

R. MEANS DAVIS, Editor, JNO. S. REYNOLDS, Associate Editor.

Ex Governor Chamberlain has reappeared in Columbia. The object of his visit is not announced, but the most plausible surmise is that he represents some Northern creditor or creditors of the State, and has come to influence, if possible, legislation on the subject. It would seem preposterous to say that he has any influence with a Democratic Legislature. But he is in Columbia for no good, and can well stand watching.

The views expressed by Chamberlain to a New York reporter are well worth reading, as showing the difference between "Philip sober and Philip drunk." Last fall, when the gubernatorial robe was the prize, he vilified the Democrats in every conceivable way. Now that this course could be of no advantage he accords to them many good qualities. When forced to abandon his absurd pretensions he asserted that the supremacy of Governor Hampton would inaugurate a reign of terror in the State. Now he confesses that all is peace. In reference to his own record we make no comment. He has a good deal of truth mixed up in his false philosophy.

It has ever been characteristic of the ex-governor to "smile and smile, and be a devil still," and the tribune he now pays to the State is well calculated to make those not conversant with South Carolina affairs regard Mr. Chamberlain as an affable, truthful and entirely impartial man—one had conducted a pleasant little campaign, and having been defeated, had yielded gracefully to an opponent with whom he was on the best terms.

Chamberlain, as a lawyer in New York, is a better friend to the State than when he was its governor, allied with thieves, and seeking a re-election.

Foreign Affairs.

The war in Europe is progressing slowly. The Russians have been defeated at a place called Batoum, and have succeeded in sinking, with two shells, a Turkish monitor containing two hundred men. The Russians have crossed the Danube, and are in Wallachia. The Turks are active and in high spirits. The other nations are quiescent.

France is in a stew. President MacMahon has dissolved the Jules Simon ministry, much to the disappointment of those who believed that conservative republicanism was a fixed fact in France. Of the situation The News and Courier says:

In the French Chambers there are four parties or sections: The Right, or Legitimists; the Right-Centre, or Orleanists; the Left-Centre, or Conservative Republicans, and the Left, or Radicals. Besides these there is a handful of Bonapartists, who have little in common with the other parties, and have slight hope of retaining to power, until it shall have been shown that a benevolent despotism is the only form of government under which France can prosper. The Left or Republicans control the Chambers, and from the Left the Simon Ministry was taken. This was strictly in conformity with the theory of the constitution, inasmuch as the government was dependent on the Left for the success of its measures. There was no disagreement between the President and the Ministers, but on Tuesday the Chamber of Deputies voted to repeal the press law of 1875, and the President, on Wednesday, wrote to M. Simon, expressing his surprise that he had not placed before the Chambers reasons which might have prevented a repeal of the law, and suggesting that M. Simon did not retain sufficient influence to assert his views successfully. M. Simon, before sending in his formal resignation, sought an interview with the President. The latter said he had gone as far as he possibly could, and "he could proceed no further in the wake of the Chambers." In conclusion President MacMahon said: "I belong to the Right." M. Simon replied: "And I to the Left." The Cabinet resigned in a body, but the Duke De Cazos, at the urgent request of the President, retains his portfolio as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

President MacMahon, according to his own statement, is affiliated with the Right, which is in a minority in the Chambers, and it is plain that measures emanating from a ministry composed of members of the Right cannot, except under extraordinary circumstances, be passed. This is the difficulty of the position. Without sufficient cause the President has placed himself in the hands of the minority, and in so doing, it would appear, abandons the attempt to control the Chambers as they stand. Until the Chambers can be so constituted that the Right have a majority, there must be a dead-lock. An early dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies and a general election are, therefore, probable.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

Monday, May 21.

SENATE.

The Senate assembled at 7:30 p. m. A bill to authorize Wm. A. Sims and others to erect gates across certain roads in Union county, and a bill to provide stationery and fuel for the General Assembly passed a third reading.

The appropriation bill was read by its title. Mr. Meitze introduced a resolution to investigate the phosphate matters. After the discussion of several other matters the Senate adjourned in consequence of the defective lights in the chamber.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 11 a. m. The supply bill was read a third time.

A joint resolution to organize a commission to investigate the indebtedness of the State was read a second time. The following is a synopsis of the resolution as passed: A commission shall be appointed, to consist of one member of the Senate, appointed by the President thereof, two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker thereof, and two citizens of the State, of recognized financial ability, who shall be appointed by the Governor. It shall be the duty of the commission to make a complete and thorough investigation, and to report to the next session of this General Assembly concerning the entire amount of consolidated bonds issued, and their classification and whether proper vouchers exist or not, also the floating debt and any other special matter. The commissioners are to be sworn and to receive compensation not exceeding \$1000 in all.

A bill to reduce and fix the salaries of certain officers was read the second time and amended so as to conform to the appropriation bill.

The following were read a second time: Bill to establish a State Board of Health; bill to prescribe the mode of proving State Bank bills tendered for taxes; bill to amend an act supplementary to chapter 15, general statutes, relative to militia. This bill was so amended as not to require an annual inspection of troops.

A joint resolution authorizing a special tax in Henry county was indefinitely postponed.

The following were read a third time: Bill to regulate the public printing (ordered to be sent to the Senate with amendments); joint resolution to authorize the Governor to effect a loan; bill to provide for the filling of vacancies in county officers; joint resolution to instruct the Attorney-General to inquire into certain facts connected with the interest of the State in bonds of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad; joint resolution to require certain repairs to roof and fence of the State House; bill to require all school claims to be sworn to; besides several private bills.

On motion of Mr. Sheppard, the vote was reconsidered by which a joint resolution to provide for a commission to revise the statute laws of the State was postponed till next session, and the resolution taken up for a second reading and passed to a third reading.

A bill to exempt certain personal property from liens of judgments; bill to amend the code as to limitation of actions upon sealed notes and bonds, and a Senate bill to limit liability of endorsers were rejected. The House then adjourned.

Tuesday, May 22.

SENATE.

A number of bills were received from the House, read by title and properly referred.

Mr. Gary presented a memorial from the citizens of Williamsburg county, setting forth that S. A. Swails, now Senator from that county, vacated his seat by accepting the position of commissioner of elections in November, 1876. Referred.

Mr. Bowen, from the special-committee to investigate certain charges

against B. F. Whittemore and others, begged to be discharged till next session, on the ground of Whittemore's absence from the State. The committee was accordingly discharged.

A number of bills were reported as duly enrolled for ratification.

A few new bills were introduced, read by title, and referred.

Nash introduced a resolution requesting the State treasurer to report the funds now on hand and from what sources derived. Adopted.

The Speaker of the House attended in the Senate, and several bills were ratified—among them the following: An act to repeal an act entitled "An act for the relief of the widows and orphans of persons killed because of their political opinions"; an act to abolish the pay of commissioners and managers of elections and of their clerks. The rest are of no general interest.

House bill to amend §55 and §56 of chapter 120 of the Revised Statutes, relative to liens on crops, was laid on the table.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A few new bills were introduced, read by title and properly referred.

Mr. Youmans, from committee on incorporations, reported unfavorably on a bill to charter the Port Royal Improvement and General Shipping Company.

In submitting the report, Mr. Youmans said that the committee had been much annoyed by the importunities of the originator of the bill.

Mr. Robinson rose to a question of privilege, and said that he had found on his desk a printed circular on the subject of the bill, which, in his judgment, reflected upon the committee. The language in the circular he objected to was this: "The opposition from the committee on incorporations seems very short sighted or prejudiced in favor of some of their friends' suggestions that the proposed aims of the Port Royal General Shipping Company would injure the interest of Beaufort."

Mr. Youmans rose to a question of privilege and said: "I wish to inform the House that its dignity has been grossly insulted and a flagrant contempt of this House has been committed by one Peter Papin, in this, that the said Peter Papin, with a view of improperly influencing the action of Messrs. Youmans and Verner, members of the committee on incorporations, before which committee are certain measures in which the said Peter Papin is personally interested, did offer to pay to said members something if they would report favorably upon a bill to charter the Port Royal Harbor and General Shipping Company."

Mr. Verner corroborated the statement of Mr. Youmans.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a resolution that the Sergeant-at-Arms arrest Peter Papin and bring him before the bar of the House, to receive such punishment as the House may adjudge. Adopted.

During these proceedings, Peter had been sitting in a chair next to Mr. Hamilton part of the time, and part of the time standing at the gate of the inside railing. When the Sergeant-at-Arms started towards him, he smilingly came forward and met the officer about the middle of the hall. They came forward to the front of the stand, and there Peter honored the Speaker with an elegant military salute.

The Speaker then said: "Mr. Papin, you have been ordered under arrest to the bar of the House to receive such punishment as the House may adjudge, for contempt of the House in attempting to corrupt certain of its members."

Peter repeated his military salute to the chair and then made one to the members, and began:

"Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House—"

The chair interrupted him, and put the question to the House whether it would hear him. This was agreed to, and Peter continued:

"I swear upon the Bible and everything that is sacred that the allegation made is a slander and a lie."

Here the gavel descended, and cries of "Mr. Speaker!" "Mr. Speaker!" drowned all other sounds.

Mr. Sheppard moved to withdraw the leave to Peter to be heard. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Aldrich introduced a resolution that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to take Peter Papin to jail, and confine him there till the end of the session. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and Papin committed accordingly.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of several bills and joint resolutions—none of them of general public interest.

Adjourned.

Lee, Jackson and Stuart.

The qualities of these three Southern heroes—the great Confederate commanders—are thus brought to light by the Philadelphia Times:

"The death of the famous cavalryman produced a deep and painful sensation, in some degree akin to that produced by the death of Jackson. The Southern people indeed had become accustomed to couple together the three great names, Lee, Jackson and Stuart, valuing each for his peculiar qualities. No comparison is intended to be made between these three distinguished soldiers, but it is interesting to notice how sharply contrasted they were in character, and how peculiarly each was fitted for the sphere in which he moved and for his special functions. Lee, the head and front of the struggle, was the born commander-in-chief, fitted for the conception of great campaigns, ever wide awake, a man of august dignity by nature, calm, suave, grave, taking good and evil fortune with the same imposing serenity; in person, one of the most noble and graceful men of his epoch, and the finest rider in the Southern army; in character, simple, pure, patient, binding to himself both the love and respect of men. Jackson was the infantry leader, the "right arm" to execute what Lee conceived; in person not graceful, in manner silent, reserved, and often abrupt; cautious in council, but rapid and terrible in execution, going to battle with muttered prayers on his lips, leaving all to Providence, but striking with all the power of his arm to do his own part, and in many ways resembling the Ironsides of Cromwell. Stuart, on the contrary, was the cavalier, essentially belonging to the class of men who followed the fortunes of Charles the First, ardent, impetuous, brimming over with the wine of life and youth, with the headlong courage of a high-spirited boy, fond of bright colors, of rippling flags, of martial music, and the clash of sabres—in all the warp and woof his character an embodiment of the best traits of the English cavaliers—not of their bad traits. Although his utter carelessness as to the impression he produced subjected him to many calamities, it is here placed on record, by one who knew his private life thoroughly and was with him day and night for years, that he was in morals among the purest of men—a faithful husband, absolutely without vices of any description, and if not demonstrative in his religious views, an earnest and exemplary Christian. His love for his wife was deep and devoted, and on the death of his little daughter, Flora, he said to me, with tears in his eyes, "I shall never get over it."

An Absurd Custom.

It is well known that an absurd custom exists in England requiring ladies who attend the Queen's Drawing rooms to wear dresses cut low in the neck, unless they obtain a medical certificate that their health will not allow such exposure. The London Lancet thus comments upon the practice:

"The 'season' brings round its grievance about low dresses. What is wanted would seem to be a more elastic rule of the mode, enabling ladies to adopt on state occasions, as in private life, the costume which best befits their personal peculiarities of figure and health. In truth, 'dress should be a matter of style rather than pattern. It is hopeless to expect any relaxation of the rule in favor of men, who do not perhaps appear to the best advantage in tail coats; but that is no reason why women who are perhaps too scraggy or weakly to appear in dresses cut low on the shoulder should be compelled to assume an unsuitable or unsafe garb with no better reason than 'it is the fashion of the court. Let the court reform its fashion. We can not compel the hospitality which would make courts and drawing-rooms pleasant reunions; but it may at least be asked that they shall not any longer be made occasions of discomfort and even causes of sickness and death. The English climate is unsuitable to any exactions of speciality in the matter of costume. The matter is urgent from a medical point of view, and we venture to hope an order will be issued, rendering the alternative of high or low dresses a matter of choice, in which case it will soon be possible to perceive in which direction the popular feeling really tends."

Mr. G. D. Smith has left at the Spartanburg Herald office, a fine sample of Orleans wheat, measuring five feet and eight inches in height. The prospect of a large yield of wheat in the neighborhood is very flattering. The specimen referred to was not sown until very late, and did not make its appearance until about the 13th of February.

The Boss Rat Killer.

A rather tall man, with a nose like a mullin, went into a Main street boarding house, one day last week, and asked for a dinner.

"Owing to the general depression of business and the consequent scarcity of the rhino," said the proprietor, looking the tall man over, "A dinner will cost you thirty-five cents, in advance."

"I have nothing with me but a check on a Boston bank," observed the tall man.

"Checks on a Boston bank ain't worth a copper," remarked the landlord; "I guess you'll have to dine more sumptuously elsewhere."

"Can't I do something for my dinner?" asked the tall man, as a hungry pang gripped him.

"You can pay," said the proprietor, impressively.

"You give me my dinner," said the tall man, "and I'll agree to clear your house of every rat in it. I have performed the feat in many hotels throughout the country, with most satisfactory results."

The proprietor accepted the bargain as a most advantageous one to himself, and the tall man seated himself at the table, where he did fearful execution among the vermin. He finished his dinner in half an hour, picked his teeth with a fork, called for a cigar and proceeded to enjoy it.

"Now, then," said the proprietor, when the tall man had finished his smoke, "let's get to business. Go for the rats."

"Ah, yes," returned the tall man, "with pleasure. Procure me a light iron bar, about four feet in length, and I will proceed to business."

The bar of iron was produced, and the loafers gathered around to witness the interesting proceedings.

"Now, begin," said the proprietor. "Where will you begin first?"

"Right here," replied the tall man, as he carefully rolled back his cuffs, spit on his hands, and grasped the iron bar firmly, while the proprietor stood by with great anxiety depicted on his countenance.

"Now," said the tall man, impressively, as he slowly elevated the bar, "are you all ready?"

"All ready," returned the proprietor, excitedly.

"Then," said the tall man, "bring on your rats."

For the next five minutes the excitement of an entire Presidential election filled the room. When it subsided the tall man was nowhere to be seen, and the proprietor was standing before a glass tying an oyster over his left eye. The rats still revel in their native freedom.

The sale of the household furniture of ex-Governor Moses, last week, attracted a great many persons, partially through curiosity. Handsome pictures, valued at \$50 and upwards, brought two or three dollars; chairs, valued at \$50, were sold at \$12; a \$150 lounge, bought \$35; an \$800 sideboard, sold for \$150, and so on.

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