

We haven't heard much of Chamberlain for the past few days. His little scheme for capturing the Legislature is not working as well as it might have done.

The Radicals about Columbia are not looking as cheerful now as they did when Dennis and a corporal of the guard were barring the State House door against the representatives of the people.

Representative Sheppard has introduced a bill in the House to abolish the right of divorce. And yet it strikes the candid mind that a bulldozed husband should have the same redress in this State as is accorded to him in others.

Rev. E. J. Meynardie has addressed an open letter to Senator Witherspoon of York, requesting the appointment of a day of thanksgiving and praise throughout the State. The suggestion is not inappropriate. We have much to be grateful for.

Blaine is in the same boat with Chamberlain and Packard. Each saw that the success of the President's policy would give the death-blow to his political aspirations. Hence the former's open defiance. Blaine will be shelved along with those whose wicked cause he championed. The next president will be of a different stripe.

The spectacle of the Mackey mob hanging around the State House and sucking their paws, longingly hoping to gain the seats they forfeited, reminds one forcibly of the nine more standing at the door who all said they'd take sugar in their'n. They have gone it alone and got cuffed.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines, after forty years of wearisome litigation, has just obtained a decree from the United States District Court. There is a prospect of her ultimate success at no distant day, in which event she will own a large portion of the city of New Orleans. As she is a widow, a fine opening presents itself for some enterprising young bachelor to make a short cut to fortune.

The manner in which Lieutenant-Governor Simpson took possession of the Senate reflects great credit upon him as a presiding officer. He manifested all the courage and acuteness necessary to obtaining complete control of that heretofore refractory body. With him in the chair, Dublin Walker resigned and Senator Cochran in sympathy with the Democrats, the Senate will not be a thorn in the side of the Democracy after all. That body is a tie, and the presiding officer, with his casting vote, will be supreme.

The Public Schools.

With the inauguration of an honest administration, the great prominence heretofore accorded to purely political questions will be given to other matters. Education claims the first consideration at the hands of the people. That thousands of children are growing up in ignorance is a fact, staring every one in the face; and this evil, if not speedily checked, will be a fruitful source of unnumbered woes in the future. Public sentiment is unanimous as to the end, but some diversity of opinion exists regarding the means of its accomplishment. After careful consideration of the subject in its different phases we are led irresistibly to the conclusion that the system of free schools, already ingrafted upon our constitution affords the simplest and most efficacious means of supplying this want. That it has not proved a success is attributable not to the system, but to a total disregard of the theory on which it is based. Radical leaders saw, in the money raised for the

children, a rich booty only, and they proceeded to appropriate it to themselves without the least hesitation. Now that the appropriation will be honestly disbursed, the full benefits of the system can be realized. No important change should be made in the school law as it stands. It is admirable, even going to the length of providing penalties for school officials who neglect their duty. The ratification by the Legislature of the amendment to the constitution adopted by the people last November, retaining in each county the money raised for educational purposes, will remedy the only flagrant defect existing. This cannot be done too soon, in order to permit the school commissioner in each county to estimate what funds he will control, in order that he may know to what extent he can go in opening schools. The people of Fairfield are vitally interested in the amendment, as it will give this county about eight thousand dollars a year, instead of two thousand five hundred, as heretofore.

In our opinion, our present school commissioner is admirably qualified to inaugurate a successful system of public schools here, as he has had extensive experience in other States in which free education has been carried to perfection. The confidence of the people is all that is necessary, and this can be gained in a short time.

We trust the Legislature will not interfere with the school law at all, except to ratify the amendment already spoken of.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

WEDNESDAY, April 25. SENATE.

The Senate assembled and was called to order by President Simpson. A message was received from the House that that body was duly organized and ready to proceed to business. The Senate returned a similar notification to the House.

A committee, consisting of Senators Whitmore, Jeter and Swails, were appointed to wait upon the governor, and report that they were ready to receive any communication he might wish to make. They reported that the governor hoped to communicate in writing to-morrow at 1 p. m.

Messrs. Swails and Green gave notice that they would present, to be entered on the journal, their protest against the admission to their seats, on yesterday, of the Senators from Abbeville, Barnwell, Edgefield and Laurens.

The President called the attention of the Senators to rule 16, which requires that notice of protest be given immediately after the determination of a matter, but there being no objection the protest would be received.

Mr. Cochran asked and obtained the unanimous consent of the Senate to introduce, without previous notice: A bill to further reduce the number and regulate the pay of officers, attaches, clerks and laborers of the General Assembly, and to provide the manner of electing, appointing and paying the same; bill to provide for the registration of the electors in conformity with article 8, section 3, of the State constitution; bill to fix and reduce the salaries of certain officers.

At 12.45 p. m., the Senate resolved itself into executive session.

The following changes were made in the standing committees: Gary elected a member of the committee on the judiciary, vice Myers, of the committee on the Military and on Privileges and Elections, vice Nash; Maxwell, of Abbeville, was placed on the committee on claims, vice Taft, and on public lands, vice Cannon; Todd, of Laurens, on charitable institutions, vice Myers; on Finance, vice Swails; Counts of Barnwell on Education and Incorporations, on Public Lands and the Penitentiary, to fill vacancies caused by the death of his predecessor, Senator Williams Howard, of Marion, on the Military, vice Maxwell of Marlboro; Crittenden, on Printing, vice Johnston; Butler of Aiken, on Mines and Mining, vice Clinton; Evans of Chesterfield, on Legislative Library, vice Carter; Buck, of Horry, on Railroads; Livingston, of Oconee, on Contingent accounts, vice Taft.

Mr. Cochran asked and was excused from serving as chairman of the Committee on Medical Affairs, and Hon. J. C. Maxwell was elected in lieu thereof.

Mr. Warley on request was excused from serving as chairman of the Committee on Retrenchments, and Hon. J. R. Cochran was elected in his place.

All the vacancies occurred by the resignation of the members whose places were filled.

At 1 p. m., the Senate adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at the usual hour, after notifying the governor that it was ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Sheppard introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which were considered immediately: Whereas this House did, on the 28th day of November, A. D. 1876, meet and was duly organized according to law, a constitutional quorum of the members thereof being present and voting;

And whereas certain persons claiming to be duly elected as members of this body have neglected and refused to appear and qualify as members as provided and required by law, but on the contrary, organized another body, and styled themselves the House of Representatives of South Carolina, which said body was wholly without legal or constitutional validity;

And whereas such conduct on the part of said persons was in high contempt and derogation of the authority and dignity of this House, and a probable abandonment of their alleged rights as members of this body;

And whereas certain persons, viz., John Gibson and Daniel Bird, as Representatives from the county of Fairfield, did appear and qualify as members of this body, and did, subsequently thereto, without justification and excuse, and in violation of law and their plain duty in the premises, renounce openly and publicly all connection with this House; therefore be it

Resolved, That the claims of all persons alleged to have been elected as members of this body who have neglected and refused to appear and qualify as members, and joined themselves to another body calling themselves the House of Representatives of South Carolina, as well as the claims of those who, having appeared and qualified, renounced their connection with this House, be referred without debate to a joint committee consisting of the Committee on Privileges and Elections and the Committee on the Judiciary, which committee shall have the power, and is hereby required, to consider said claims and the right, if any, of the persons alleged to have been elected as aforesaid, and all matters connected with the alleged election of said persons, and report to this House by resolution or otherwise.

Resolved, further, That the joint committee shall have power to send for persons and papers.

The preamble and resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. Sheppard gave notice, that on to-morrow, or on some subsequent day, he will ask leave to introduce a bill to abolish the office of county auditor and to confer the duties of said office upon the county treasurer; also a bill to regulate the number and pay of officers, attaches and clerks of the General Assembly, and to provide the manner of electing and appointing the same.

Mr. Simpson gave notice of a bill to reduce the number of trial justices in Anderson county.

Mr. Holmes, to incorporate the town of Elko, in Barnwell county; also to incorporate the Hampton Phosphate Company.

Mr. Shaw, to repeal certain sections of the General Statutes.

Mr. Blue, to abolish the offices of county auditor and county treasurer; also, a bill to provide for the appointment and collection of taxes.

Mr. Westbury, to regulate the number of trial justices in Sumter county.

Mr. Allen, to authorize the governor to farm out convict labor.

Mr. Orr, to authorize the admission of J. E. Allen to practise law.

Mr. Youmans to alter and amend the law in relation to landlords and tenants; also, a bill to alter and amend the criminal law of this State.

Mr. Sheppard, to repeal the divorce law.

On motion of Mr. Sheppard, the House adjourned at thirty minutes past 1 o'clock, p. m.

THURSDAY, April 26.

SENATE.

The Senate assembled at 12 m. The President laid before the Senate the resignation of Dublin I. Walker, senator from Chester county.

Notice was given of bills as follows: to reduce the per diem and mileage of members; to provide for a general registration of voters; to regulate the rate of interest on all contracts.

On motion of Mr. Cannon, it was referred to the judiciary committee to inquire and report on the expediency of establishing county courts.

Swails presented a protest from the Republican senators against the admission of the senators from Abbeville, Edgefield, Laurens and Barnwell. It was spread upon the

Message No. 1 was announced from the governor. It was read, and referred to appropriate committees. The Senate then, after passing appropriate resolutions, adjourned in respect to the memory of the late James M. Williams, senator from Barnwell county.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at the usual hour. The following bills were introduced: To repeal an act entitled "An Act for the relief of the widows and orphans of persons killed because of their political opinions"

to regulate the number and pay of officers, attaches and clerks of the General Assembly, and to provide the manner of electing and appointing the same; to charter the Hampton Phosphate Company; to make jurors, constables and witnesses' tickets receivable for county taxes; to require persons elected to the offices of intendant and wardens in any incorporated town or village to qualify within ten days after election; to amend an act relative to the office of trial justice in Laurens county; to repeal an act to regulate the granting of divorces; to abolish the office of county auditor.

Mr. Orr, from the committee on privileges and elections, and Mr. Aldrich, from the committee on the judiciary, submitted a joint report as to the claims of certain persons to qualify as members of the House, which was considered immediately and was unanimously agreed to; whereupon the following members-elect appeared at the bar of the House, presented their credentials and purged themselves of their contempt, were sworn in by the Speaker and took their seats.

From Beaufort—Messrs. Hastings Grant, Joseph Robinson, Geo. A. Reed and T. E. Miller.

From Chester—Messrs. Samuel Coleman and Purvis Alexander.

From Clarendon—Messrs. Syfax Milton and Hampton Boston.

From Georgetown—Messrs. Chas. S. Green and P. K. Kinloch.

From Orangeburg—Messrs. Shadrach Morgan, Christian W. Caldwell and Ellis Forrest.

From Richland—Messrs. Andrew W. Curtis, C. S. Minort, James Wells, R. J. Palmer and Wm. W. Lowman.

Curtis introduced a resolution providing for the ratification of the constitutional amendment relative to the school fund.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a preamble and some resolutions invoking executive clemency for persons charged, in the United States courts, with offences of a political character. The governor's message was read, and referred to appropriate committees.

Adjourned.

Louisiana Redeemed.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—A New Orleans special says shortly after 11 o'clock last evening Packard had his forces, numbering over 400, assembled in review in the corridor of the State House. He was escorted to their presence when he made a short address, thanking them for their devotedness, stating that they had come to the end of the conflict and bidding them adieu. The scene is described as a very impressive one. At its conclusion, he was escorted to his carriage, when a majority of the police and guard evacuated the building.

To-day the Legislature will meet for the last time at Odd Fellows' Hall, when it will repair to the State House, where it will adjourn sine die.

The Nicholls Legislature elected Spofford United States senator. A number of Republicans, after patriotic speeches, supported him. Spofford is a liberal Democrat.

At Lynn, Mass., a school-teacher asked a little girl who the first man was. She answered that she did not know. The question was then put to the next, an Irish child, who answered loudly, "Adam, sir," with apparent satisfaction. "Law!" said the first scholar, "you needn't feel so proud about it; he wasn't an Irishman!"

A commercial exchange says: "Hogs are dull." We never thought hogs were very sharp. When one breaks into a cabbage patch you may chase it fourteen times around the lot, and it will try to crawl through every three inch crack in the fence without once seeing the hole it made to get in.

The forgiving disposition of injured wives often interferes with the administration of justice. One of the latest instances is where Mrs. Picard, of New York, whose husband rubbed vitriol on her face for the express purpose of disfiguring her for life, refused to testify against him, and so allowed him to go unwhipped of justice.

"Old-man-afraid-to-go-home" is the way they designate Senator Patterson in Washington.

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In order for us, as well as you, to maintain our credit, it is necessary to meet our promises promptly.

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SPRING GOODS

—FOR—

1877.

To-day the campaign's fairly closed, The lucky man is he Who takes his seat on the 4th of March Our President he'll be: And now the next best thing Just suited to our mind, Is where to get the cheapest goods— The best of goods to find. My friends and I went out one day, Some New Spring Goods to buy; And we resolved, before we went, The different stores to try. We wandered Winnsboro all around Until our feet were sore, And found the very place, at last, 'Twas SOL WOLFE'S New Cash Store. Of Hats, Clothing and Boots and Shoes, The latest to our view— The very best styles of Dress Goods, And Prints so cheap and new. So then, my good friends, one and all, Now is your time to try What Bargains you can get of me— Or, you need not buy of SOL. feb 17