The Independent Press.

DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, THE ARTS, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, NEWS, POLITICS, &C., &C.

TERMS—ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM,] "Let it be Instilled into the Hearts of your Children that the Liberty of the Press is the Palladium of all your Rights."—*Junius.* [PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME 2---NO. 47. ABBEVILLE C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1855. WHOLE NUMBER 99.

MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

The Three Classes.

Messrs. Editors: Long since I satisfied my own mind that there are three distinct classes of character in the world:

1, The class of moral firmness;
2, The class of circumstantials;
3, The class of braggarts.

1. The man of moral firmness rarely ever tells you that this is his type; feels it himself, has no suspicion, takes it for granted, that nobody doubts it. He is apt to be an agreeable man, easy in conversation; and in the matter of inere opinion, show him his error, and he at once gives way. He wants the truth, and is willing to receive it from any quarter. He often gets the name of being too easy—too ready to accommodate; but try him. Ask him to change an opinion to accommodate you. To give his ground, or you will injure him, as you have it in your power to do. What course does he take now? Does he at once give up, and ask your pardon, almost, for having held such an opinion? Not so. He says, "I would like to accommodate you, sir, if I could consistently, but can't, and prefer that you would not ask it any more." Now he has got home. You cannot do anything; the more you try, the more he knows you are out of it, and the more he concludes never to trust you again.

2. The man of circumstances frequently speaks in pretty confident tones of his firmness—his independence. He wants it understood that he possesses what he feels he has not. He sometimes treads on men's toes, (selecting with great care,) just to show his independence. But all the time he is watching the current; he means to go with that. He is always on the popular side, if he knows which one it is. Such a man has a menial spirit; he will do any thing to get popular favor. He will bear watching.

3. But the braggart, he is the man. See him! how he puffs, and swells up, porpoise-like! Listen how he blows, pugh! He is the man of independence, of wonderful firmness; he rubs you a little off the side-walk, to let you know it. JOHN RANDOLPH used to say he always gave ground to such men. If there is anything said about bravery, he is the man for that. Moral courage, aye, no man dares to call him in question. Now just let him alone, a little. Come up on the other side, and offer him something that he can appreciate, and you have him, with or without the concurrence of his opinions. In fact, as a general rule, such persons have no opinions—they make out no conclusions.

Of the three classes, the first, of course, is to be chosen. That makes up the strength of our community—our hopes are all in it. Let our young men be sure to keep out of the other two, and let them carefully take position in this for life.

A love of truth—a straight course for truth's sake—is the safe and certain road to honor. The man that is always looking out to see which way the wind blows, that he may govern himself accordingly, will be found out at it, and in due time left without support, a mere *attache*, holding on to something.

Yours, &c., IMPRIMATURE.

WRITTEN FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

Chewing Tobacco in Church.

Messrs. Editors: We have been waiting some time to see somebody take up this subject, but it seems to be beneath every body's notice. There are so many things to engross attention, in this great age of improvement, that they entirely overlook what they term small matters. However, we cannot overlook this custom, without keeping our eyes, while at church, steadfastly upon the roof. We hope this will be a sufficient apology for taking up our humble pen at present.

According to the law of reciprocity, every man has an equal right to enjoy the means of happiness, bestowed upon him by his Creator, as he pleases, provided he uses them in such a manner as not to disturb, or injure his fellow man; therefore it follows as a consequence, if he does any thing whereby he may suppose it to be offensive to his fellow beings in any manner whatever, he violates not only a moral but a divine law. All things which are evil, that men should do unto us, we should not do unto them, should be our motto in all our actions. Then, if we chew tobacco, and spit upon the floors, we violate the principle, we shall not attempt to condemn the use of tobacco, nor to point out its injurious effects in a pecuniary or physical point of view. But we do cry out with a loud voice against the present filthy and unbecoming practice of chewing tobacco and spitting in church. We often see the floors and walls literally besmeared with tobacco juice. How unbecoming the sacred sanctuary, which should be kept pure and unstained, and dedicated only to the worship of God! We not only see members of churches, but those who ascend the sacred desk to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation to a lost and ruined world, guilty of this practice. What gentleman, nay, what lady would like to see tobacco juice spirted over her parlor? Would she not look upon such a guest as an intruder, ill bred and destitute of good manners? Is it not equally as unbecoming in the house of God? We leave these questions for our readers to answer.

The Abysinians, the Copts, the Armenians, and many other races, notwithstanding their superstitious idolatry, are far in advance of orthodox denominations in regard to cleanliness in their churches. So zealous are the former, they cover their floors with matting or carpeting, put off their shoes before entering, and suffer no person to spit, blow his nose, nor even turn his head, while in church. Notwithstanding the source from which this example comes, let us improve by it. How is a reformation to be brought about? Let those who are commanded to let their lights shine set the example—abandon the practice at once. Let them look upon it as an act of indecency, and surely the world will be constrained to join in the reformation. Try it! C. B.

The New Bounty Land Law.

The Commissioner of Pensions has issued the following instructions for carrying into effect the new Bounty Land Law:

"Where the service has been rendered by a substitute, he is the person entitled to the benefit of this act, and not his employer.

"In the event of the death of any person who, if living, would be entitled to a certificate or warrant, as aforesaid, leaving a widow, or if no widow, a minor child or children, such widow, or if no widow, such minor child or children, is entitled to a certificate or warrant for the same quantity of land such deceased persons would be entitled to receive under the provisions of said act, if now living.

"A subsequent marriage will not impair the right of any such widow to such warrants if she be a widow at the time of her application. Persons within the age of twenty-one years on the 3d day of March, 1855, are deemed minors within the intent and meaning of said act.

"To obtain the benefits of this Act, the claimant must make a declaration, under oath, substantially, according to the forms hereto annexed. The signature of the applicant must be attested, and his or her personal identity established by the affidavits of two witnesses, whose residences must be given, and whose credibility must be sustained by the certificate of the magistrate before whom the application is verified.

"No certificates will be deemed sufficient in any case unless the facts are certified to be within the personal knowledge of the magistrate or other officer who shall sign the certificate, or the names and residence of the witnesses by whom the facts are established be given, on their affidavits, properly authenticated, be appended to the certificate.

"The official character and signature of the magistrate who may administer the oath must be certified by the clerk of the proper court of his county, under the seal of his court. Whenever the certificate of the officer who authenticates the signature of the magistrate is not written on the same sheet of paper which contains the signature to be authenticated, the certificate must be attached to said paper by a piece of tape or ribbon, the ends of which must pass the official seal, so as to prevent any paper from being improperly attached to the certificate.

"Application, in behalf of minors, should be made in their names by the guardian or next friend. Where there are several minors entitled to the same gratuity, one may make the declaration. The warrant will be issued jointly. In addition to proof of service, as in other cases, the minor must prove the death of his father, that no widow survives him, and that he and those he represents, are the only minor children of the deceased.

"If a party die before the issue of a warrant to which he would be entitled, if living, the right to said warrant becomes void, and should be cancelled; and the party next entitled to (heir of the deceased) should make application for the warrant. Bounty land can only be assigned or located by said heirs.

"Applications made by Indians must be authenticated according to the regulations to be prescribed by the commissioner of Indian affairs.

"Accompanying the above instructions are the necessary forms of declaration, together with an official copy of the law."

[From the Journal of Commerce.]

Long Credits, Short Credits, and Cash.

Messrs. Editors:—I observe with pleasure a "Common-Sense" movement with you, in relation to an improved system of future credits.

Money, credits, and business must agree better than ten to forty per cent. or some of us "necessarily" come (go) to a (soup) stand. It is useless to disguise the truth. Our general system of "long credits" has driven business upon a sand bar, that "must shipwreck" large "profits."

We have two classes, the industrious and the idle. All must eat, while every avenue, but the road to positive production, is full to overflowing.

Humbug is the order of the day. It has become a commodity, a foundation to write and to lecture upon. It is undermining our industry; the punctuality and integrity of our business and people.

Defaulting is winked at, while failures at 50 per cent. are honorable, and many a "*circumstance*" is thus bettered, (if not the circumstances,) the parties soon "going" on without a bush.

Long credits "*always*" embrace heavy risks, enlisting corresponding customers and profits. This general conclusion is "*oppression*" or "*insolvency*."

Brief credits reduce customers, the risks and the profits, "near" actualities.

The cash system, or no credits, places the "country trade" on a firm foundation. Then every family pays its way. It creates a value received transaction. Jobbers are morally safe, so long as their customers sell for cash; while the system "guarantees" "*punctuality*" along the line. Productive agriculture requires a reduction of country credits down along to an exclusive cash system. Credits and commerce go hand in hand. The trade require and are entitled to credits, but all should be "bankable." *or at least* payable at bank, and where such are inapplicable, transactions should be strictly for cash. Then the resources for "punctuality" would be reliable.

In rural districts, "long credits" tend directly to "lessen production;" for so long as "*credits*" will provide for the wants of a family, men idle away their time; but "pay your way" avoids a mortgage, improves the farm, and adds to fortune.

So long as railroad bonds and millionaire speculator's wants are in the market at from one to four per cent. a month, risks "*to depress business*" will be taken, and operations must run down until we recover by "production," under an improved system of credit.

Country merchants' "business" must pay their paper promptly. When we reach this, and men "*live by their business*," the country will be "*soundly*" prosperous. Short of it, there must be more or less humbug.

We are going along to stability, and shall reach a "platform" by-and-bye; "not the Buffalo," but one from which "*we can all start fair*," but it is a hard road to travel. The "*country*" has yet to bear the weight of this disastrous revulsion.

"No Credit" is a great economizer. It lessens wants, adds to industry, cultivates simple habits, and improves the household. It "ploughs deep and hoes well."

That this movement may meet "general favor," uniting a hearty co-operation from the country, is the earnest desire of "twenty-five years' experience" by "A Country merchant" yet in the trade. C. G. H.

Casting a "Devil" out of Church.

We are indebted to our friend, J. M. Ellis, of Marietta, Ohio, for the following graphic sketch. We are assured that the facts transpired substantially as narrated.

"A Methodist clergyman who has been laboring in this vicinity, was not long since preaching to his people on the miraculous power of the Apostles over the demoniac spirits of their day. As he was pursuing his theme, the audience were suddenly startled by a voice from some one in the congregation, demanding, in a half querrellous, half authoritative tone, 'Why don't preachers do such things now-a-days?' In an instant every eye in the house was turned upon the individual who had the effrontery thus to invade the sacredness of their sanctuary.

"The speaker paused for a moment, and fixed his penetrating gaze full upon the face of the questioner. There was an interval of intense silence, broken at last by the speaker in resuming his subject. He had not proceeded far with his remarks, before he was again interrupted by the same impertinent inquiry. Again he paused for a time, and again resumed his subject. Not content with a silent rebuke, our redentable questioner demanded again, 'Why don't the preachers do such things now-a-days?' and curling his lips with a sneer of self-complacency, drew himself up pompously in his seat.

"Our reverend friend, (who by the way is a young man of great muscular power) left the desk, and walked down the aisle, where the interrogator was and fastening one hand firmly upon the collar of his coat, the other on the waistband of his 'unmentionables,' lifted him square out of the seat, and bore him down the aisle to the entrance. Pausing for a moment there, he turned his eyes upon his audience, and in a clear full voice, said, "and they cast out the devil in the form of a *distiller*," and suiting the action to the word, out went the knight of the mush-tub, *a la* leap frog fashion, into the street.

"The good pastor quietly returned to his desk, and completed his discourse. After closing the services, as he was passing out of the church, the out-cast distiller, with an officer of the law, escorted our clerical friend to the office of a magistrate, to answer for an assault upon the person of said distiller. After hearing the case, the magistrate dismissed the clergyman, and after roundly reprimanding the complainant, fined him for molesting the services of the sanctuary.

"Since that day we believe he has never for a moment doubted the power of Methodist preachers to cast out devils, at least within the limits of the Ohio Conference."

Binghampton, (N. Y.) March 7.

The Court of Claims.

One of the most important bills which has passed Congress within our remembrance received the final sanction of the legislative branch yesterday. We refer to the bill to establish a Court of Claims, to which we ventured not long since to invoke the favor of the House of Representatives, with which it then rested. The bill was called up yesterday at a favorable moment, and, the friends of it wisely abstaining from debate, it was forthwith passed by a large majority. We should not be surprised if it saves one fourth part of the sessions of Congress now spent in the examination and discussion of claims. It will, however, operate beneficently in a variety of ways. It will not only secure to just claims an early hearing and prompt settlement, but it will get rid of the interminable renewal of unfounded ones, and thus save the time of Congress from being wasted year after year in the re-examination of rejected claims.

The bill gives jurisdiction to the Court to hear and determine all claims founded upon any laws of Congress, or upon any reglulation of an Executive Department, or upon any contract, express or implied, with the Government of the United States, and all claims referred by either House of Congress. The testimony in all cases is to be reported to Congress, and all upon which favorable decisions are given are to be accompanied with a bill or bills to carry them into effect, and with briefs from the solicitor of the Board and from the claimant.

It will be thus seen that the Court is to perform the work now laboriously but imperfectly done by committees, and Congress is to revise the whole and act upon the subjects presented, as at present. On many subjects an opinion well matured by the Court will serve as the basis of action on all and similar cases; and there will not perhaps be so many inconsistencies in legislation asat present, when the success or failure of a measure depends in a great degree upon the mood in which one House or the other may happen to be found when the vote is taken. At all events there is a probability of a more mature investigation than by the present mode, and it is to be hoped we shall hear but little more of what is deemed worse than the "law's delay," the pendency of claims before Congress of half a century's duration.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

A LESSON.—There was once an old man whose eyes had become dim and his ears deaf. When he sat at the dinner table, he could hardly hold his spoon, so that sometimes he spilt his soup on the cloth. His son and daughter-in-law were much displeased at this; at last they made their old father sit in a corner behind the stove, and gave him food in a little earthen plate. He never got as much as he could eat, and he would often look towards the table with wet, longing eyes.

One day his shaking hands let the little dish fall, and it was broke. The woman scolded, but he said nothing; he only sighed. They then brought a wooden trough for him. Once he was sitting thus in the corner, his little grandchild, about four years old, was playing on the floor near him with some pieces of wood.

"What are you making?" said the father, smiling. "I am making a trough," answered the child, "for father and mother to eat from when they are old, and I am grown big."

The man and his wife looked at each other in silence, and their tears flowed fast. They brought their old father back to the table, and gave him as much as he wished, and they never spoke angry words when his trembling hand spilt soup on the cloth.

Christian Weekly.

HON. THOMAS H. BENTON was nominated as a candidate for the Presidency by a meeting of his friends at St. Louis, on the evening of the 9th inst.

Never give a boy a shilling to hold your shadow while you climb a tree and hook down the nest of mad wrens. It is money thrown away.

CAUTIOUS PARSIMONY.—To be hung a round a gun's neck till you are dead, dead, dead.

A Fact for the Times.

A wealthy gentleman, now deceased, but formerly a valued citizen and sagacious country merchant of our District, who had sold out (under judgments in his favor) the little farms of many a poor man in his neighborhood, declared a few years before his death, to a friend of ours, that he had been too hard on the *poor*, with reference to his own pecuniary gain. He said he had not a doubt, but that he would have been better off, as to property, himself, if he had dealt more *leniently* towards his *debtors*. He proceeded to explain, that if instead of selling out his poor neighbor's land, to pay the account the poor neighbor had contracted with him at his store, he had indulged those neighbors and given them time to pay, *as they might be able*, they could have worked along *a little at the time*, and continuing to trade with him. But by *pushing* them for their little debts, he had caused them to be sold out, and that in very many cases, in order to try to save his debt, he would bid off their land.—In this way, while he accumulated on his hands a vast body of land, that he could not turn to any profit, he lost by removals, so many of his neighbors, that his mercantile business was so seriously curtailed, that he was an actual loser by the operation.

Such was the experience of one who had few superiors in practical wisdom, and whom the world called sagacious and shrewd. His experience as related by himself, not many years before his death, to a friend of ours, who related it to us, is full of wisdom, that might be heeded to advantage by some at the present day.—*Carolina Spartan.*

CHINA.—Dates from Hong Kong to January 15th represents that the insurgents held Cannot in seige and have command of the whole river, their fleet having gained several victories over the imperial fleet. Consequently their supplies were cut off. Provisions, especially rice, were rising rapidly. A fight took place at Wampoa in the presence of the American and English war ships. The foreign ships was considerably damaged by the guns of the belligerants. The English and American commanders had drawn a line around the factories, and notified all, that no hostilities would be permitted to take place within it.

Shanghai dates to the 1st of January give an account of a difficulty which arose between the insurgents and authorities of Shanghai and the French, whereupon Admiral Laguene, with the ships Jean and Cotbert, bombarded the city, which, ere this, probably surrendered, or had been stormed.

The insurgents had met with reverses to the east of Pekin. Amoy was quiet.

Captain Adams had arrived from England, and would proceed to Japan with the ratification of the treaty.

THE BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD.—The Pickens *Courier* of the 17th inst. says:

"The affairs of this Road are in about the same condition as when we penned our last article.—From a friend, who arrived on Monday last from Charleston, we learn that Mr. Gourdin, the President of the Road, still continues to refuse to pay the contractors; and, unless the difficulty is adjusted in a short time, a law suit and vexatious delays will be the result. The work, in the meantime, is progressing slowly, there being between three and four hundred hands at work in Anderson and Pickens.

"Mr. Gourdin, we understand, expresses his determination to prosecute the work vigorously, when he shall have been relieved from the present difficulty, and we have great confidence in his integrity and ability. Many are anxious to take contracts at the former rates, and would do so, were there no difficulties in the way."

We are pleased to learn by a gentleman just from Charleston, that whatever difficulties may have existed, they have been adjusted by a settlement according to estimates and the work on the Road will be pushed forward.—*Eds. Times.*

THE LAW AND CONSTITUTION.—Among the visitors at Washington is Judge Williamson, of Texas, commonly known as "Judge Willey."

Judge Willey was once presiding in St. Augustine county, when a legal bully attempted to intimidate him. Thompson having succeeded in picking a jury to suit his purposes, turned his attention to the court, and remarked—

"If your honor please, here is the law which governs this case," at the same time drawing a bowie knife of unusual size, and laying it across an open book before him.

Forewarned, forearmed, [illegible] drawing from beneath his hunting shirt, not a Colt but a [illegible] calmly reported:

"This, sir, is our constitution, and a pure [illegible]

A FORMIDABLE UNDERTAKING.—A cotemporary puts the tobacco question into the following shape: "Suppose a tobacco-chewer is addicted to the habit of chewing tobacco fifty years of his life, and that each day of that time he consumes two inches of solid plug, it amounts to six thousand four hundred and seventy-five feet, making nearly one mile and a quarter in length of solid tobacco, half an inch thick and two inches broad. Now, what would the young beginner think if he had the whole amount stretched out before him, and were told that to chew it would be one of the exercises of his life, and also that it would tax his income to the amount of two thousand and ninety-four dollars?"

IT has been discovered that a keeper of a lager beer cellar in the Bowery, New-York, for the purpose of evading the law requiring him to close his place on Sunday, has been in the habit of holding pretended religious services therein, officiating himself as the leader of ceremonies. He takes the Bible, reads a chapter or two, serves each of his hearers with a glass of beer, and *takes up a collection*. As the Constitution probably did not contemplate so much liberty of conscience, the arrangement will be interfered with by the police.

SENTENCED TO BE HUNG.—His Honor, Judge Holt, on Saturday sentenced Henry J. Keener, convicted at the late term, of the murder of James Reese, to be hung on Friday, the 20th of April.

The reason of the delay in passing sentence was, to afford the counsel for the prisoner an opportunity to be heard on a motion for a new trial, which the Court refused to grant. The application for a new trial will now be taken to the Supreme Court, which will be heard in June.—*Augusta Sentinel.*

THE venerable Peter Pickleby said to his son Jabez, "Read your Bible—study the laws of Moses and don't repeal any of them. Mind the Ten Commands, tu, and the Eleventh likewise—and don't sell the birthright of a Yankee nation for a mess of potash; and the day may kum when you'll be a minister of the penitentiary, or a secretray of newgation."

WEIGH YOUR LETTERS.—A correspondent of the *Carolinian* suggests that all writers should weigh their letters before dropping them in the post-office, because if the weight of a letter should exceed half an ounce, and there is only three cents paid on it, the Postmaster is not authorized to mail it. If you want a letter to go, be sure you pay for a "through ticket."

BOUNTY LAND.—Thirty days was the shortest service for which bounty land was granted under the Acts of 1850, but now fourteen days, (or less if the party has been in battle,) entitles the soldiers to a full share. It is said Warrants will not be issued till about the first of July. Applications, however, can be made in the meantime.

WHAT IT COSTS.—According to Mr. Bright, member of the British Parliament, the costs to England of maintaining an armament in the field, or on the water, is £1,000 per man per year. Each of the ten inch shells thrown by the allies in the siege of Sevastopol costs it is said £25, about $125.

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.—A succession of earthquakes had for several days shaken the country, and the night of the 18th, ult., the City reeled to and fro like a ship upon the billow. The political affairs of the country seem to be in a similar "shaky" condition.

ACCIDENT.—A young man, by name of Frederick, and a negro boy, were severely injured recently whilst engaged in blasting rock in a well for Mr. James Steele, of Anderson District, by an untimely explosion of the powder.

MURDER.—J. E. Simms, of Unionville, S. C., was shot and instantly killed, by one Mayer, some weeks ago. Mayer ran off, but was subsequently arrested, and is now in jail. The deed was wholly unprovoked.

HIGH PRICES.—Corn in Atlanta, Ga., is said to be selling at $1.20 per bushel. The grain crops, however, in Northern Georgia give cheering earnest of a better time coming.

[illegible] Holidays of Tuscaloosa, merely of a [illegible] The [illegible] of cotton, and 1,000 bushels of corn [illegible] every five feet, west.

An old lady being late at church, entered [illegible] and [illegible] on her way [illegible]