

# The Manning Times.

VOL. III.

MANNING, CLARENDON COUNTY, S. C. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1886.

NO. 1.

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

### BOTH HOUSES GET DOWN TO ACTUAL WORK.

Several Measures of Public Interest Considered—Synopsis of the Proceedings.

The third week of the session of the Legislature was full of important work. Below will be found a synopsis of the proceedings.

### SENATE.

The following new bills were introduced: Bill amending the charter of the town of Chester; relating to the payment of witnesses in criminal cases in Lancaster county; allowing Probate Judges to perform the duties of the supervisor of registration.

Bill to charter the Bank of Greenwood; amending the priority lien law; joint resolution to amend the Constitution by striking out Section 32 of Article 3, in reference to homestead; to regulate the sale of seed cotton and unworked cotton in Abbeville county; bill to require assignees to give bonds; to enable the superintendent and directors of the penitentiary to make contracts for work in this State.

On motion of Senator Murray a concurrent resolution was adopted and sent to the House fixing the time for electing a Judge to the Third Circuit at one o'clock on the 9th inst. The election was duly held, and the Hon. T. B. Fraser, incumbent, was re-elected without opposition.

The Senate agreed to the House concurrent resolution as to the printing of the reports of the State Board of Health.

### SECOND READING.

Bill to repeal the Act regulating the admission of foreign safety companies; bill providing for the repair of the Beaufort Arsenal; House concurrent resolution requesting Senators and Representatives to support the bill providing for agricultural experiment stations.

When the House bill came up authorizing the foreman of grand juries to administer oaths to witnesses, Senator Buist moved to strike out the enacting clause. He made a vigorous speech against the proposition as a dangerous innovation.

Senator Woodward said that the law was a necessary not a luxury. It came high and there was complaint about it. It ought to be simplified, but he was afraid the legal gentlemen didn't want it to be simplified. He knew that if he were a lawyer he would object to making law matters easy of understanding. He believed that simplification could go farther. All this tomfoolery in the long indietments about discharging one leaden bullet aforesaid, (laughter), ought to be done away with. He was curious to know how much the reading of this rignarole had cost the State in her history.

Senator Patterson thought there was good reason for the present practice and that it should not be changed.

On Senator Buist's motion the vote stood: Yeas—Bismann, Buist, Hemphill, Howell, Kennedy, McMaster, Moore, Monroe, Patterson, Reynolds, Williams and Youmans—12. Nays—Alexander, Austin, Byrd, Erwin, Field, Izlar, Moody, Murray, Slight, Smythe, Wingard, Woodward and Woodford—15.

The bill then passed without a division.

The House bill reducing the salary of the Lieutenant Governor brought Senator McMaster to his feet. He moved to strike out the enacting words, but did not speak.

Senator Woodward was in doubt and wanted information.

Senator Patterson could see no reason made by the Lieutenant Governor for the extra salary of \$1,000, which it was proposed to cut off. If there was to be reform anywhere it ought to begin here.

Senator Field thought the salaries paid some of our State officers amounted to practical idolatry. The State was on the verge of famine and this useless expenditure ought to be cut off.

Senator Slight agreed with these views. Senator McMaster said that he had made his motion on the general proposition that salaries ought not to be reduced. Salaries in this State were so reduced already. The salary of the office should be commensurate with its dignity. Poor pay meant poor growth. If the salaries were cut down, it would bring into office a class of impunctious, one-horse men, or leave the offices to the rich.

Senator Woodward did not object to a reduction of salaries, but he did not want this clean sweep. He was willing to reduce the salary to \$500, but not to cut it off. He proposed to sit down on those who had come here proposing to make the State rich by cutting off a little slice of salary here and little slices there. He would not give aid or comfort to these pretensions.

Senator Howell avowed himself an economist and supported the bill.

Senator Buist rallied Senator Woodward on his position in this matter as contrasted with his vote against paying Mr. Miles for his services in the bond scrip cases.

Senator Woodward retorted by saying that he had taken his position under the mistaken impression that this salary was one of Senator Buist's glorious institutions of the past, which should be preserved inviolate. Understanding now that it was a post bellum law he withdrew his opposition.

Senator Moore showed that the Constitution required the Lieutenant Governor to act as Governor in case of the latter's disability. The salary was evidently designed to fit such an emergency should it arise. He thought besides that the dignity of the office required some salary beyond the per diem.

After further discussion Senator McMaster's motion was lost by a vote of 15 to 19, and the bill passed. The affirmative votes were cast by Senators Izlar, McMaster, Moore, Reynolds, Reynolds, Slight, Smythe, Williams and Youmans.

### FURTHER IN THE COLLEGE.

The special order for the 5th inst., being the bill requiring a tuition charge of fifty dollars per collegiate year in the South Carolina College, was discussed at some length. Senators Slight, of Newberry, Patterson, of Chester, and Erwin, of Anderson, favored the bill, while Senators Rhame, of Clarendon, Woodward, of Fairfield, McMaster, of Richland, and Moore, of Sumter, opposed it. The bill was further discussed on the

10th—Senators Edwards and Slight favoring it, and Senator Smythe opposing it. Senator Howell moved to table the motion of Senator Edwards to indefinitely postpone the unfavorable report of the committee.

Yeas—Senators Buist, Byrd, Howell, Izlar, McMaster, Moore, Murray, Reynolds, Rhame, Slight, Smythe, Williams, Wingard, Woodward and Youmans—15.

Nays—Senators Alexander, Austin, Bell, Bismann, Black, Crews, Edwards, Erwin, Field, Hemphill, Kennedy, McColl, Moody, Murray, Patterson, Slight, Talbot and Woodford—18.

The recommendation of the committee was then rejected without a division, and the bill came up on its merits. It was apparent, from the known tendencies of some of the Senators who supported the bill that it could be amended very readily. The bill itself is a bare requirement that a tuition fee of not less than \$50 shall be charged all students. The majority of the committee reporting it recommended a minimum fee of \$50.

Speaking in advocacy of a reduction Senator McMaster stated that the maximum fee before the war was \$10. He understood it to be the desire of the Senators on the other side to restore this rate.

The recommendation of the committee was adopted.

Senator Moody, who had voted with the majority, then moved to amend by reducing the fee to \$40.

The bill was then voted on, it being understood that the matriculation fee would be retained at its present figure.

This being done, Senator Murray said that he was not afraid to compare his votes on the College question with those of any other Senator. He had always been in favor of the most liberal support of the institution. To prove his sincerity he offered an amendment to the following effect:

"The faculty may grant beneficiary scholarships without fees to competent and deserving youths who give satisfactory proof of their own inability or that of their parents or guardians to pay the tuition fee. Every student accepting a beneficiary scholarship shall be bound to teach two years in the public schools of his county if the county school commissioners shall assign him to a school. Section 1,040 of the General Statutes, limiting the beneficiary scholarship to one from each county, is repealed."

After some discussion Senator Black moved to amend the Murray amendment by providing that affidavits from the applicant, his parents or guardians and the auditor, clerk and sheriff of his county be required to prove inability to pay tuition fees.

Senator Murray accepted the amendment, as the rule was the same as that in force for beneficiaries at the Citadel.

After further debate Senator Murray's proposition, as thus amended, was adopted by the following vote: Yeas—Senators Bell, Bismann, Black, Buist, Byrd, Crews, Edwards, Howell, Izlar, Kennedy, McColl, McMaster, Moore, Moore, Murray, Munroe, Patterson, Reynolds, Rhame, Slight, Slight, Smythe, Talbot, Williams, Wingard, Woodward, Woodford and Youmans—20.

Nays—Senators Alexander, Austin, Erwin, Field, Hemphill and Moody—6.

Senator Reynolds offered an amendment that one boy from each county unable to pay a tuition fee shall receive a scholarship of fifteen dollars a month. Senator Murray moved to table.

Senator Buist offered an amendment providing that all tuition fees of the law department be placed at the disposition of the faculty for the remuneration of the professor of law.

Senator Hemphill opposed this; but it was explained that the law professor was paid entirely by fees, and the amendment was adopted.

The bill then passed its second reading without a division. General notice of amendment on the third reading was given.

OTHER MEASURES.

Among the bills unfavorably reported was the bill providing for the taxation of dogs and liches. (Minority report: "While not concurring exactly with the above bill in the manner of levying a tax upon dogs, we are yet of opinion that a bill should pass providing in proper manner for taxing dogs, either by way of a license fee or by assessment under the law." Augustine T. Smythe, D. W. Edwards, E. B. Murray.)

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, by striking out the provision for county commissioners, was passed under a call of the roll. Thirty-four Senators voted for it. Senator Kennedy, of Chesterfield, cast the only negative vote. The bill was postponed till next session. A similar disposal was made of the bill to make the term of the Probate Judge four years instead of two.

The bill to ratify the census amendment was passed—Senator Howell, of Colleton, casting the only negative vote.

The Anderson county prohibition bill was passed and sent to the House.

The House attended in the Senate, and a number of Acts were ratified.

House of Representatives.

A resolution was introduced by Dr. Pope looking to an investigation of the public printing, with a view of ascertaining if some of the reports could not be shortened or omitted. The objective points of the resolution are the State board of health reports and the document entitled "Reports and resolutions."

The first on the general orders of the day was a bill to amend the charter of the town of Summerville. It may be mentioned, by the way, that the town of Summerville seems to require more chartering than a dozen ordinary cities. There has never been a time in the past ten or twelve years that the House Calendar has been free from the presence of it or some bill looking to the chartering or amending, or repealing, or doing something for that delinquent, but much legislated about.

A bill to amend the fish laws so as to increase the number of days in the week on which persons might operate in the rivers and bays evoked quite a spirited discussion and brought forth speeches from several new members. The bill was championed by Mr. L. P. Miller, of Georgetown, and was hotly opposed by Messrs. Bigham, of Marion, O'Brien, of Colleton, Pope, of Newberry, and Evans, of Marlboro, who succeeded in killing it.

A bill allowing the county commissioners of Greenville and Colleton to borrow money with which to pay jurors, witnesses and school teachers, was passed after a discussion on the question of the rate of interest. During this debate it was announced that money could not be borrowed in Greenville for less than 10 per cent.

### NEW BILLS.

Bills were introduced looking to elections in Abbeville and Greenville counties on the question of prohibition. A petition was received from citizens of Darlington and Marion counties, praying for the formation of the new county of Florence. The ways and means committee reported a bill to appropriate \$7,000 to aid in rebuilding the State Medical College of Charleston.

Bill to amend the law fixing the compensation of the county commissioners of Beaufort; to fix the per diem of members of the General Assembly; bill to amend the Act to provide for the settlement of the consolidated State debt; bill to provide for payment out of the sinking fund of the valid interest on certain bonds and stocks; bill to amend the criminal law; bill to amend Section 919 of the General Statutes, relating to physicians, apothecaries and dentists; Mr. Norton, bill to devolve upon certain State officers the duties of directors of the penitentiary and lunatic asylum.

Bill to amend Section 1,084 of the General Statutes, relating to game birds; to amend the stock law; to prohibit sheriffs and constables from charging or receiving pay mileage except for the number of miles actually traveled.

Mr. Irby, of Laurens, introduced a bill to stay all executions in this State till November, 1887.

SECOND READING.

Dr. Pope's bill to reduce the costs of attorneys, &c., received a second reading.

A bill introduced by Mr. Gary, of Edgefield, requiring the clerk of the Supreme Court to transmit copies of decisions to the Circuit Courts in all the counties was defeated.

The bill to fix the salaries of county school commissioners evoked general discussion. As it came from the committee the bill provided a salary of \$200 and mileage (five cents) for each county school commissioner, except in Charleston where the salary was fixed at \$300.

Mr. Graham, of Williamsburg, moved to strike from the bill the passage relating to mileage. Tabled—yeas 50, nays 37.

Mr. Lesesne, of Charleston, moved to strike out the passage fixing the salary of the commissioner for Charleston county at \$300, and to make the salary the same as those in other counties. He explained that the official in Charleston had no more to do than those in other counties, and there was, therefore, no reason why he should receive any greater salary. Adopted.

Mr. O'Brien, of Colleton, moved that the mileage be restricted to \$100 at the outside. Adopted after a short discussion.

Mr. Rutland, of Fairfield, moved to increase the salaries to \$400. He regarded the bill as a death-blow to the common school system of the State. How could competent and efficient commissioners be secured at a salary of \$200 per annum? He was perfectly willing to economize the public funds, but this, he feared, was pruned too closely. The amendment was voted down.

Mr. Boyle voiced the sentiment of the Berkeley delegation when he asked for an amendment making an exception in favor of Berkeley county, whose commissioner he wanted to have \$400 salary without mileage, but the House would have none of it, and the amendment was voted down.

Mr. Jordan, of Aiken, moved to strike out the enacting words of the bill.

Mr. Lesesne, of Charleston, said that in reporting the bill the committee had no aim or intention to strike at or cripple the system. The office of school commissioner was more an office of honor than of profit. The committee was of the opinion that a salary of \$200 per annum and mileage would be abundant pay.

Mr. Evans, of Chesterfield, said that his school commissioner had been content to work for \$300 a year, and was doing faithful and efficient work at that price.

Mr. Boozer, of Edgefield, was willing to increase the pay to \$300 and mileage, but, this being impracticable, he would support the bill.

Dr. Pope said that if the bill passed it would save enough money to the school fund in each county to run one additional school 10 months in the year, and that the school commissioner would be the best paid officer in the county.

Mr. Ansel, of Greenville, called the previous question under the operation of which the motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill was voted down, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to regulate the sale of spirituous liquors by physicians' prescriptions was indefinitely postponed.

The judicial tenure of office constitutional amendment has been continued until the session of 1887.

### THE LIEN LAW.

The bill to repeal the lien law was taken up (the committee having reported it unfavorably.) It was stated by one of the friends of the bill that, in the event of the pending motion to strike out the enacting words being lost, they intended to amend it so as to provide that it should not go into effect until October, 1887.

The discussion was opened by Mr. J. Frost Walker, a thriving farmer of Richland. He thought that when the priority lien law was passed at the last session it would end this interminable discussion. It appeared to him that the farmers of South Carolina were hard to satisfy. The priority lien law had given the farmers a bond on his tenant which was even stronger than Shylock's bond. He believed that the principal motive of those who sought additional legislation was to force laborers to work for them for stipulated wages.

Mr. Brier, of Fairfield, explained why the committee had reported the bill unfavorably. The condition of the farmers in the State was such that the committee thought it best to let it severely alone.

Dr. Thomas, of Union, confessed that he was satisfied with the priority lien law passed by the last Legislature, which gave the land-owner the first lien and the laborer the second. Everybody ought to be satisfied with the law as it is.

Mr. Wharton, of Laurens, called at

tion to the fact that the agricultural committee of the House, composed of 13 farmers representing all the agricultural interests in the State, had unanimously agreed that this was not the time to repeal this law.

The previous question was called and the bill was killed by a vote of 85 to 27.

### THE TREASURY RESERVE FUND.

When Mr. Haskell's bill to create a treasury reserve fund, the provisions of which have already been published, was taken up, Dr. Pope moved to strike out the enacting words.

Mr. Haskell explained the object of the bill, and earnestly urged the House to consider well what it was about to do. He warned them against doing anything that would tend to injure the credit of the State.

Dr. Pope said that the bill had been introduced at the instance of the comptroller general to put the money beyond the control of the House. He didn't propose to use the whole of this money. He didn't think that more than \$75,000 of it would have to be used on the basis of a four mill tax. There was a good many things that the Legislature intended to cut down, and a good many things that they wouldn't be called upon to provide for. It was a very singular thing that these gentlemen had been using the fund for years, and now, when they found that the House was turning its attention to it, they sought to block the game.

Mr. Ansel opposed the bill on very different grounds. He thought it would impair the credit of the State to divert the various funds named in the bill.

Mr. W. B. Wilson, Jr., of York, was in favor of the bill. He called attention to the fact that the two opponents of the bill who had spoken had opposed it on entirely opposite grounds, one because the bill allowed the treasury to use the funds, and the other because it did not do so. He explained that under the proposed bill it was only intended to use such of the funds as were applicable to general purposes.

The debate was continued at length by Messrs. Hutson, Ficken, Pope and Haskell, and a vote on the motion to strike out the enacting clause was finally reached, with the following result on the bill: Yeas 45, nays 73.

The reading of the bill was then resumed. Another discussion arose, however, on an amendment offered by Mr. Parker, of Abbeville, proposing to strike out the provision allowing the use of the fund for the payment of general appropriations and of salaries, an amendment which would have prevented the use of the fund to ride over a scarcity of money in the State treasury. The amendment was tabled, however, and the bill ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

THE HORIZONTAL REDUCTION SALARY BILL.

When the bill offered by Dr. Thomas, of Union, to provide for a horizontal reduction of the salaries of the State officers was reached, Dr. Thomas read a speech prepared for the occasion. At the close of his remarks the House, without a division and without any further discussion, killed the bill.

SUNDAY TRAINS.

The bill in relation to the running of Sunday trains being taken up, Mr. Stewart, of York, moved to strike out the enacting clause, and supported the motion in a short speech. He could not understand why railroads should be allowed to labor seven days in the week when citizens were not. His principal objection was that the passage of the bill would tend to promote the growth of isms in the State—such as Communism and Anarchism, and would break down the peace and sanctity of the Sabbath.

Mr. Norton, of Marion, said if this bill was passed the Legislature should also pass a law allowing the farmers to drive their ploughs on the Sabbath.

Mr. Gary, of Abbeville, spoke at length upon the 4th commandment and moral culture generally.

Mr. Lawton, of Hampton, and Mr. Kershaw, of Darlington, spoke in favor of the bill, pointing out that by permitting the running of Sunday trains during certain months in the year the Legislature was really legislating for the benefit of farmers, viz., those who raised fruits, melons and truck produce.

Mr. Stauland spoke of the moral aspect of the question. He said if some of these members would go to Florence some Sunday, where a dozen trains are locked up, and see how the employees observed the Sabbath, they would soon acknowledge that they would be better off morally if they were hard at work.

Mr. Kershaw arose to say that he had lived at Florence for eight years, and to his knowledge the employees of the railroad at Florence were all members of the church. He supported the bill because it was in the interest of the truck farmers.

Mr. Browning, of Berkeley, put in a plea for the truck farmers of lower South Carolina, showing that the present law entailed great losses upon them. The bill, he reminded the House, applied only to fruit and truck trains.

This discussion threatened to become interminable, when a member called the previous question, which limited the debate to an hour.

Mr. Archer, of Spartanburg, delivered an address on the happiness of the enjoyment of the Sabbath. He reminded the House of the prophecy of the Prophet Jeremiah, who predicted the destruction of Jerusalem in case the Jews did not observe the Sabbath.

The bill was finally passed in the following shape:

"It shall be lawful, &c., to run on Sunday, during the months of April, May, June, July and August, trains laden exclusively with fruits and vegetables, and on said day in any and every month their regular mail trains, and such construction trains as may be rendered necessary by extraordinary emergencies other than those incident to freight or passenger traffic."

The bill was afterwards read a third time and sent to the Senate.

The bill to provide for a reassessment of property in Charleston, Colleton and Berkeley counties, called forth a long debate. Mr. Wilson, of York, first moved to strike out the enacting clause, but afterwards withdrew this motion. He then moved to make the bill apply to the whole State. The amendment was tabled. The bill was finally passed to its third reading.

The vote in the Joint Assembly, held on the 9th inst., for superintendent of the penitentiary was as follows: Thos. J. Lipscomb, the present incumbent, 96;

J. P. Blackwell, of Edgefield, 41; J. H. Kinsler, of Richland, 15; N. C. Robertson, of Fairfield, 4. Col. Lipscomb was accordingly declared elected. The vote for directors of the penitentiary was as follows: N. W. Brooker, of Edgefield, 113; C. W. McFadden, of Chester, 114; John G. Guignard, of Aiken, 79; H. A. Meetez, of Lexington, 73; George W. Shields, of Columbia, 44. The first three were declared elected.

REMOVAL OF PROF. WOODROW.

The Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary of Columbia Carry Out the Order of the Synod.

(From the News and Courier.)

COLUMBIA, December 8.—Pursuant to the instructions of the four Synods, the board of directors of the Theological Seminary met at 10 o'clock this morning in the Seminary chapel. There were four absentees. The following members were present: Dr. Wm. Adams, the Rev. James Stacy, the Rev. J. W. Rogan, the Rev. J. C. McFallen, the Rev. J. G. Law, Dr. H. E. Shepherd, Mr. W. C. Sibley, Col. George W. Scott and Dr. W. T. Thompson. Dr. Stacy was elected president and Mr. Law secretary.

The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, the four Synods controlling this Seminary have instructed this board to request the Rev. James Woodrow, D. D., for his resignation as professor of natural science in connection with Revelation;

"Resolved, That a committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Rogan and Thompson be appointed to wait on Dr. Woodrow and make the said request, and said committee shall present Dr. Woodrow with a copy of this resolution."

At 12 o'clock the board took a recess until 2 p. m. At that hour the committee presented the following note from Dr. Woodrow:

"In reply to the request which you have just handed me for my resignation as professor of natural science in connection with Revelation, I beg leave to say that I respectfully decline according to it."

This note was signed with Dr. Woodrow's full title as Perkins professor. The board then unanimously adopted a preamble, reciting the above facts, and the following resolution:

"Resolved, In accordance with the instructions received from the four controlling Synods of the Theological Seminary, that the Rev. James Woodrow, D. D., be, and he is hereby, removed from the chair of natural science in connection with Revelation, and that the secretary be directed to communicate this action to Dr. Woodrow."

The board then went into an election for professor of dialectic and polonic theology. The Rev. Dr. J. L. Girardeau was elected. Taking a recess at 6 p. m. the board waited on Dr. Girardeau in a body, acquainting him with his election and urging his acceptance of the professorship. Dr. Girardeau replied, expressing his appreciation of the confidence reposed in him by his brethren, and stating that he would consider the matter and give his reply at the earliest practicable moment.

At 8 p. m. the board reassembled at Wright's Hotel and spent about two hours considering the interests of the Seminary. It was decided to postpone further elections of professors until the first Wednesday in February, when the board will meet in Augusta. The chairs remaining to be filled are as follows:

(1) Biblical literature and exegesis of Scripture; (2) pastoral theology; (3) the Perkins professorship of natural science in connection with Revelation.

The members of the board express themselves as hopeful of the future of the Seminary, which they expect to reopen next September.

### Not a Drunken Nation.

Really and truly we are not a drunken nation. There is sadly too much drinking, and there is an infinity of crime and poverty resulting from it, but it is certain that we drink less per capita than our fathers did, and it is also certain that the mode and matter of drinking has undergone a great change in the last twenty-five years, and is still undergoing change. Fashion makes custom, and it is no longer the custom to drink rum, as our New England ancestors did, or whisky, as our Southern ancestors did. Wine and beer are now the staple drinks of those who consume intoxicants. We also drink slowly, and, therefore, more decorously than we used to do. And because we drink more slowly we also drink less. We are not a leisuredly people. We cannot sit an hour over two or three glasses of beer, as an Englishman or German does, or over a half pint of very thin wine, as a Frenchman or Spaniard does. And therefore we are not likely to become a nation of slow guzzlers. It cannot now be said, nor is it probable that it can ever be truthfully said, of the American as it is of the English constitution, that "it floats in beer." We do not pity a drunken man as the European people do, or if in such a case

Some pity lives, That pity half despises, half forgives; 'Tis mixed with shame, 'tis not from grief exempt, And savors very largely of contempt.

We look upon drunkenness as a misfortune. We regard it as a major or minor crime, according to the magnitude or minuteness of its evil consequences. The vice of drunkenness in America is in a sure and not very slow process of diminution. We are thin-skinned folk, impatient of ridicule and intolerant of contempt, and the tone of modern society is that of ridicule and contempt toward drunkards. Two of the strongest indications of the growth of temperance sentiments have been made manifest during the recent assembly of the Knights of Labor at Richmond. The first was when Grand Master Powdery charged the delegates that they should abstain from making themselves ridiculous or contemptible in the eyes of the world, by the simple act of abstaining from visiting saloons. The second was when the whole body of Knights demanded a pledge of constant sobriety from its newly elected officers. Philanthropists and reformers can take fresh courage from these cheering manifestations.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

In olden times the Scotch reckoned the value of a man in cows. Now-a-days we reckon in hogs, and the less hog a man is the more he is valued.

### ONE LITTLE LEAK.

An Item of Expense in County Government—Discounting County Paper.

(Continued from the News and Courier.)

In the progress of the debate in the House which, by the way, was its first indulgence in that most seductive but somewhat expensive legislative luxury, a good deal was said about county expenses. It will be remembered that the subject of discussion was the Aldrich bill to change the tenure of office of grand juries. It was advanced in support of the bill that the grand juries by being made perpetual would be able to exercise a closer scrutiny over the expenditures of county funds. The opponents of the bill pointed out, with much force, that the continuance of men in office so long might render them more easily subject to the influences of a powerful combination of corrupt officials or criminals. This brought out eulogies from quite a number of members upon the officials of their respective counties, each asserting that a nobler, purer, more intelligent, upright, patriotic, self-denying lot of citizens, in the words of the "Mikado," "never did exist." All of which is doubtless very true. Nevertheless it is admitted on all sides that one of the most pressing questions which confronts this Legislature is the question of reform in county affairs. It was pointed out in this correspondence on Monday last that in the county of Abbeville, as shown by the Press and Banner, the expenses for six years of Democratic rule were \$15,000 in excess of those of six years of the Radical rule of plunder.

The statement was the subject of a breakfast table conversation at the Grand Central Hotel yesterday, at which a distinguished member from Abbeville assisted. I asked him if the figures of the Press and Banner were true, and he replied that he had no doubt they were. The only cause he was able to assign for it was that the people were too anxious to make a living out of minor offices which they sought.

"Any stealing or dishonesty?" I inquired. No, he didn't think so. While it was true the salaries of some of the offices were small, the position afforded opportunities of making money which very few men could resist. This remark was made not in reference to Abbeville county alone but to all the counties in the State.

A case in point occurred here during the early part of this week. Looking over the register of the hotel on Tuesday morning I found the names of six or seven prominent citizens of Georgetown. Thinking that they might have come to the capital on some legislative business, and not being able to find any of them, I asked Representative Miller, of Georgetown county, "what was up?" and was told that the object of their visit was to bring a half dozen or more convicts to the penitentiary. This, will, perhaps, explain why it costs from \$30 to \$50 each to transport convicts to the penitentiary. I was further told by Mr. Miller that some of the distinguished citizens alluded to were rabid reformers, and during the recent canvass had advocated the abolition of the Citadel and College, the reduction of the salaries of State officials and other measures of reform.

Another cause of expense in the counties is to be seen in Charleston. Coroner DeVeaux, who was here on Wednesday last, had a hearing before the Charleston delegation on the subject of the proposed "horizontal" or "perpendicular" reduction of salaries. The coroner professed his willingness to submit to a reasonable reduction, but stated that he could not make a living (it will be borne in mind that this is an office the duties of which requires the entire time and attention of the incumbent) unless arrangements were made to pay him his salary. In other words, it transpired that the officials of the county are subjected to the necessity of discounting their certificates of pay at from 10 to 30 per cent. It was learned that a half dozen prominent merchants are engaged in the business, all of whom have made snug sums. I asked a member from Charleston if this was actually true, and he replied that it was, and that it had been going on for years, some of the merchants referred to having made fortunes. It would appear that there might be room for reform in this direction.

Thus far the only measure which promises practical reform in the direction of county expenses that yet appear on the House Calendar is a bill to change the plan of transporting convicts to the penitentiary. The bill, in accordance with the recommendation of Governor Sheppard, devolves this duty on the superintendent of the penitentiary.

### The Strongest of Feminine Instincts.

One of the strongest of feminine instincts is to spank. The little girl of six spansks her doll, even while the sympathetic tears roll down her cheeks. She keeps up the practice her little brothers and sisters, if she is fortunate enough to have any, and from then on her children and grandchildren—or somebody else's children and grandchildren—receive the benefits, in a natural form, of an art learned in infancy, until she goes hence to a better land, and even then, perhaps, a wide field for the exercise of her powers is before her among the little angels in heaven. One day last week a young man sauntering about the National museum saw two very pretty girls examining a large terra-cotta vase which stood in one corner of the room devoted to exhibits of that