

The Coming Year.

The outlook for 1876 is anything but cheering. Many depressing causes have led to a stagnation in business, and grave fears are entertained by thinking men that we have not yet reached the worst point. There are very few encouraging signs of a return to activity in our agricultural, manufacturing and commercial circles. Each day brings us the unwelcome news of suspensions at the North, while each succeeding telegram adds a darker hue to the outlook for next year. The non-payment of individual debts, followed closely by a careless use of the resources of town, county, municipal and State governments, are leading rapidly to a condition of things out of which there seems to be no way of escape. Many enterprises which have grown up under careful management, are now tottering on the verge of bankruptcy and ruin. A few weeks ago it was announced that many of the hotels in New York were without a single boarder. The deceptive policy of expansion, which was advocated in Ohio, brought about disaster in many instances. The inevitable consequences of overtrading and building on borrowed capital, at a high rate of interest, have gone far to shatter the fabric of public and private credit. Not only have overtrading and overbuilding been the rule, but public sentiment has been debauched by irresponsible speculators and by the failure of mushroom banks, which drew from the pockets of the people their hard-earned money for which they received no commensurate return. The existence and pursuit of such policies as these, always lead to decaying manhood and financial death. Happily for us they have been checked, in a great measure, by the stringency of the times. For men who make it a practice to run upon borrowed capital become slaves in the most abject sense of the term, and contribute largely to the depression of our business interests. Let men begin to practice economy, live within their earnings, and a return to our normal condition may be possible; but as long as money borrowers through the land—men who will mortgage first their homes and then their carriages, for a few thousand dollars, in the vain hope to pay out in the end, our financial condition will remain uncertain. A high rate of interest will be fostered thereby, and those whose fortune it is to have money to lend, will eventually control the destinies of the country, and establish for themselves an aristocracy having no claims to respectability save those created by the influence of the all-mighty dollar.

Let our farmers husband their resources—buy nothing except those things which are absolutely necessary, and merchants and manufacturers will be forced into corresponding measures of retrenchment and economy, and thus a healthier spirit of confidence will at once spring up between all classes.

It is easy to see where the practice of economy will lead us; it is already known where extravagance and the credit system has brought us. The former is the broad, plain road to financial prosperity, and personal contentment—the well-spring of public and private virtue; whereas the practice of the latter has reduced thousands to penury and want, and placed them, face to face, with poverty.

But sad as the outlook for 1876 is, if our people, and the farmers in particular, were to resolve, with the beginning of the New Year, to live more economically, go in debt as little as possible, and work manfully to regain what they have lost by short crops, our Centennial Christmas will find them better off than they are to-day.

The *News and Courier* has been considerably enlarged and otherwise improved. It is undoubtedly the journal of the Southern States, and wields more influence in South Carolina than all the weeklies put together. Its chief editor, Capt. F. W. Dawson, is a vigorous and fluent writer, and we believe has the interests of the State at heart. Success to both editors and paper.

We ask attention to Col. Bacon's letter announcing the Columbia races for 15th, 16th and 17th Dec. Lovers of this sport will do well to read it, and then go up.

Bonds for the Peace.

We call the attention of the Legislature to the law in relation to this matter. As it now stands, some Trial Justices may interpret it to mean that they have the right to arrest any citizen of whom another swears that he fears bodily harm, and compel him to give bond for his good behavior, or go to jail for a year and a day. This is wrong. No man should be required to find surety for the peace, until he shall have been tried by a jury and found guilty of having uttered some threat against another. Unfortunately for us, we have some people in this world who would not scruple to commit perjury for the purpose of gratifying their spite against a supposed enemy. To make such mangy curs as these powerless for harm—at least in this connection—let the law be so amended as to render it impossible for Trial Justices to misinterpret it. Bid a man over to keep the peace, *provided* he be found guilty of some offense, but don't let cowards take advantage of a law that was intended for wholesome purposes, and use it to oppress him. Amend the law, gentlemen, and make the man who craves protection *under it*, pay, *in advance*, for the warrant necessary to procure a peace bond. The county is too poor to pay the costs heaped up on it by men who have no sand in their gizzards.

Judge Knowlton.

The following excerpt we make from the Columbia correspondence of the *News and Courier*. From it one would judge that the *News and Times* is not a bad prophet. That Judge Knowlton stands high amongst Republicans is not only a truth, but the correspondent of our contemporary might have added, with equal truthfulness, that every Conservative who knows this distinguished member of our bar, entertains the highest respect for him:

"A. B. Knowlton, of Orangeburg, is strongly supported by Hayne, of Marion, and by the Orangeburg delegation. Knowlton is in good odor among the colored members, and from this fact is Whipper's main rival.

The Columbia *Union-Herald* of the 10th inst., says: "Mr. Duncan from a special committee appointed to investigate the charges against the mayor of Orangeburg for working prisoners on the streets of Orangeburg, made a long report, of no interest to our readers."

We have reliable information from Columbia that the lien law will be repealed, but whether to take effect from the passage of the act abrogating it, we are not informed. We will keep our readers posted.

The tribute paid to the late C. D. Melton by the *News and Courier*, is one of the most eloquent we ever read. That paper can do a good thing when it has a mind to.

The reporter of the *News and Courier* has been expelled from the privileges of the House.

The following beautiful stanzas were delivered by Mr. T. B. Boyd on the night of the anniversary supper of the Elliott Hook and Ladder Company:

"I took thee in thy youthful prime
 The husband of my heart to be
 I promised in my marriage vow
 Forsaking all, to keep but thee
 I vowed through good and ill report
 That I would love, would serve, obey
 Would keep through sickness and through health
 That vow, I will renew to-day.

I will not leave thee, now disease
 Has thinned thy form and paled thy cheek
 And sorrow and this prison cell
 Have made that vigorous arm so weak—
 I will not leave thee! much thou needst
 Some gentle hand to tend thee now
 To soothe the fever in thy veins
 And wipe the cold sweat from thy brow.

I will not leave thee! though the world
 Has called thee by a felon's name
 And scorn's cold finger points thee out
 The worthless child of guilt and shame—
 I will not leave thee! though this cell
 Be all the home, thou callest thine own
 Though wealth and honor, friends and fame
 At fate's dissolving touch have flown.

I will not leave thee! in one heart
 Faith in thy innocence remains
 And not a thought of cold distrust
 Has chilled love's fervor in my veins
 I hear the world's condemning voice
 What is the world's harsh voice to me?
 Did I not at the altar vow
 Forsaking all, to keep but thee?

I would not leave thee, did I know
 That all the world's reproach were true;
 That death's great temptations power
 Thy soul had lost its native hue
 Had dyed itself with darkest guilt
 And plunged without remorse in crime
 Not even then would I forsake
 Thine and thine only, for all time.

Death only, parts us; when he comes
 I will, I must yield thee to him
 And though my presence might not take
 A terror from that monarch grim
 I might point out some ray of hope
 To guide thee to that world above
 Where we poor weary ones of earth
 May dwell in the All-Father's love."

The following is an epitome of the remarks made by Mr. Meyers at the recent Anniversary of the Elliotts, in response to a sentiment toasting the press:

Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen:

I feel honored in your call upon me to respond to the tribute accorded the press. It is natural, however, that I should regret that no able representative of "the fourth estate" is here to do justice to its preeminent record, as one of the powers "behind the throne stronger than the throne itself."

Ever since the days of Homer, whose Iliad and Odyssey are the text books of the scholar and the poet, the pen, which Byron calls "that mighty instrument of little men," has been the guardian of the rights of the people, and the universal teacher of the nations; and ever since the 14th century, the type, that little monument of human genius, has been the type of civilization, the ornament of social life, and the guard and grace of humanity.

Born amid the struggles of the people, crushed beneath the feudal institutions, it rose to give expression to their rights and in vindication of their wrongs. It soon attracted the attention and aroused the fears of the thrones of Europe, and whenever they failed to use it to manufacture a false public sentiment in favor of tyranny, they combined to fetter its limbs or to stamp it out of existence. But wherever the element of constitutional liberty was part and parcel of the government, or the shadow of popular freedom prevailed, there the press asserted itself and fulfilled its high mission. Before the time of the Reformation, it concealed itself in the monasteries and became the handmaid of the ancient learning, or the chronicle of the heroism, the genius, and the eccentric chivalry of the olden time.

In those days there was properly no press as we know it now. Except here and there in England, the press was shackled and silent until the terrible storm of 1793, which had gathered for centuries in the hearts of the French people, broke, like a thunderbolt, over the palace of the Tuilleries.

In that tremendous outbreak of the people in which, as the poet says, "France got drunk and vomited blood over Europe," the press took its place beside the Tribune in the national assembly. It gave way to all the madness of the hour because it was the true exponent of a people wild and furious in the first enjoyment of that carnival of liberty at which Christianity trembled and civilization stood aghast.

While on one side of the English channel, the press illustrated the unrestrained vigor of a popular uprising, on the other side it exemplified the steady light of liberty ordered and restrained by right reason, and a perfected system of justice and law.

But no where, gentlemen, had the press reached its proper sphere, or risen to its full manhood, until it planted itself upon the soil of the new world, and stood by the side of a young and free people in the establishment of the American Republic.

Here, gentlemen, it has grown with its growth and been strengthened with its strength, until it has become the munificent patron of our generous youth, the fearless champion of law and order, and at once the sword and shield of the Republic.

Every day magnifies its usefulness and importance. It is the best and highest educator of the people, and the education it imparts makes us the invincible nation that we are, giving us, as it does, the intelligence to understand our rights, and nerving us with the spirit to defend them. Each day it penetrates our domestic life, and sits by our side picturing to us, as a "map of busy life," the moving accidents and incidents, not only round about us, but transpiring in all quarters of the known world. It is a mighty spirit that grasps all the great powers of human energy, and makes them the slaves of its service. Steam and the telegram, poetry and music, art and science, are all grouped in the sanctum of the modern editor, and subservient to his will.

But recently, gentlemen, we have seen an example of its power in the influence it has exerted over the polls all over the country. The greatest statesmen have bent their knees before its power—Christian statesmen have gone down beneath its frown; and here in our own State, it is fast bringing us out of the ways of corruption into the paths of official purity

and good government. It will yet hurl to the ground all those who have grown rich, be they high or low, by speculation in public funds, and consign them to the infamy which they deserve.

The press, when properly conducted, is at all times the conservator of peace and good order, the protector of our rights and the guard of every virtue of our homes; like some just and resolute man, unmoved by the rage of the populace or the frown of a tyrant, it presides over the genius of our common country and the fortunes of an united and free people, ever ready to approve the right and condemn the wrong.

These, gentlemen, are some of the ideas called forth by your sentiment this evening, toasting that great organization of which I am an humble part.

I thank you, gentlemen, for your attention.

**[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]
 FROM THE STATE CAPITOL.**

COLUMBIA, S. C. Dec. 9th, 1875.

"Let me make the ballads of a nation," said Fletcher, of Saltoun, "and I care not who makes its laws." Your readers will doubtless agree with me, when I state as my honest opinion that had the worthy Knight lived in the past six years, and been a resident, a freeholder, and tax payer in South Carolina he never would have so exclaimed; or else had prepared himself to receive a rude and uncompromising thrust at his capacities as a poet.

The people of the State have, heretofore, since reconstruction (and in many instances before,) been most unjustly dealt with by the very men whom they especially delegated to protect and defend their temporal interests in the legislative halls. Burdensome taxes have been imposed, and when collected been fraudulently and dishonestly applied; monopolies have been fostered and encouraged, to the detriment of the people, class legislation has been favored; unnecessary and oppressive laws have been enacted; and generally laws which tend to the happiness and prosperity of the people have been the exception and not the rule. But now it is changed, and henceforward the people may with Fletcher, "care not who makes their laws," but rather incline to the Republican party so long as it preserves its present course of conduct.

With the inauguration of Governor Chamberlain, and the convening of the present General Assembly, a new era began to dawn upon the State; all the old abuses were corrected in whole or in part; the legislators without exception exerted their utmost efforts to remedy existing wrongs; and even now while they are piling the taxes upon them like Ossa upon Olympus, and like Pelion upon Ossa; the people have cause for congratulation and not complaint.

The event of the week in legislative circles, has been the expulsion from the house of the reporter of the *News and Courier*, for certain strictures upon the Republican members of the ways and means committee. The conduct of the reporter in this matter cannot be too severely condemned; and the action of the house, while it may have been somewhat modified, was necessary to show that while the press has liberty, it has not license. The committee in their action on the tax bill, followed closely the recommendations contained in the Governor's message. Nay, even went so far as to accept, present to the house and advocate a bill drafted by himself, and to the approval of which he was commuted. But, notwithstanding all this, the press of the State hurl upon the offending heads of the committee, a torrent of abuse, while the Governor finding that he is not assailed, looks calmly on, unmindful of the fact, that the committee in their advocacy of the bill are but the expositors of his views and intentions.

The opinion seems to prevail in Republican circles, that a new election will have to be held shortly for Congressmen from this State.

Yours briefly,

ROLLO.

A tremendous hue and cry is being raised just now against Judge Hoge's right to his seat in Congress. The law requires that a Congressional District shall be composed of contiguous territory. The Third District is not so constituted, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether Judge Hoge will be able to hold his seat to the end of the First Congress.

County Commissioner's Annual Report.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

ORANGEBURG, S. C., Nov. 15, 1875.

Pursuant to Section 26 of an Act to Reduce all Acts and parts of Acts in relation to County Commissioners, their Powers and Duties, into one Act and to Amend the same, Approved April 13, 1875, the following are the Claims against the County of Orangeburg, audited by the Board of County Commissioners, showing the Expenditures and for what Purposes from November 1st, 1874, to November 1st, 1875, are hereby published.

First—Amount of Drafts Issued by Present Board During Fiscal Year.

NAMES.	KIND OF FUND.	AMOUNT CLAIMED.	AMOUNT ALLOWED
H P Cooke.....	Trial Justice	65 50	64 00
".....	"	38 00	32 00
J H Fordham.....	"	11 70	11 70
R V Dannelly.....	"	31 00	22 00
Isaac Whitmore.....	"	24 60	24 60
".....	"	28 00	15 50
J H Fordham.....	"	44 00	32 00
".....	"	52 50	32 00
".....	"	40 50	32 00
".....	"	38 50	28 00
".....	"	40 00	32 00
".....	"	42 50	32 00
".....	"	36 00	36 00
Isaac Whitmore.....	"	30 20	17 70
J F Meyers.....	"	16 00	16 00
Thos. Alexander.....	"	3 00	2 00
M G Salley.....	"	22 50	22 50
H P Cooke.....	"	26 50	26 50
Total.....		5112 62	5075 22

Claims Unpaid

NAMES.	KIND OF FUND.	AMOUNT CLAIMED.	AMOUNT ALLOWED
Izlar & Dibble.....	Contingent	60 00	60 00
Bull, Scovill & Pike.....	"	19 12	19 12
".....	"	6 00	6 00
".....	"	11 60	11 60
".....	"	1 20	1 20
Thos W Glover.....	"	2 16	2 16
Orangeburg News.....	"	525 50	454 00
".....	"	465 50	292 00
Peter G Cannon.....	"	5 00	5 00
News & Courier.....	"	12 00	12 00
Walker, Evans & Cogswell.....	"	25 00	25 00
Bull, Scovill & Pike.....	"	19 30	19 30
Leval Paulling.....	"	6 00	5 00
Jas. Van Tassel.....	"	35 80	26 80
W J DeTreville.....	Court fund	10 00	10 00
Harpin Riggs.....	"	963 99	963 99
Girardeau & Co.....	"	1 00	1 00
Joel Larkins.....	"	21 00	12 00
E I Cain.....	"	141 90	141 90
".....	"	259 10	250 10
".....	"	263 00	253 00
".....	"	176 90	176 90
".....	"	162 20	162 20
".....	"	167 05	167 05
".....	"	13 20	13 20
Geo. Boliver.....	"	445 00	445 00
Joel Larkins.....	"	33 00	21 00
Geo. Boliver.....	"	171 50	171 50
E I Cain.....	"	103 35	103 35
".....	"	58 85	58 85
".....	"	46 45	34 00
".....	"	10 00	10 00
W G W Walker.....	"	134 05	134 05
E I Cain.....	"	180 70	180 70
".....	"	272 65	272 65
C W Buttz.....	"	287 50	287 50
B G Schaffer.....	"	62 50	62 50
".....	"	125 00	125 00
".....	"	125 00	125 00
Martin Livingston.....	"	45 00	22 50
Dave Felder.....	"	3 00	3 00
Morris Adams.....	"	10 00	6 00
Martin Livingston.....	"	45 00	22 50
W L W Riley.....	"	32 90	20 00
".....	"	53 10	50 00
J W Funchess.....	"	28 00	20 00
Walker Howard.....	"	4 00	1 00
D W Barton.....	"	33 00	20 00
Crosswell, Carson & Slawson.....	"	89 13	39 13
Daniel Livingston.....	"	15 00	15 00
L E Myers.....	"	29 50	15 00
J H Felder.....	"	100 00	50 00
J D Smoke.....	"	81 86	62 00
Hilliard Wright.....	"	40 00	40 00
J P M Fours.....	"	6 50	6 50
G D Sellers.....	"	10 00	10 00
A D Bozard.....	"	12 00	12 00
W W Glover.....	"	21 75	12 00
J E Edwards.....	"	13 25	13 25
E J Oliveros.....	"	200 00	200 00
C J Saspartas.....	Poor fund	25 00	8 00
D Louis & S Dibble.....	"	24 00	24 70
A C Dukes.....	"	172 50	172 50
F H W Briggmann.....	"	5 00	5 00
T Kohn & Bro.....	"	45 08	45 08
D Louis & S Dibble.....	"	80 73	50 73
A C Dukes.....	"	86 25	86 25
D Louis & S Dibble.....	"	24 81	24 81
T Kohn & Bro.....	"	27 70	27 70
D Louis & S Dibble.....	"	53 29	48 00
E Rosa C Oliveros, Ex'x.....	"	22 25	22 25
Gabriel Thomas.....	"	15 00	10 00
Barton & Legare.....	"	170 00	170 00
Geo. Boliver.....	"	166 25	166 25
Briggmann & Crook.....	"	2 00	2 00
Tom Smith.....	Trial Justice fund	3 00	3 00
Gressett & Reeves.....	"	2 00	2 00
Thos Alexander.....	"	3 00	2 00
".....	"	4 00	2 00
W K Brown.....	"	17 00	17 00
Jake Brunson.....	"	5 00	5 00
A F Browning.....	"	8 75	8 75
Frank Mallett.....	"	8 00	4 00
Wm H Joiner.....	"	5 00	2 00
J A Funchess.....	"	4 00	2 00
".....	"	5 00	5 00
J R Wannamaker.....	"	5 00	5 00
J G Mitchell.....	"	52 00	20 00
W M Fair.....	"	5 00	5 00
J M Brown.....	"	3 00	2 00
Daniel Green.....	"	3 00	3 00
A G Myers.....	"	4 00	4 00
J J W Joiner.....	"	27 00	14 00
".....	"	10 00	6 00
James Pierce.....	"	24 00	6 00
James Rickenbaker.....	"	16 00	4 00
B J Ginyard.....	"	33 00	12 00
John H Phillips.....	"	73 50	52 00
H P Cooke.....	"	37 00	30 00
".....	"	39 00	30 00
A B Corbitt.....	"	4 00	2 00
J F Myers.....	"	16 50	12 00
Jno Wannamaker.....	"	23 50	6 00
R V Dannelly.....	"	16 50	13 00
J H Wahlers.....	"	53 00	32 50
Hilliard Hanton.....	"	5 20	3 00
".....	"	8 00	2 00
July Emily.....	"	66 40	25 00

[TO BE CONTINUED.]