per square (10 Nonpareil lines or less) id

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Communications may be addressed to THE PORT ROYAL COMMERCIAL, Beaufort, S. C.

ANOTHER STATE HEARD FROM.

We have received from Governor Parker, of New Jersey, a statement of the amount paid for public printing by the state of New Jersey. In 1873 it amounted to \$33,792.81, which includes all printing accounts except sums paid for advertising in the news

Let us compare the population and wealth of the two states of New Jersey and South Carolina, and see how their printing bills look side by side: Population.

New Jersey,.....906,096...\$624,868,971 So. Carolina,.....705,606... 183,913 337 So New Jersey has two hundred thousand more people than South Carolina and nearly three and a half times as much wealth. But New Jersey pays only \$33,792.81 for all the printing needed to carry on her state government, while South Carolina pays \$331,-945 66, for what she has done-as near as may be ten times as much. With less than one-third the ability to pay we are called upon for ten times as

much. The other states are to follow. We believe South Carolina will maintain her bad eminence in this particular ury in the line of fancy articles usually ever the worst robbed state in the kept in a jewelry store; to say nothing Union.

An Orgranization of l'axpayers. On the 17th of next month a taxpayers convention will meet in Columbia. A great responsibility will rest upon that body. If its members meet to indulge in tirades like that delivered in Georgia, by Toombs; if they meet to pass a few windy resolutions and then adjourn into apathy again; if they feel too discouraged, too 'poor, too lazy to engage in a hearty campaign against official corruption and official insolence, their meeting will be a serious damage to the cause of good government. The effect of a cold or inefficient convention will be to give renewed confidence to the cunning rogues who diwide the revenues of the state among themselves. Those who are now members of the convention ought to be cu!ting out the work to be done. Of the first importance is a plan of organization. We suggest something like the following:

Let the convention resolve itself into a league; let its members be authorized to form subordinate leagues in their respective counties, any thirty taxpayers on real estate to constitute a subordinate league. The basis of these leagues should be a pledge to be signed by every member solemnly pledging himself not to pay any state tax until he has been released from the promise by the central league; and further, that he will not buy any property sold for taxes at a tax sale, and that he will use all lawful means to convince those not members that it is inexpedient for them to pay taxes or buy at tax sales. All this should be done epenly. No oaths, grips, signs or passwords. Each man should be made to feel that he is engaged in a patriotic effort to free himself and his state from a horde of despicable tyrants. It should be made so universal that it would be dishonorable and shameful not to have taken the pledge.

If even one half of the real estate owners of the state could be brought to sign such a pledge as that, it would be enough. The moral influence would do the work with the rest. There would be no ru h to pay taxes, even among the inert the cowardly and the unfriendly. For even the man who has gained a fortune by stealing in Columbia does not like to pay taxes any better than the honest toiler. When the treasurer advertised the delinquent list, instead of its embracing as it now does only the widow, the orphan, the embarrassed, the ignorant and the careless, it would show every real estate owner in the county. When the day of sale comes let all be present. The most shameless appointee of a shameless administration would quail before such an assemblage, and the heartless speculator who should feel inclined to buy property at that sale would come to the conclusion that the climate was unsuitable to his constitution. The delinquent land would probably be bid in by the state, and no taxes could be again assessed upon it. In the face of the Central National Bank of Columbia, such a determined people the robbers Mr. Childs, president of the Carolina would "fold their tents like the Arabs, and as silently steal away."

Unless some plan of the kind is adopted to prevent the annual filling of the coffers in Columbia, no reform is Ridge scrip from the stase treasurers, possible. As long as two millions a which actually netted him \$5,000 cash year are sent there by the taxpayers to and has never paid the bill for engraving. be divided, the same parties will be on Wait a little while and you will see in hand to take it.

County and municipal taxes might be paid. The proper expenditure of ize him to pay this claim of the Amerithese can be watched, and in a great can Bank Note Company. measure controlled, and the continuance of the functions of local government is necessary to secure our comfort and the good order of the commu-

IMPORTANT BOND DECISION.

A recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Marcy case, if correctly reported, will give a good deal of comfort to the holders of "irregular" issue of bonds, such, for instance, as our "conversion" bonds. The case was one in which a question was raised as to the validity of certain bonds is sued in aid of the Illinois Grand Trunk Railroad. The towns refused to pay the interest on the bonds, on the ground that t'e issue was illegal. The decision of the Court affirmed the validity of the bonds, the Court holding that no irregularity precedent to the issue of the bonds, nor even fraud on the part of the town's agents, can invalidate the bonds in the hands of an into e t holder. This is tantamount to deciding that the bonds are valid in the hands of any holder, because there is nothing more difficult to prove than that the owner of a negotiable instrument, especially a bond, is not an innocent purchaser for value.

MORE ABOUT THE R. P. CO.

COLUMBIA, S. C. Jan. 15, 1874. FRIEND THOMPSON:

I am in receipt of your newspaper of 8th, which has the first install ent of Public printing statistics. You don't state the amount of cost high enough. C: rlozo shows \$331,942.20 paid, and the amount of \$117.054.34 due, making a total expense of \$148,999.54.

That makes more than twelve times as much as the State of Maryland paid for her printing; but the total represented here does not begin to represent the act- in the interests of the District Ring, then ual cost of the public printing to the in its incipiency. Under the law grant-State, or the sum paid and to be paid, to the Republican Printing Co. That Company furnishes the stationery for the General Assembly, by no means an inconsiderable bill. They have in times past furnished clocks, watches, diamonds, gold jewelry, pen knives, gold pens and pencils, bronze statuary and field for inquiry. No like concern ever almost every conceivable article of luxof furniture dry goods and groceries, and sometimes libraries, carriages, &c., &c. A printing bill and sometimes a legislative certificate was made to answer as a

voucher in the Treasury. Latterly, I presume the public print ing has been so loaded down, that much of the material herein named comes under the head of "legislative expenditures," or "claims passed," which are never acted upon by the General Assembly, only ordered by the accommodating clerks; but the Republican Printing Cocan be justly charged with a cost to the state of a much larger amount than my

Take the special session, which was mainly within the current or fiscal year, just closed, and we find that they paid \$75,000 for an emigration report which was never printed, \$25,000 I believe for Auditors' books and blanks worth \$25, 000 or there abouts, and \$126,000 besides, making a total of \$226,000; which added to the \$144,999.59 makes \$674-, 999.59. This appropriates the cost of that gigantic swindle the Republican Printing Company, and it is not large

enough. charged up at the close of the last fiscal year. Even if they had, does it follow to President Grant. that there was anything due. They made up their bills just as it pleased them. There was no Auditor to examine their bills or accounts. Oh! no, the legislature would not admit such a monstrous thing to be done. Let me give you an item which is known by many. The Company wanted money. They had bills made up for \$20,000 a year ago last June.

There was no money in the Treasury. Money they must have; the whole Company was clamorous, senators and all. Then the figure heads looked around for a man to find \$20,000; they found him, or demands upon the State instead of er takes all the bills and claims and pays them in Blue Ridge Scrip. If these terms were complied with they Company or demands, properly approved claims for printing were made out, the Go in peace." State Treasurer paid the Blue Ridge Scrip for them, and the Printing Com-

pany had \$20,000 cash to divide. Now there is something more to add. Among those claims was one made out by the Republican Printing Company for \$20,000 for printing the Blue Ridge railroad scrip, the history of which is this: When the state treasurer engaged the American Bank Note Company to print or engrave the scrip, the Republican Printing Company through Woodruff, their president, who was in New York agreed in the office of the American Bank Note Company, to see the bill for engraving paid, to the amount of \$4,000. This in the presence of the manager of the American Bank Note Company, the state treasurer, Mr. Palmer, president of National Bank, Mr. Wesley and John J. Patterson, president of the Blue Ridge

Woodruff collected \$20,000 in Blue some form or other Cardozo will introduce a bill into the legislature to author-

A recent number of the Dallas (Texas) Enterprise says: "Owing to John Robinson's circus being in town the regular simply a nuisance. It would be a blessing if it ceased.

Thursday evening prayer meeting has been postpoped."

-A correspondent informs the News and Conrier that the bark I. Sargent, Cal t. Leighton, now in port has been chartered to load phosphates rock at Coosaw River. The barks Bessie H. and Kate Covert are now loading at Cocsaw River, the Wm. Croscup and St. Lawrence having just sailed for London. The following vessels have sailed, mostly from Engli-h ports, for the phosphate rivers, taking our cargoes to ports on way, viz: Ru: hinas, s. cond successive voyage to Bull River; Margham, third voyage; Makgive, fourth voyage; Smi e, econd voyage; Empress, second voyage; Alfred, second voyage; Tarve, second voyage; Cilvey, second voyage. Also the Sire, Morna, Juliet, Daniel, Hondeklip, Amalia, Penelope, Tutton, Ajan, Union, Record, Emanuel and the steamship Ashlanp. All these and those now oading here are on account of Compbell, Wyllie & Co., and consigned to them.

Affairs of the Freedmen's Savings Bank.

There is a probability that an investi-gation into the affairs of the freedmen's savings bank will soon be moved in the House. The concern was chartered in 1865, and has a branch in nearly every town of importance in the South. The money collected at these branches is sent here for investment, and the amount thus gathered is estimated at from three to four million dollars. By the terms of the charter two thirds of the receipts were directed to be put into United States bonds. In 1857 the law w s amended so as to permit loaning on real estate secured by mortgage, the value of the real estate security to be worth

twice the amount of the loan. The amendment, it is supposed, was ing the charter, no reports were provided for, noa is there any satisfactory way of getting a clear showing of the condition of the institution, the law merely providing that Congress should have the right to inspect, which has never yet been done. The officers of the bank have grown suddenly wealthy, it is said, and although there seems to be a fair yet has had so good an opportunity for defrauding, and if it has neglected the chance, the development of the fact will be a refreshing relief to the monotonous thievery of the day .- World.

The Power of the Press.

There has never been a more signal illustration of the power exerted by the press in a good cause than afforded by the Williams case. It is the press, and to the press almost alone, that the country is indebted for its relief from the disgrace which would have followed the degradation of the highest tribunal in the land. The result is a significant answer to Butler's howling denunciation of the press, as well as to Chandler's selfsatisfied assertion that to secure harsh criticism from a new-paper was the seurest way of attaining success.

-Gen. Gordon, senator from Georgia, it a recent speech, said he was one of those who held a command in the confederate army when it surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox. Until that time he had never known what grief was. The negotiations occupied four days and four nights, and during all that time not one word of exultation escaped the lips of the federal commander; in fact they evaded all conversation relative to bat tles in which the Union army had been successful, and spoke only of those engagements in which they had been de-They will say, that a portion of it feated. He, for one, appreciated such was for the previous year. It may be magnanimity; it sank deep into his so, but I doubt if they had \$100,000 heart, and he mentioned the fact to prove that he was not personally hostile

-Mr. Layard, the Eastern explorer once requested a Mohammedan official to give some statistics of the city in which he lived. He received in reply a letter of which the following is an extract: "My Illustrious Friend and Joy of my Liver; The thing you ask is both difficult and useless. Although I have passed all my days in this place, I have neither counted the houses nor have I inquired into the number of inhabitants; and as to what one person loads on his mule, and the other stows away in the but he figured the terms. Give me, he bottom of his ship, that is no business says, \$100,000 of bills of the Company, of mine. But above all, as to the previous history of this city, God only knows \$20,000, and see that the State Treasur- | the amount of dirt and confusion that the infidels may have eaten before the coming of the sword of Islam. It were unprofitable for us to inquire into it. Oh, could have \$20,000 cash; so the matter my soul! oh, my lamb! seek not after was arranged \$100,000 of bills of the the things which concern thee not. Thou comest unto us, and we welcome thee.

SEA ISLAND COTTON SEED .- A letter printed in a Florida paper, discussing the sea island cotton question, says: Will the farmers hereabouts believe me when I inform them that Mr. T. A. Beckett. of Ediste Island, South Carolina, sold fine cotton seed, before the war, for thirty-five and fifty dollars per bushel? It is, nevertheless, a fact, and if he would consent to put his fine cotton seed upon the market now, he would get the above named prices. I would say to our farmers, let us try the finest cotton seed we can get, for a few years, and see the

-The good people of South Carolina who are becoming more and more interested in the subject of taxation may be surprised to learn that there is a State in this Union virtually out of debt. The State Treasurer of Wisconsin reports that the state owes to its own education al fund \$2,223,900, and to outsiders only \$18,000, which latter it is ready pay on demand. The current expenses of the State Government for the last fiscal year were \$1,708,023, and the receipts were

-The Cincinnati Commercial denies that Gen. Howard has a propensity to hold office. At the time when he was being abused by an unscrupulous and licentious press for holding an unseemly number of offices, he was merely majorgeneral United States army, commissioner bureau of refugees, freedmen and abandoned lands, president of Howard University, director of building block company, treasurer and trustee of Barry farm fund, president of Young Men's Christian Association, treasurer of First Congregational Church building fand, and vice-president of Freedmen's Sav-ngs Bank.

[For the Commercial.] AUTUMN.

Slowly, sadly, falling, falling, See the dead leaves brown and serve Autumo's donned her russet garments

And the trees look gaunt and bare, Sadly, like a mourner's teardrope,

Fall the leaflets from the tree Never-more they'll dance and flutter Fanned by breezes, light and free. Red and golden leaves are falling, Autumn's coming, she is here, Yellow leaflets sailing, flying

Autumn, Autumn, everywhere. See the flowers fade and wither, Sadly bow their drooping heads; Revellers of the summer weather,

Fainting on the garden beds. Autumn sighs as she advances, Bringing blue-eyed summer's doom; Who with flow'rs of her own culture,

Weaves a garland for her tomb.

Autumn winds are sadly sighing, Through the branches white and bare; Summer sickened, faded, perished; Soon, cold winter's blast we'll hear.

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cisely the same as that heretofore sold.

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rest assured that its quality and composition is pre-

Terms-\$48 cash: \$53 time, without interest. To accommodate planters, they can order now and have until 1st of April to decide as to whether they will take at time or cash price. When delivered from the factory by the car load, no drayage will be Acid Phosphate, Guano, Bone Plaster, &c., always

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