding month, from whom, and on what account; of all moneys paid out by him during the preceding month, to whom, and on what account; and of the balances in the treasury to the credit of the several funds for which taxes are levied and collected, or for which any other collections are made.

The bill further provides for fine and imprisonment for any violation of this requirement, and makes appropriation for all the necessary expenses of the publication. It will be remembered that this was one of the many fine planks inserted in the Republican platform of 1872, and again in the platform of 1874. The promised publication never was made. The failure to comply with it has been charged upon the want of means to defray the cost. We trust that there will be no further difficulty in the way of full and explicit monthly reports of the condition and operations of the treasury. The people do not like being kept in a state of Egyptian darkness about what so vitally concerns them.

MR. EDITOR: You ask for light in relation to the proposed three mills tax to defray the past indebtedness of Richland County. An inquiry at the office of the Clerk of the Court elicited the following facts: The claims filed for payment are mostly for the past year—1874—and foot up the sum of \$27,000. These claims are mainly held by parties who have purchased them at a discount, the original creditors holding but a small amount of them. Two gentlemen are owners of \$14,000, which is over half of the entire indebtedness of the County. The consideration given for them is no doubt far below the face value—perhaps not more than fifty per centum of the entire debt. Now, supposing these claims are all legitimate and valid, and on this point we will not undertake to decide, as the claims are so numerous that time, money, patience and power to send for persons and papers to determine their correctness would be required; still, the fact that they are held on speculation to make money on will be sufficient reason to extend the payment for a series of years—say not less than three years, so as to make the burden as light as possible on the taxpayers.

The merchants of Columbia have, on small profits, compared with what is made by buying State or County papers, been waiting for over two years to be repaid the goods furnished to support the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum, and another year at least will have to elapse before they get the principal of the debt, without interest. Surely it will be doing well for the owners of County claims, who will realize 100 per cent. on this investment, to pay them in one, two and three years, or even four years. If they get paid in this time, the per centage will still make it figure up a handsome return on the purchase money. It is claimed that the indebtedness being mostly for the year 1874, is owing to the fact that the tax collected for that year has mostly been applied to paying debts incurred during previous years, the County Commissioners being ignorant of the requirements of the law as stated in Section 8 of the Act to raise supplies for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1874, which forbids the County Treasurer to pay any portion of the same except for County expenses incurred during the fiscal year, and prohibits the County Commissioners from drawing any warrant contrary to the provisions of the Act, or contract in excess of the levy therein made. It is certainly strange, that the Treasurer of Richland County, as well as other County officers, should be so ignorant of their duties, which are well known to every intelligent citizen of the County who reads the daily papers.

The system, Mr. Editor, of requiring services from citizens as jurors, or for other services rendered the County, by which they can only realize a per centage of their just claims, is a great evil. It would be more just to reduce the compensation and pay cash, which would, besides, save the County a large amount. Pay certificates cost the State an immense sum, and so long as there was a market for them, they were quite abundant. When they cease to have a market value, their numbers diminish. Whether the same causes would produce the same results for the County, we are not prepared to say; but assert that the party having the claim should be the recipient of the entire amount, and that dealing in County of State claims should work a forfeiture of the entire debt.

A clause in the Appropriation Act, and a trial of a few years, would determine the matter. The taxes imposed on our impoverished people are onerous in the extreme, and every effort should be used to diminish the burthen.

TAX-PAYERS.

The postal card factory shipped 26,420,500 cards during the quarter ending January 1. Mrs. Mary M. Flowers, of Sumter, is dead.

STRONG REPUBLICAN TALK.—The *Chicago Tribune* (Republican) is pointed and severe in its comments upon the President's message on Arkansas affairs. It says the defects alleged in the Arkansas Constitution are "neither grave or vital," and adds: "The instrument was ratified by the people. Now it is the judgment of the highest authorities on constitutional law in this country that such a ratification cures all defects. Judge Jameson has shown, in his work on constitutional conventions, that scarcely any such convention has ever been held in precise accordance with legal forms. In nearly every case, there have been some irregularities or defects, but popular ratification has cured them all. If we apply this sound doctrine in Arkansas, every excuse for interference fails. The State has the Republican form of government guaranteed by the Constitution of the nation. Governor Garland finds no one to dispute his authority at home. Only a few carpet-baggers oppose him at Washington. The laws are in force. The judiciary is firmly established. Peace and quiet reign over the State for the first time since 1861. The *de facto* government is also *de jure*, as we have shown. It is a *fait accompli*. It has possession. It is respected by the majority and obeyed by all. Interference with it would be a blunder or worse. Moreover, we have one 'hell' on our hands in the South already. This is the limit demanded by the most orthodox creed. Louisiana is enough. Are we to organize another 'hell' in Arkansas for the sake of a crowd of carpet-baggers? Let us keep our hands off. Perpetual meddling will only make matters worse. Arkansas is getting along remarkably well, and the Executive authorities at Washington had better let well enough alone."

Strong language this. One "hell" in Louisiana, and must we have another "hell" in Arkansas? But it is the leading Republican paper of the West that thus speaks, and what it says is as true as strong. THE FRENCH AGAIN—Rapidly as the French people have recuperated in material interests, they seem to be as far away from political peace and prosperity as ever. The clashing interests of Bonapartists, royalists, Republicans and Conservatives have again precipitated a crisis in the Assembly, resulting in the defeat of the bill for the formation of a Senate and the resignation of the Ministry. The vote of Thursday last, in favor of an amendment to this bill, by which the Senate would be elective by universal suffrage, was a clear triumph for the Bonapartists and Republicans, but the protest against it by the Government in the Conservative interests, though pointedly disregarded by the majority at first, no doubt tended to secure the subsequent defeat of the whole bill. Extraordinary excitement is said to exist in Paris in consequence of the fresh outbreak of partisan rancor. The Assembly has, however, referred to the Committee of Thirty two other propositions for the formation of a Senate—one providing for the appointment of Senators by the Assembly, the Councils Generals, the Colonies and the Institute; the other proposing their election by a method similar to that employed in the election of President of the United States.

Senator Gordon, of Georgia, according to the Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, has privately announced his intention to write a letter to Mr. Wendell Phillips, inviting him personally to make an extended trip through the Southern States and give the public the benefit of his views concerning their condition, particularly with respect to government. He says he has abundant faith in Mr. Phillips' integrity of purpose and ability to state correctly the impressions which a trip of this kind might make upon his mind. He has not yet concluded whether he will make his letter a confidential communication or give it publicly after it shall have been written.

The *Baltimore Gazette* says when General Sheridan left New Orleans, a week ago, it was intimated that he had departed from Louisiana "for good," and that after a visit to Vicksburg he would re-establish his headquarters at Chicago. This statement, it now appears, was put forth to deceive. General Sheridan has been on a tour of investigation in the outlying Parishes of Louisiana, with a view to finding the "banditti," whose existence he has already proclaimed, and his rooms at the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, which are considered his headquarters, are ordered to be kept until his return; Sheridan has not done all the mischief he was sent to the South to do, and he will be heard from ere long.

THE GILMORE CONCERT.—It seems rather to astonish our Eastern brethren, that the services of the great Gilmore, with his wonderful band and his *prima donna* and operatic corps, should have been secured for the last Gift Concert of the Public Library. But it is, nevertheless, true. Mr. Briggs does nothing by halves. He has promised that the last concert shall be the greatest, and he will keep his word. The 27th of February will be the most memorable day ever seen in Louisville; millions of dollars will be given away, and the recipients will be greeted with glorious melodies and rapturous songs, such as never before echoed in any Western city.

Mrs. Welch, lately widowed by the death of her husband, Mr. James A. Welch, died on Thursday last, near Pomaria, of pneumonia.

CITY MATTERS.—Subscribe for the *PHENIX*—don't borrow. Transient advertisements and notices must be paid for in advance.

The State Grange was in session at Parker's Hall yesterday and last night. You can save time and money by going direct to J. H. Kinard's for your dry goods.

We received a visit, last evening, from Mr. Hugh Wilson, of the Abbeville *Press and Banner*.

The Grangers' headquarters for cheap dry goods, notions, fancy goods, &c., is at C. F. Jackson's, 123 Main street.

The Patrons of Husbandry cannot do better than take home to their wives and daughters each a dress of the pretty new spring prints, opened this morning, at J. H. Kinard's.

The hotels were crowded, yesterday, with visitors to the city, principally members of the State Grange and their families. The Wheeler House registered 78; Hendrix House, 34; Mansion House, 16.

We are grieved to state that Celeste, a lovely little daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. N. Talley, died yesterday. The bereaved parents have the heartfelt sympathy of their friends.

Owing to the alarm of fire, on Tuesday evening, Prof. Evans was prevented from organizing his class in vocal music, but will meet all gentlemen intending to join at the rooms of the Choral Union, over Shiver's store, this evening, at half-past 7 o'clock.

Expositions have been made of all secret societies, in one way or another, that have ever existed; and, therefore, it would be unreasonable to suppose that the Grange could escape a revelation of its mysteries. Refer to our advertising columns, and you will see how it is.

Open cellar doors are dangerous to persons who walk Main street; and if we mistake not, some day a suit for repairs on account of damage to limb and body will be brought against the owner of an open cellar. When you come out of your cellar, close the door.

DEMURSKA.—The appearance of the famous Hungarian nightingale, Hma Demurska, at the Opera House, next Friday evening, will, doubtless, be the occasion of a general out-pouring of the music-loving public of our fashionable and literary circles. It is seldom that our citizens fail to testify their appreciation of real artistic merit and true genius, no matter in what role it appears, and no matter in what time, carnival or Lent; yet if they have any partiality, it is towards the refining influence of music.

THE GREENSBORO GIFT CONCERT.—In one month, (March 17, 1875,) the gift concert at Greensboro, N. C., for the purpose of erecting an Odd Fellows' Temple, will take place. The drawing will be conducted in public, by gentlemen to be selected from the audience. Every measure has been adopted to make the distribution a success, and to guarantee satisfaction. Every ticket secures a prize. Price of tickets, \$2 50; number of tickets, 100,000; value of gifts, \$164,000. The principal prize is the Benbow House, at Greensboro, worth \$60,000; the next best prize, \$10,000 in cash. For particulars and tickets, address Cyrus P. Meudenhall, Box 8, Greensboro, N. C.

SHOOTING MATCH.—Last Saturday evening, in the Sand Hills, near Landrum's pottery, there was considerable excitement as well as amusement over a shooting affair. It is known that a couple of jail birds—D. A. Blizzard and Wm. Wilson, both white—escaped from confinement a few weeks since. They live in the section above referred to, and it was supposed that their hiding place was in that neighborhood. With this idea, parties were in watch and waiting to catch them. On the night mentioned, a colored man, (of the party who were trying to make the recapture,) went to Wilson's house and called for food, pretending to be a hungry traveler. He was turned off, and immediately after Wilson's son appeared at the door, when the colored man fired on him, without effect; when young Wilson's mother handed her son a gun, with which he discharged two buckshot into the colored man's thigh. Almost at the same instant, the arresting party fired nine times in rapid succession at the Wilson fort, when they retired, without killing or bagging their game. On their retreat towards Columbia, the arresting party were fired on by parties concealed in the bushes, who are presumed to be members of the families of the escaped prisoners.

CAUTION.—Several gates have been taken off their hinges recently, by boys or young men, no doubt in a spirit of fun; and in many instances cattle and hogs go through the open space, and demolish growing vegetables, shrubbery, &c. We are requested to warn the depredators to cease their unlawful conduct; for, should they be seen in the act by the owners of the property, ten chances to one (to be plain about the matter) they will be shot. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

THE PAPER OF THE PEOPLE.—The *PHENIX* is concise, direct, active, covering the whole field of news and business and social wants. It is, therefore, the paper of the people at all times, and is so recognized in every household, counting room, work-shop or other place where there is an individual who would keep informed up to the needs of the hour. Advertisers of every class seek its columns, in order to reach all the people through a paper just suited to meet all popular wants, and which has, consequently, a greater circulation than that of all the other city papers combined.

THE STATE GRANGE.—At half-past 1 P. M., the Grange was called to order by Worthy Master Thos. Taylor.

Several officers being absent, the following brothers were appointed to fill the vacancies: J. H. Thurman, Chaplain; J. H. Kinsler, Overseer; Julius Mills, Steward; H. L. King, Assistant Steward; J. L. Miller, Door-keeper. Bro. J. H. Clarke was appointed to assist the Assistant Steward in purging the hall.

On motion of Bro. Barksdale, the Granges were called by names and members, when ninety masters were reported present and twenty-five delegates presented their certificates.

The Worthy Master delivered his annual address, which was referred to the following committee: Brothers D. H. Jacques, T. J. P. Walsh, R. S. Beden, H. F. Sewell, J. N. Hoffman.

The Secretary read his report, which was received as information. The Treasurer read his report, and, on motion, read the names of delinquent Granges.

On motion of Bro. Richardson, the sessions of the Grange were ordered to be from 9 A. M. till 1.30 P. M., and from 7 P. M. till the session adjourns, daily.

Worthy Master Godden, of Illinois, Worthy Master White, of Virginia, and Worthy Master Crow, of Dakotah, appearing on the floor, they were formally introduced to the Grange by the Worthy Master.

On motion of Bro. Richardson, a committee of five was appointed by the Worthy Master on dispensations and regulations for the establishment of County Granges, as provided by Section 2 of the Constitution of the National Grange. The Worthy Master appointed the following brothers on said committee: J. S. Richardson, G. Muller, H. L. King, M. T. Simpson and J. Y. Trezavant.

On motion of Bro. Richardson, a committee of five, to be appointed by the Worthy Master, on representation, as modified and provided by Section 1 of the National Grange Constitution, was ordered; whereupon the Worthy Master appointed the following brothers on that committee: J. S. Hair, D. H. Sheldon, G. D. Peake, G. Vain, W. A. Moony.

On motion of Bro. Barksdale, the conferring of the 5th degree was made the special order for Thursday, at 3 P. M.

The Grange adjourned till 7 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.—The Grange re-assembled at 7 P. M., Worthy Master Taylor in the Chair.

On motion of Bro. Richardson, the election of officers was made the special order for Thursday, at 10 A. M.

Bro. Hair presented the report of the Committee on Representation, which was postponed for further consideration.

Bro. Mills offered a series of resolutions on direct trade. Referred to a committee.

The Grange adjourned to meet again at 9 o'clock this morning.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Perry & Slawson—Grange Secrets. Meeting Richland Rifle Club.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.—St. Louis has been wrestling with the social evil for several years. She tried the regulation system and it failed to arrest the progress of prostitution. Last week another effort was made by the introduction into the City Council of an "ordinance to suppress prostitution within the city of St. Louis." The ordinance provides for heavy fines to be imposed on keepers of houses of ill-fame, assignation houses and upon the ordinary perambulating courtesans. A peculiar feature of the ordinance is that it is as severe upon the customers of houses of prostitution as upon the women. A fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500 is imposed on "any male person who shall inhabit, eat or sleep in any house of prostitution," etc. The ordinance is a strong one, but there are few people who believe that such regulations will be enforced. St. Louis has jumped from the almost absolute freedom of this vice to the most stringent means for its suppression.

Ministers of the interior—the cook and the doctor.