

THE TRIBUNE.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Since our last issue the Annual Message of the President of the United States is before us. Whether the results of the November elections which was a rebuke to the administration policy be accepted as a forgone declaration against any line of policy that might be proclaimed contrary to the popular expression, or because it is inherently a weak state paper, but little interest has been excited by its promulgation. The fact is people are tired of messages and documents. We receive annually messages from the President and messages from the Governor and latterly we are getting repeated messages from the spirit land and all are equally reliable and oracular or we might have said, "fat and unprofitable." Bodies to whom they are addressed seldom regard suggestions and executive messages are devoid of significance when merely in defence of previous attitude or apology for fundamental errors. It was not to be expected that the obtuseness of President Grant would recant any of his errors, or retire him from any position he ought never to have assumed, and hence we find him as persistent in maintaining them as if defeat had not well nigh swept away his party. He has learned nothing from the elections and if no relief from his rough policy towards the South is insisted upon by Congress the prostrate states will have nothing to hope for but the most partisan and dangerous excesses committed under the sanction of Landaulet Williams. Recommendations of a return to specie by legislative enactment, we do not regard as feasible as the President seems to declare and the grand politico-economical questions involved in either the contraction or expansion of an almost irredeemable paper currency are far from being satisfactorily dealt with. The financial distress and the prostration of industries are to be found in bad and ignorant legislation and not simply in the spirit of speculative extravagance and national overtrading. The people may be culpable for the latter but Congress and the President are directly responsible for the first. The fluctuating value of a redundant currency can never be more fixed and stable without a prosperous and permanent revival of business and no revival can occur until a more statesman-like policy enters as an element of confidence in the permanency of our body-politic. We have been regarding our financial distress as panic, but it has proved to be a crash. We have been looking for revulsion, and collapse threatens. The President has proved incompetent to treat the issues, let Congress approach the crisis and deal vigorously with the responsibilities thrown upon them.

If the country was in a condition to be aggressive we should regard the paragraph in the President's message devoted to Cuba as almost a threat to the Spanish Government in saying that an indefinite continuance of this state of things "may make some positive steps on the part of other powers a matter of self necessity." There was a time when such energetically expressed language might lead to diplomatic controversy, but so contemptible must we be in the eyes even of the Spanish Government that the Cabinet of Marshal Serrano will probably not consider it necessary officially, to read the bantering phrases, certainly not to take umbrage lest they are uttered in earnest.

The Charleston Judgment.

On Thursday night last, a singular scene was enacted in Columbia. The occasion was a legislative caucus held for the purpose of sounding the condition of the candidates for the race for the judgeship which was to come off on the following day. What made it especially remarkable was not that "Buffalo Bill," a few months ago disturber of the peace of Georgetown, still later a blatant insult to the name of the reform party, should have advocated the claims of his old friend W. J. Whipper, with the usual amount of nonsense about pride of race introduced.

Nor was it strange that our own "Sammy" should have turned against the Governor of his choice, and had his say in favor of a gentleman whom he ardently opposed two years ago as candidate for the State Senate, and still more recently for Congress.

Whatever path members such as these pursue, however erratic their course may be, we can readily follow them to the logical end. They have good reasons for what they do, however mysterious and

past finding out they may seem to ordinary observers. But that Governor Chamberlain should feel and yield to the necessity of entering the arena in behalf of the best available man, is particularly worthy of attention, as a step not to be taken by one in his position under ordinary circumstances, and still further by those extraordinary circumstances which induced him to act as he did. A judge was to be elected to preside over a bar which in ability and integrity has even from colonial times been unsurpassed by that of any commercial metropolis in the land. Unhappily the existing state of affairs rendered it impossible for a man to be chosen purely on account of his exalted knowledge of the law and high moral worth.

But between Messrs. Whipper, Baker and Reed there was a choice for those who intelligently regard the welfare of the State, and Mr. Chamberlain in pursuance of the reformatory policy foreshadowed in his message, gave the not unneeded weight of his personal influence in favor of the candidate whose character and precedents give the best promise of wearing an unsullied ermine.

A Fair Field and no Favor.

It is too early to condemn the negro as a political failure. He has not had a fair chance. Petted and pampered by one political party and distrusted and abused by another, it is not strange that, like a child subjected to similar treatment, he should signs of turning out badly. Little of the legislation ostensibly framed for his protection has been really designed for his benefit, and that with a good object has too often been perverted to his injury. The object has been to keep him in a good humor with a particular political party, and to secure his vote for that party, rather than to qualify him for the duties of citizenship and to protect him in their free and intelligent exercise. In making the Constitution of Virginia, an extravagant homestead provision was framed so as to encourage him to idleness rather than foster habits of industry and thrift. In South Carolina and Louisiana small offices were multiplied inordinately with to rewarding plantation politicians. In Alabama thieving has been actually encouraged by laws throwing obstacles in the way of petty larceny. In nearly every Southern State the negro has been relieved from taxation, in many cases not even a poll tax being required, and the lesson taught was that the white people ought to bear all the expenses of the Government, although debared an equitable share in its administration. There is a reason to fear that many of the provisions of the Federal Reconstruction laws were conceived or modified in the same spirit, while they were palatable to the honest voters of the North by the plea that the freedom of the freedman was in danger. Even when a law was excellent in design and letter, the negro was often persuaded that it was enacted to place him above his white neighbors, rather than an equal with them, and the word passed from cabin to cabin, that do what he might, Congress and the President would secure him against the penalty of crime. We can point to hardly a single case in which the colored people have used the ballot box for the best interest of their race or their country. The white men whom they have elected to office have been as a rule only those who have pandered to their worst tastes and prejudices; men deprave, or ignorant or both. The negro who has been thus elevated are not less discreditable representatives of their constituencies. There are a few honorable exceptions; such men as ex-Senator Revels of Mississippi and Lieut-Gov. Gleaves of South Carolina among the number; but all the exceptions can be counted on one's fingers. The ablest men of the colored race are to be found in educational institutions, editing newspapers, preaching the gospel, or even in the humbler walks of life. It is fair to presume that Fred Douglass would stand small chance of getting a South Carolina Senatorship if pitted against Congressman Elliott's sharp practice or the greenbacks of Senator Patterson.

What is the remedy? With sincere good wishes for the welfare of the colored man, we honestly believe that it may be found in the treatment of the colored citizen as other citizens are treated. Let him be taught that, having secured his freedom and his citizenship, he must no longer consider himself a ward of the nation. He should learn that honesty is the first qualification for office, and that the man who combines honesty with education is the man best fitted to be a ruler of the people. He must learn, too, that legislation can do little if any more than give him a chance to work out his own salvation. He knows his rights, and the laws on the statute-books are ample for his protection. With a fair chance, and with no more time than he is entitled to claim after centuries of bondage and ignorance, we believe he will establish his right to retain the ballot box, even if he is himself convinced that he got it prematurely. Twenty years hence it will be time enough to pronounce the experiment of universal suffrage an unmitigated failure.—N. Y. Tribune.

A New County.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature for the formation of a new judicial and election County from contiguous portions Abbeville, Laurens, Edgefield and Newberry, to be known as the County of Ninety-Six, with the Court House at Ninety-Six Depot.

We heartily approve and commend the passage of the bill referred to. The county so formed will be one of the most choice and prosperous counties in the State. The rail road that will be built to Augusta will bring this superb section of the State in juxtaposition to Port Royal. It will be composed of the cream of the farm counties named and capital will have an opportunity of prospecting from Ninety-Six, as a centre one of the most productive fields of labor to which the extensive preparations for the introduction of a foreign element of labor now being inaugurated by the Port Royal Ingress may be made available. We predict that property along the line of that rail road will be increased four fold in value by the manner contemplated. We hope our county Senator and Representatives will lend their aid to the inauguration of a scheme so palpably beneficial to Port Royal.

Correspondence of the Tribune.

Mr. Editor:—The article in your issue of the 2nd, on tax titles is well enough as far as it goes, but the indemnification of former owners is not the only measure called for in furtherance of a final settlement at once equitable and satisfactory to all parties interested.

It is well known that a large portion of the lands in this vicinity were sold at public sale under what was termed "The Army and Navy privilege," and that, as a result of said system of sales, the lands sold were run up to very high figures in fact, so high that after three years of disappointment and loss had corrected the early ideas of the purchasers they not only found themselves positively unable to make final payment, but that they had originally paid the full value of the lands purchased. Under such circumstances it would seem that the unfortunate holders of Army and Navy Titles were especially deserving of considerations in framing a law or laws suited to the altered condition of things consequent upon the early termination of hostilities in 1865.

The money realized from South Carolina at sales and now lying in the United States Treasury was in great part contributed by the so-called Army and Navy purchasers. In consideration of the money paid down they received certificates providing for three years term in which to pay the remainder of the purchase money, and also providing that, in default of such final payment, the United States should through their accredited agents be at liberty to sell the property at public sale. This was the only penalty or condition mentioned in the contract, and for many years this entire community lived in continual expectation that said authorized sales would be enforced, and held according to the provisions of the original contract. But no action of the kind has been taken, and in lieu thereof Congress has seen fit (doubtless for want of sufficient light upon an ill understood question) to ignore and repudiate positive engagements entered into publicly by duly appointed government agents.

As facts now stand it is undeniable that the United States Government is amenable to the charge of having obtained possession of considerable sums of money under false pretences, inasmuch as not a single purchaser under the Army and Navy privilege parted with his money under any other belief than that he was actually acquiring a positive interest in the land sold, and that he could be deprived of said interest except in the way expressly provided in the contract for meeting the contingency of final default. This is neither a pleasant nor a dignified attitude for the Government to occupy toward any class of its citizens, and it is to be hoped that whatever final legislation may be adopted in settlement of those much vexed tax title complications, it will be broad and equitable enough to embrace all interests involved.

VIATOR.

The ghost of the Freedmen's Bank smash-up is a gaunt spectre that rises every little while to stalk abroad. No irregularity that has disgraced the Country for years, has been so utterly heartless as this, and it is not strange that we hear of further investigation being demanded by the colored people of Baltimore and other Southern cities into the affairs of this defunct institution. It took a name that was attractive to the emancipated race; it invited their surplus earnings by the fairest representations, and ingratiated itself so in their confidence that to them the Bank of England did not begin to signify the stability that they attached to their own institution. The swindling has been correspondingly rude, and what few hopes continued to be kept alive by assuring promises after the cloud first settled had almost vanished now. The Commissioners appointed to wind up the affairs of this concern do not declare a dividend, and only three or five per cent is promised. It is said that in Baltimore about \$70,000 of trust fund for the benefit of poor colored were on deposit, and a depositor complains that the Commissioners are eating up \$10,000 a year in salaries and apparently doing nothing. Let us hope that no further scandals are to breed from this affair.

State and County Taxes. COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE. COURT HOUSE, BEAUFORT, S. C.

NOTICE is hereby given that this Office will be opened for the receipt of State and County Taxes for the year 1874, on Monday the 30th day of November, 1874. For the convenience of Tax payers I will be at the following named places in the County to facilitate the collection of the same:

Gillisonville, December, 14th. Robertsville, " 15th. Brighton, " 16th. Lawtonville, " 17th. H. H. Peoples Store, " 18th. Besch Branch, " 19th. Brunson, " 21st. Varneville, " 22nd. Altman's, " 23rd. Yemassee, " 24th. Grahamville, January, 5th. Hardeeville, " 6th. Savannah " Sheriff's Office, " 7th. Screvens Ferry, " 8th. Levy's X Roads, " 9th. Oakland, " 11th. Bluffton, " 12th.

Hilton Head "Valentine's Store," Wednesday, Jan. 13. Hilton Head, "McIntyre's Store," Thursday, Jan. 14.

GEO. HOLMES, Treasurer, Bft. Co., Beaufort, S. C., Nov. 30, 1874.

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

NOTICE is hereby given that this office will be open for the receipt of the State and County Taxes for the year 1874 on the 30th day of Nov. 1874. All taxes not paid on or before the 15th day of January 1875, will be liable to a penalty of twenty per cent. All real and personal property is charged: For State purposes 10-25 mills For County purposes 3 mills For Past indebtedness 2 mills Poll Tax per capita 1 dollar. For School purposes, Beaufort, Bluffton, Coates, Hilton Head, and Peoples Township (2) mills; Coosawhatchie, Lawton, Pocolaligo, Sheldon and Yemassee, one (1) mill; St. Helena and Ladies Island three (3) mills. GEORGE HOLMES, Treasurer Beaufort, County, nov25-25.

SEALED PROPOSALS.

Will be received until Jan. 2nd 1875, by the County Commissioners for feeding the poor for the year 1875, the rations to be as follows: Six quarts of hominy, Three lbs. of meat, One pint salt, One quart of molasses, One quart rice, Quarter pound coffee or equivalent in tea, Half pound C sugar, Half pound soap, Two oz. tobacco and pipes. The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. PAUL FRITCHARD, Chairman Co. Comrs. Bft. County. SHEPARD D. GILBERT, Clerk of board.

FURNITURE.

Just Received from Cincinnati a Lot of Old Fashion OAK BOTTOM CHAIRS, PRICE ONLY 75 Cents, ALSO, CHAMBER SETS, MATTRESSES, CARPETINGS, CURTAIN ROLLERS, &c. &c. Geo. Waterhouse. dec2-53.

R. P. BARRY,

WHOLESALE and RETAIL DEALER IN Dry Goods, CLOTHING, BOOTS AND SHOES, HATS AND CAPS, NOTIONS, &c. &c. Bay Street, Beaufort, S. C., dec2-54.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR,

Maple Sugar, Choice Syrup, For Sale By W. M. FRENCH, A. E. & F. W. SCHEPER, DEALERS IN

Dry Goods,

Clothing, Notions, &c., Have Laid in an Immense Stock of Fall and Winter Goods, LADIES GOODS, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, HATS, BOOTS, SHOES, &c. &c. Call and Examine the stock, which cannot be surpassed by any House in the State. Prices Low to Suit the Times. dec2-53.

BEAUFORT MACHINE SHOP.

Having opened a Shop here, I am prepared with the LATEST IMPROVED TOOLS to Build and repair all kinds of MACHINERY, both Wood and Iron. Particular attention given to Designing and Pattern Making, For New Work. STEAM PIPE and FITTINGS, Constantly on hand At Northern Prices. Common Sizes of Iron Nuts AND STEEL. Personal attention given to SETTING and CONSTRUCTING STEAM BOILER FURNACES FOR SAVING FUEL. Shop next to Post Office. J. A. Whitman, Mechanical Engineer.

BEAUFORT HOUSE

Beaufort, S. C., Having fitted up the above named House, I am Prepared to accommodate the Public. Carriages will be on hand to carry guests to and from the Depot and Port Royal. J. A. DUPONG, Proprietor. nov25-25.

MRS. MORILLO,

Has Just Received a Fresh Stock of FRUITS and Confectionery. Store Opposite the Bank, BAY STREET. nov25-44.

SCHOONER BERTHA,

CAPT. M. B. TREVETT, Will ply between Savannah and Beaufort, in connection with all Steamships between Northern Ports AND Savannah. F. rights Carried as LOW Orders Entrusted to me will be punctually attended to. M. B. TREVETT. nov25-41.

NOTICE TO SHIP MASTERS AND COTTON SHIPPERS.

Port Royal Cotton Compressing Warehousing & Power Co., Are prepared to receive on storage and Compress Cotton at the usual rates at their works and yard at Port Royal. CHAS. ROGERS, Superintendent. nov25-50.

P. M. WHITMAN,

Watchmaker and Jeweler, BAY STREET, BEAUFORT, S. C., Has Just received from the North a fine assortment of goods at Northern Prices. WEDDING RINGS, \$3.00 to \$12.00. SILVER RINGS, 50c. to \$1.50. SILVER NAPKIN RINGS, 25c. to 50c. to \$4.00. LADIES GOLD WATCHES, \$25 to \$50. 8 Day & 1 Day Striking Clocks, \$3.50 to \$8. GENTS' GOLD CHAINS, PINS, RINGS, SLEEVES, BUTTONS, STUDS, WATCH CHAINS, LADIES GOLD and PLATED JEWELRY, GOLD PENS, &c. &c. Gents' Gold and Silver Watches. Call and examine before purchasing, and satisfy yourself you can save ten to twenty-five per cent from Charleston or Savannah prices. nov25-57.

JAS. E. MCGREGOR,

CARRIAGE MAKER. Repairing of all kinds done with neatness and despatch, and satisfaction guaranteed. Shop cor West and Craven Streets. BEAUFORT, S. C. nov25-50.

A. ARTIS,

Barber. SHAVING, HAIR CUTTING, DYING AND SHAMPOOING, in the most Artistic Style. Salon in the rear of the Drug Store. BEAUFORT, S. C. nov25-51.

LUMBER YARD.

A Full Stock of Lumber and Timber constantly on hand at Low Prices. Parties desiring estimates for large quantities are requested to give me a call. Yard in rear of the Post Office. R. G. HOLMES. nov25-57.

JAMES E. BOYCE,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL GROCER, Dealer in ALES, WINES, LIQUORS, AND TOBACCO NOTIONS, DRY GOODS, BOOTS and SHOES. BAY ST., BEAUFORT, S. C., nov25. J. A. ENSLOW, FACTOR, SHIPPING, AND COMMISSION Merchant, 141 East Bay, Street, CHARLESTON, S. C.

Dry Goods.

Fancy Goods, CLOTHING, Boots and Shoes, Trunks, Valises, &c., Millinery and Dress Making. On hand a large assortment of NOTIONS, At Prices Bound to Please. MRS. MARY McBRIDE, North East Cor. Bay and Scott Street. BEAUFORT, S. C. nov25-50.

N. BRADY,

Dealer in Groceries, Liquors, &c. The highest price paid for Otter Mink & Deer SKINS and all kinds of COUNTRY PRODUCE. BAY ST., BEAUFORT, S. C. nov25-52.

W. M. FRENCH,

AGENT. Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Fine Groceries, Fruits and Vegetables, A full Assortment of Canned Goods, Dried Fruits, &c. Just Received a Barrel of CANADA SALMON, in pickle. 20 Barrels Biscuits. 16 Barrels Apples, \$2.50 per barrel, Catawba Grapes, Oranges, Cranberries, Figs, Onions, Cabbages, Potatoes, &c. THE BEST HAMS IN THE MARKET SMOKED TONGUES, DRIED BEEF, BREAKFAST BACON, 4,500 pounds SHOULDERS, Suitable for Country Merchants.

WM. MITCHELL,

Blacksmith and Horseshoer. Any work in my Line Executed promptly and with despatch. Satisfaction Guaranteed and work done as well as any where in the State. SHOP OPPOSITE THE ARSENAL, BEAUFORT, S. C. nov25-53.

W. H. CALVERT,

TIN SMITH. DEALER IN JAPANNED FLANISHED and PLAIN TIN WARE. Constantly on hand a full Stock of Heating, Cooking and Box STOVES and PIPE. Particular attention given to putting on and repairing Tin Roofs, Leaders and Gutters. Terms Cash. Hoping for a continuance of the patronage heretofore bestowed on me, I will warrant all work to be done in the most workmanlike manner. nov25-56.