

### Awful Shipwreck.

#### Four Hundred and Fifty-four Lives Lost.

At two o'clock in the morning of the 26th of February, her Majesty's steamer, the Birkenhead, was wrecked between two and three miles from the shore of Southern Africa. The exact spot at which the calamity happened was Point Danger. Off this point she struck upon a reef of sunken rocks. The ship was steaming eight and a half knots at the time. The water was smooth, and the sky serene; but the speed at which the vessel was passing through the water proved her destruction. The rock penetrated through her bottom just after the foremast, and in twenty minutes' time there were a few floating spars and a few miserable creatures clinging to them, and this was all that remained of the Birkenhead. Of six hundred and thirty-eight persons who had left Simon's Bay in the gallant ship but a few hours before, only one hundred and eighty-four remain to tell the tale. No less than four hundred and fifty-four Englishmen have come to so lamentable an end.

There is no mystery about the calamity. We are not left, as in the case of the Amazon, to conjecture the origin of the disaster. Just what happened to the Orion off the Scottish coast, or to the Great Liverpool off Finisterre, has happened now. Captain Salmond, the officer in command, anxious to shorten the run Alagoa Bay as much as possible, and more than was prudent, hugged the shore too closely. Four hundred and fifty-four persons have lost their lives in consequence of his temerity. As soon as the vessel struck upon the rocks the rush of water was so great that the men on the lower troop-deck were drowned in their hammocks. Theirs was happier fate—at least they were spared the terrible agony of the next twenty minutes. At least the manner of death was less painful than with others, who were first crushed beneath the falling spars and funnel, and then swept away to be devoured by the sharks, who were prowling round the wreck. From the moment the ship struck, all appears to have been done that human courage or coolness could effect. The soldiers were mustered on the afterdeck. The instinct of discipline was stronger even than the instinct of life. The men fell into place as coolly as on the parade ground. They were told off into reliefs, and sent, some to the chains-pumps, some to the paddle box boats. Captain Wright, of the 91st regiment, who survives to relate the dreadful scene tells us:

Every man did as he was directed, and there was not a cry or a murmur among them until the vessel made her final plunge. I could not name any individual officer, who did more than another. All received their orders, and had them carried out as if the men were embarking instead of going to the bottom; there was only this difference—that I never saw any embarkation conducted with so little noise or confusion.

Poor fellows! had they died in battle-field, and in their country's cause, their fate would have excited less poignant regret; but there is something inexpressibly touching in the quiet, unflinching resolution of so many brave hearts struggling manfully to the last against an inevitable disaster. It is gratifying, also, to find that the women and children were all saved.—They had been quietly collected under the poop awning, and were as quietly got over the ship's side, and passed into the cutter. The boat stood off about 150 yards from the ill-starred Birkenhead and all were saved. There is not a name of a single woman or child upon the list of persons who perished. The other boats, as is usual in such cases, were not forth-coming in the hour of need. One gig and two cutters were all that could be rendered available. In one account we find that when the men were ordered to get the pabble-box boats out, the pin of the davits was rusted in, and could not be got out. Captain Wright, on the other hand, tells us that when the funnel went over the side it carried away the starboard paddle-box and boat, and that the other paddle-box boat capsized as it was being lowered. Of the 184 persons who were saved, 116 made their escape in the three boats which succeeded in getting clear of wreck.

Never was destruction more sudden or more complete. Within fifteen minutes after the vessel struck, the bow broke short off. Five minutes more elapsed, and the hull of the vessel went in two, crossways, just about the engine-room. The stern part of the vessel immediately surged, filled, and went down. The only hope of the survivors lay in the main topmast and main topsail yard, which still showed above water. There were some fragments of the fore-castle deck still floating about; there a few spars, and driftwood.

About forty-five people to the yard, and, after remaining until 2 o'clock the following afternoon were picked off by the Lioness, a schooner which was providentially at hand. Capt. Wright asserts, that of the 200 persons, more or less, who were clinging to the driftwood when he got away, nearly every man might have been saved had one of the ship's boats done her duty. Into this boat the assistant-surgeon had got, with eight men. They immediately pulled d away, and landed about fifteen miles from the vessel. The fact appears to have been that the poor creatures who were clinging to the driftwood had been carried by the swell in the direction of Point Danger.—There they got entangled among the seaweed, which at this point of the coast is thick and of immense length. Capt. Wright's opinion is, that had not the assistant-surgeon carried off the boat, or even had the boat pulled back to the scene of the disaster after landing the medical gentleman in safety, the majority of these persons might have been picked off the seaweed. It only remains for us to mention here that Capt. Salmond, who appears to have done his duty after the vessel struck, has not survived the calamity. When last seen alive, he was swimming from the stern-post of the ship, which had just gone down, to a portion of the fore-castle-deck, which was floating about twenty yards from the main body of the wreck; something struck him on the back of the head, and he never rose again.

London Times.

**A Live Snake Ejected from the Stomach.—Remarkable Case.**—The Charleston (Mass.) Aurora states that Wm. W. Sanford, of that city, who has been sick for two years and supposed to be in a decline, took some Indian medicine which caused him to retch violently, when he threw from his stomach a living snake, about eight inches in length, almost perfectly white, with sharp black eyes. Mr Sanford drank water from a brook, in Maine, some two years since.

### The Way it Works.

The expenses incurred by the government, in arresting, holding, trying, and restoring the fugitive slave Simms to his master in Georgia, exceed five thousand dollars, to wit:

For guard, before grant of certificate	\$1,556 00
For board of guard	714 00
For guard, after grant of certificate and for expenses of sending Simms to Georgia	2,570 06
Counsels fees, &c. of Marshall Devin	500 00

And we have a total of \$5,341 05

—as the actual expenses incurred in the recovery of a single slave, in the law abiding Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

And this is one of the laws which Col. Jackson and his fanatical friends would have us swear, has been executed, "and that we believe it to be the intention of the people generally" (of Massachusetts, Vermont, and Ohio of course,) to enforce it in good faith, notwithstanding so far, with the influence of the friends of Mr. Webster, in Boston, all the strength of the Merchants, combined with the power of the Government to make out as good a case as possible for Fillmore, only one single slave has been recovered from Massachusetts, and that under cover of night, and at an expense of nearly \$6,000 to the Government three-fourths of which sum, by the operations of the revenue laws, must come out of the pockets of southern men.—*Masson Telegraph.*

### The Cotton Crop.

As the amount of the present crop is a subject of much speculation, we copy the following estimate from the Montgomery Journal, believing it to be as nearly correct as any one that has been submitted to the public:

It may have been noticed that the estimates for the present crop have, in the last few months, in the estimation of good judges, rapidly increased; and it is now put down, according to various data, from 2,700,000 to 3,000,000. That the crop would be a large one, became evident, as the frost continued to hold off and the fall dry and without storm. In fact, almost the whole crop was gathered without loss, and much that was not anticipated; and what seemed a small crop in September turned out in November an increase over the September estimates of, in many cases, more than one-third. We received in September and October the reports and estimates of some nine hundred planters of their own crops, for the purpose of publishing a tabular estimate, which we should have done, but for the subsequent statements of many of them, that their calculations had proved erroneous, owing to the unparalleled favorable season for gathering, and that their estimates were too low by one-third. We therefore deferred publishing the table, lest the estimates of September should tend to mislead as to the real yield of the crop.

An intelligent correspondent at New Orleans, on whose judgment great reliance may be placed, gave us the following estimates from all available sources.

The following is an estimate of the probable receipts of cotton at the port of New Orleans, and of the general crop of the United States, made from information obtained from Factors doing business with the various sections of the cotton-growing country, and given from the most reliable information to be obtained from their correspondents:	
Receipts 19th April, inst.	1,166,000
Probable amount to be received from Nashville and Cumberland River.	15,000
Probable amount to be received from Tennessee River.	20,000
Do, from Yazoo River and Tributaries.	25,000
Do, from Red River.	40,000
Do, from Big Black River.	10,000
Do, from Memphis, Tenn.	20,000
Do, main trunk of Mississippi River.	25,000
Total receipts of New Orleans.	1,221,000
“ “ Texas.	60,000
“ “ Mobile.	510,000
Do, of Atlantic States & Florida.	240,000-1,510,000
Total crop of the United States.	2,931,000

The annexed paragraph from the New York Tribune, shows that the Chaplains and Fairbanks are still at their dirty work of enticing servants away from their masters, and sending them to foreign regions. The abettors of the villainy appear to be in close communion with the Tribune.

**REVIVAL OF BUSINESS.**—The Directors of the Underground Railroad report to us the passage through our city last Monday of forty one human chattles from the land of the slave whip and coffin on a pilgrimage to the North Star.—They are now all safely landed in Canada, where they have ceased to be strayed cattle and become men women and children, no more to be subjects of the auction block and brand. The Directors report the Railroad in excellent order and doing a safe and increasing business.

**MARRIAGE AT A FANCY BALL.**—A fancy dress ball was given at Syracuse on the evening of the 8th instant, when, among other incidents of the evening, the following is related by the Syracuse Standard:

"Among the most pleasing incidents of the evening was the marriage by Justice Johnson, of Mr. James Doran, who appeared in the brilliant costume of a knight of Malta, in which he appeared to good advantage, to Miss Bartlett, a dark-eyed beauty, who was elegantly attired in the dress of a Greek girl. The audience were requested to preserve order for a few moments, and to the surprise of most of those present, the young, handsomely and elegantly attired bride and bridegroom stepped into the middle of the room, and the marriage ceremony was performed in the midst of a gay and brilliant assembly of representatives from every quarter of the globe. After the justice had pronounced them 'husband and wife,' he retired from the room, and the dance went merrily as the marriage bells."

**WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION.**—It is in contemplation (the Chester Republican says) to hold a Woman's Rights Convention at West Chester, Pa., on the 24 and 25 days of June next.

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL.

TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 27, 1852.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

Our Cotton market has been somewhat active since our last, with an increase in receipts and an advance on last week's quotations. We quote 5 3-4 to 8. Charleston quotations 7 to 8 3-4.

### Madison Springs, Ga.

We invite attention to the communication in to-day's paper referring to these delightful Springs. The time is approaching when our friends will be looking out for summer quarters, and we expect they will find the Madison equal to any springs in the United States for health.

### Mr. P. S. White.

By a notice in to-day's paper it will be seen that Mr. White will deliver two Lectures in Camden, at Temperance Hall, on Thursday and Friday evenings. The Water-ee Division will meet on Wednesday, in place of Thursday evening.

### The Convention.

According to law, this body convened at Columbia on Monday. We are not in possession of any information relative to their proceedings.

There was a time when we should certainly have been there to see and hear for ourselves, but that time has passed, and with it all of interest or moment. We are not concerned at all in the proceedings of the Convention. What can they do? Have they the right to do anything? Have the people not spoken through the ballot-box, and precluded all hope of action? We are opposed to Convention and paper "RESOLVES"—We have seen but little accomplished by these means, and we were opposed to the Legislature fixing the time for the meeting of this Convention.

It is idle, preposterous and unreasonable, to speak of this Convention passing an ordinance of secession, or taking one solitary step towards it; they have no right to do so, and we presume the thing will not be attempted. What is the sense or use in South Carolina resolving any more? Why put down another plank on her extensive platform? The Legislature have done enough of this.

### Hon. W. T. Ward.

We have received a copy of this gentleman's speech delivered in the House of Representatives, in favor of Gen. Scott, for the Presidency. We have not read the speech, for we have quite enough else to engage our attention; and besides, we are not in favor either of Gen. Scott, or the time of Congress being consumed, in Presidential quibblings, particularly where three or four thousand dollars per diem, are paid to the Hon. gentlemen for their interesting debates.

### Congress.

We have nothing from Congress worth notice. The distribution of the public lands, Presidential hickerings, and political wire-pulling, personal explanations, &c., occupy the time of this great body, who consume from three to four thousand dollars per day—but who cares? Uncle Samuel is a good natured old gentleman, and as his funds come easy, and there are a plenty of them, it makes no material difference how, or for what they go, particularly as the dear North receives the benefit.

### A Platform.

If South Carolina must have another "Platform" to occupy, we suppose the following from the Charleston Mercury, over the signature of "Colleton," will do as well as any other:

**Resolved,** That the State of South Carolina considers the past aggressions of the General Government sufficient cause for a dissolution of the Union; and it is her conviction that it should now take place.

**Resolved,** That she holds the right of secession to be fundamental, and regards it as a right to be exercised on all issues, both past and future, according to her sovereign will and pleasure, whether with or without the co-operation of any other State or States; and as a power indispensable to the protection of State sovereignty as well as Southern institutions.

**Resolved,** That she is prepared, and would herself be now willing to exercise that right but forbears to do so in deference to the opinions expressed by her sister States of the South; and although differing from them in the course they have taken, believes in their unanimous and solemn declarations of loyalty to the common institutions of the South and insists that they will not finally desert and betray them.

**Resolved,** That in the event of the abolition of slavery by the General Government in the District of Columbia, or of any interference with the slave trade between the States, or of a refusal to admit into the Union as a State any territory hereafter applying, because of the existence of slavery therein; or of any act prohibiting the introduction of slaves into the territories of Utah and New Mexico; or of a repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law—the Governor of the State shall forthwith convene the Legislature, if that body be not then in session, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature forthwith to call a Convention of the people of South Carolina to act in the premises.

**Resolved,** That as the harmony and unity of the State are of the first importance, and our unhappy divisions render us impotent for good; we recommend to the people of South Carolina that burying all party feelings and discarding all party organization, they re-unite as brothers and Carolinians to vindicate the honor of the State and to maintain the common rights and interests of the South.

### Southern Cultivator.

The May No. of this excellent agricultural monthly has been received. The price is only one dollar, and there is a large amount of valuable information worth ten times the subscription price. "Book Farming" is often objected to, yet a farmer might pick up an idea from what he reads, which would confer great benefits upon him. This paper is published by Wm. S. Jones, Augusta, Ga.

**RESPIRER.**—Reed and Clemens, the two pirates, who were to have been executed at Richmond, were respited by the President for two weeks.

**POISONED.**—The family of Mr. William Miller, dentist, of Harrisonburg, Va., with some visitors, were poisoned on the 3d inst., from eating cakes made up with soda that had portions of arsenic mixed with it. A physician was called in immediately, who succeeded in saving their lives.

### A SMALL LOT OF SUNDRIES.

**GREAT SLAUGHTER IN CHINA.**—A late Canton paper records a great slaughter of government troops near Yung-gun-chow, by the rebel army. About 10,000 soldiers and more than 60 officers were slaughtered.

The printers of Pittsburg have abolished Sunday work.

The subscription to the New York Crystal Palace amount to \$30,000 so far—\$200,000 are required before the exhibition can commence.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society of England has received a donation of \$50,000 from Thos. Marriott, Esq.

**ODDITIES OF A WEALTHY MAN.**—Hans Wilson, of Steubenville, who died on the 21st ult., in the 82d year of his age, bequeathed in his will to his only daughter \$1000; to the widow of his only son, now the wife of Rev. Dr. Cox, of Piqua, \$300; the balance of his fortune, estimated at \$200,000, he divided, in small sums, to different churches in his town, and in large sums to foreign and domestic missionary societies.

**LOVE AND FOLLY.**—A man 60 years of age has been committed to jail at St. Louis for threatening to kill a girl of 19, because she refused to marry him, after he had made her the snug little present of \$25,000. It was rather provoking.

"Have you any travelling inkstands?" asked a lady of a clerk at one of our stationary stores the other day. "No ma'am; we have them with feet and legs, but they are not old enough to travel yet," was the pert reply.

A sharp talking lady was reproved by her husband, who requested her to keep her tongue in her mouth. "My dear," responded the wife, "it is against the law to carry concealed weapons."

A Poet carried some verses to a critic, and desired his opinion of their merit. After reading them, the critic observed—"My dear sir, these lines need fire." And he threw them into the grate.

"I wish I owned an interest in that dog of yours," said a neighbor in our hearing the other day, to another neighbor, whose dog would dart toward the legs of any one with whom he might be talking, and then "back up again," and look up into his master's face, as much as to say, "Shall I pitch into him?—shall I give him a nip on the leg?"

"An interest in my dog?" said his master, "what could you do with it?"

"Why," replied the other, "I'd shoot my half within the next five minutes!"

Said a bed-bug to a mosquito, whom he chanced to meet:

"How is it you make out to extract so much more of life's current than myself, when I can bite as severely as you? How can you explain it?"

"For particulars, see small bills," quoted the mosquito with dignity.

Reynolds, the dramatist, observing to Martin the thinness of his house at one of his plays, added, he supposed it was owing to the war.

"No," replied Martin, "I should judge it is owing to the piece."

"What is the best attitude for self-defence?" said a pupil, (putting on the gloves) to a well-known pugilist. "Keep a quick tongue in your head," was the significant reply.

A Yankee down east has made the grand discovery that a window glazed with old hats, is a sure indication that the occupants have seen a rum bottle.

A gentleman who gave up the iron trade to publish a newspaper, says that the newspaper business is the hardest of the two.

For the Camden Journal.

### Look before you Sign.

The owners of the real estate in the town of Camden have now submitted to them a proposition to sell the stock owned by the corporation in the South Carolina Railroad, amounting to 143 shares, which cost fourteen thousand three hundred dollars. The shares are now selling at ninety dollars, which would make a loss of one thousand four hundred and thirty dollars. The past year a dividend of 7 per cent was received on the stock, and every probability of an equal dividend for the present year, as the receipts of the Road for the first quarter of the present year exceeds by sixty thousand dollars, the receipts for the same period last year. Besides the town does not owe much over eight thousand dollars, for which we pay 6 per cent per annum, while we are getting 7 per cent on \$14,300, with every prospect of the stock being at par in the course of another year. What can be gained to the pockets of our citizens by selling now? The stock having already advanced from 50 to 90; what is to prevent its going to 100 is respectfully asked by a TAX PAYER.

For the Camden Journal.

### To the Tax-Payers of Camden.

You are now being called upon to give your assent to a sacrifice by sale of the stock in the South Carolina Rail Road, held by the town. I have called it a sacrifice—that assertion is proven by the fact that it is now ten per cent below par; that it is a needless sacrifice, can be as readily proven by reference to the financial condition of the town, and the rapidly advancing prosperity of the Rail Road Company. The town of Camden owes some little over eight thousand dollars, while its resources, independent of all lien for taxation &c., are in round numbers Fifteen thousand dollars. From taxation, &c., the town receives something over three thousand per annum; to which may be added as almost certain, one thousand per annum on this stock.

With this hurried and imperfect statement, it would surely be supposed that some relentless creditor was urging the town to utter ruin to induce it to raise money at a shave of ten per cent; but we are credibly informed that the reverse is the fact, and that the town can get whatever accommodations it may desire in this matter.

But some one says we wish to get rid of the stock and reduce the taxes. If any one will show me how the town is to be able to reduce taxation by throwing away \$1,430, I shall be happy to receive some instruction in the new school of finance. The stock now pays a dividend of seven per cent; we have every guaranty that that rate will be kept up if not advanced upon. The gross receipts of the Road last year were slightly over \$1,000,000. Thus far in this year they have greatly increased, and promise \$1,100,000 or upwards. In three months the stock has advanced seven dollars per share, and is now most difficult to obtain even at that advance. I know of no sellers except those driven

by necessity, or some moving cause almost equivalent to it. If such a necessity existed in this case, why sell \$14,300 of stock to pay \$8000 of debt? Why sell even a sufficiency to pay the debt on the very eve of a dividend? The only plausible reason for selling would be a belief that the stock is now at its full value—a belief which is at variance with the opinion of the business men of the State, and the South Carolina Rail Road is regarded from Maine to Texas, as one of the most successful and promising in the Union; and it is believed by many leading minds, that the stock will be at par by the next meeting of the stockholders, the stock in old Road being now, fairly estimated, sold at only 3 3-4 per cent below par.

This communication is written as the "Journal" goes to press; but as evidence that the opinion herein expressed arises from no fictitious opposition, I may prolong it to state that the writer is a personal friend of most of the Town Council, the movers in this matter, and supported every member of it at the late election.

A NATIVE.

For the Camden Journal.

### A New Spring in Georgia.

Mr. Edron: A new and very valuable Spring has been discovered at the Madison Springs, now the property of Mr. WATKIN'S. The component properties of said water are per oxide of iron, magnesia sulphur and soda. It is now being improved, and will be in readiness to offer to visitors this summer in connection with the old—every desirable variety of waters. At Madison Springs the bathing is free and truly luxurious. New walks are being laid along the brow of the precipice, commanding a distant water and mountain view, where a rushing, tumbling, mountain torrent leaps from rock to rock, forming many beautiful cascades worthy the pencil of an artist. The improvements and style of finish at the Madison Springs surpass those of any other watering-place in the U. S.; while the shady groves, the sloping lawns, the equable and bracing climate render it a delightful summer retreat.

The medical properties of these waters are well known to cure all female complaints and irregularities. Dyspepsia, Liver and Kidney diseases are healed as if by magic. Ague and fever of the most inveterate type are cured without medicine—there has never been a failure to effect a radical cure in a single instance. They impart strength and vigor to the constitution, and paint the female cheek with rosy health.—Extensive preparations have been made for the accommodation of families, where each can have a cottage in the grove, with conveniences for their own servants to do their washing if desired.

It has ever been a favorite resort for Carolinians; and taking all in all, nature and art combined, have done more for the Madison Springs than for any other watering-place. Its climate is peculiarly salubrious, being dry, bracing, buoyant and equable—devoid of the extreme mid-day heat, and nocturnal damp of the mountains, as well as of the arid and suffocating heat and mosquito's of the low country. They are situated twenty-three miles from Athens, the terminus of one branch of the Georgia Rail Road, where stages will be in readiness daily, to convey passengers to the Springs. MADISON.

**BANK FAILURE.**—We are indebted to a correspondent, writing from Augusta, for the intelligence that the Bank of St. Mary's, Georgia, known as John G. Winter's Bank, has suspended. The holders of the bills of said Bank are offering them for 25 cents on the dollar.—*South Carolinian.*

### Georgia Union Convention.

This Convention adjourned on Friday last.—The following resolutions were adopted:

1. **Resolved,** That the Constitutional Union party will not give its support to any candidate for the office of President or Vice President of the United States, unless the Convention nominating such candidates shall declare its acquiescence in the measures of Congress known as the Compromise measures, and its determination to consider these measures as a final adjustment of the matters embraced by them.

2. **Resolved,** That this Convention at this time will take no action in relation to the approaching Presidential election.

3. **Resolved,** That another Convention of the Constitutional Union party be called after the Democratic and Whig Convention have made their Presidential nominations, for the purpose of considering said nominations, and for the purpose of taking such action in relation to the Presidential election, as shall be deemed proper. And that said Convention be held in Milledgeville, at such time as the President and Vice President of this Convention, shall hereafter appoint and make public.

It is understood that some of the members of the Convention, principally the friends of Gov. Cobb were to hold a meeting Friday evening for the selection of delegates who are to go to Baltimore.

**THE CHARTER SAVED.—\$550,000 SUBSCRIBED.**—It affords us pleasure to lay before our readers the gratifying intelligence that the Georgia Charter of the Rubin Gap Railroad has been secured by a subscription of \$550,000, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars more than the amount required by the Charter to secure it.

The books were opened at Clayton on the 6th inst., when the above amount of stock was at once taken—thirty or forty shares in Rabun, and the remainder by gentlemen of Charleston, represented by their Attorney. "Well may we say, 'well done, noble, generous Charleston,' when we look at this evidence of her interest in the grandest enterprise of the age. The capital stock of the Company by the charter is one million of dollars, and more than half of that amount is now owned by gentlemen of Charleston! Who, with this fact before him, can for moment doubt that the Road will be built? The chartered rights of the company are now vested, the head of the Iron Horse is set westward, and nothing now can stop him, until his snort is heard, as he pauses among the green clover fields of Tennessee, and gathers renewed life and speed for the marts of the great West. We have no doubt that the liberality of Charleston will be followed up by other parties interested in the Road.

Anderson Gazette.