

Our Cotton Market.

We have no material change to notice in the Cotton market. The supply has been good and demand steady. Principal sales at 7 1/2 to 8 1/2. Charleston quotations 7 1/2 to 9 1/2.

Detention of the Cars.

On Wednesday night the Cars did not reach our Depot until half past ten o'clock, occasioned in part by the running off of an engine a few miles from Charleston, which blocked up the track, and the up train being detained beyond their usual time, were obliged to make the retrograde movement, whenever met by a freight train going down, which we understand is one of the running rules on our road.

The Camden Cars did not leave that delightful place the junction, where unfortunately good and evil spirits sometimes coalesce, until after dark, and when they reached a short distance this side of Charleston, came in contact with a piece of timber about 10 inches square, which it is said was laid across the track by some base and reckless villain. It is not possible, or likely, that the timber could have fallen across the road by accident, as Mr. McEwen, a superintendent, had passed up a short time before, in a hand car, and if any obstruction had been in the way would certainly have discovered it.

Several additional regulations, in our judgment, are essential, to the preservation of human life, and the pecuniary interest of the Company. A double track should by all means be made between Charleston and Branchville, at least, and one from that point to Columbia—the increased amount of running on these roads render it imperative that something should be done for protection of life and property. The amount of property destroyed for the want of these, would have paid, or nearly so, the expense of building a double track all the way, to say nothing of the loss of human life, which is beyond computation. If it is possible some means should be adopted by which villainy could be detected and place at least beyond the whims and caprices of one base creature, the contingencies of accident, and the destruction of the lives of perhaps hundreds. These matters are well worth a thought or two, and we hope at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders in Charleston next February the matter will be duly considered.

Matters in Columbia.

The Commencement of the South Carolina College came off on Monday. One of the largest crowds which we have seen for many days assembled at the Chapel to witness these interesting ceremonies—not so much we apprehend for the purpose of hearing, as to see and be seen. Such an array of beauty and fashion is rarely to be met with. From the very great pressure of circumstances, and the uncomfortableness of our position, we were not enabled to hear all of the speeches of the Graduating Class. We however heard two or three that of Mr. Gaston, of Chester, was an excellent speech.

At night the usual Commencement Ball came off, at the American Hall, were not a few were assembled to join in the festivities of the occasion, and trip to the sound of the music gaily on the "light fantastic toe." As might be expected Columbia is filled with people from all parts of the State.

The business of the Legislature is progressing as usual, and the night sessions have commenced. It will adjourn about the 15th inst.

The amusements of the season have not been very extensive—the Giantess has attracted some attention, and the Legerdemain and Hocus-pocus man, who visited Lancaster during Court week, is here, fooling the people; so, that for fun and frolic, there is a meagre showing.

The election of Judges, to fill the Hon. Josiah J. Erans' place, will come off on Tuesday, and the Governor's election during the present week. We can only conjecture who is to be next Judge, but suppose that Mr. Glover is likely to be elected. Mr. Manning is Governor by universal consent, or will be, without opposition.

On Monday, I called at the Drug-Store of Messrs. Bontwright & Barkuloo, and examined a set of the most perfect Artificial Teeth; they are made to represent the gums, out of Porcelain, and are true to nature. Dr. S. Blading, our old friend, neighbor and fellow-citizen, is the maker on the plan of Dr. Allen—a notice of which may be found in our Columns, taken from the Family Friend.

It is a good thing that the Session of the Legislature only comes once a year, and lasts but a few weeks. The printers and editors are worked almost to death, and the Hotel keepers are kept moving. It is true it is their harvest, but if they do not earn every dollar they make, we are no judge of small matters. The only class who reap the profit largely are the bar-keepers—some liquor is used about these times, and no mistake—evidences of which are not wanting. A nervous man stands a bad chance in a crowded hotel on the night of a Commencement ball. If a greater confusion of tongues can be found than this modern Babel, then we give it up. The American Hotel seems to be the place for the people, and the Courier's correspondent is right in all he says about Mr. Janney, the Proprietor, and Mr. Harris, his excellent Assistant.

On Tuesday, I visited the Portrait Gallery of Mr. Wm. G. Brown, a successful Artist who has been in Columbia a few months. His picture of Gov. Means, Dr. R. W. Gibbs, W. B. Johnston, Esq., Editor South Carolinian, are all admirable likenesses, and the slightest glance will readily discover the persons for whom they have been taken. Mr. Brown has also a likeness which he painted in Mexico, of General Taylor, whilst in Camp, which truly represents him in the character of Rough and Ready. He has an autograph letter of the old General, in which Mr. Brown is duly complimented for his success in painting General T. and Staff.

On Monday there was a sale of the Negroes belonging to the estate of B. L. McLaughlin, deceased. A Coachman and house servant brought the handsome sum of two thousand dollars—even a seamstress, we understand, sold for fifteen hundred dollars, and other negroes in proportion—the best sale almost on record.

On Tuesday, in the House of Representatives, the special orders were called for by Mr. Kershaw, and the House went into Committee of the Whole. The Electoral question was called up, and Mr. Kershaw having the floor, he advocated his propositions for a change—giving the election of President and Vice President to the people, with force and ability. As we intend to ask him for a copy of his speech, or rather for the general outlines—he spoke from notes only—we shall not attempt a synopsis lest we might not do him justice. Mr. Keitt, of Orange, spoke forcibly against changing the present mode—the question, we presume, was generally and ably discussed; we left during Mr. Keitt's

should be placed on a different footing and enjoy special immunities.

Mr. Moorhead said the Senate had already come to the conclusion to make the charter of banks uniform and he saw no reason why the officers of one bank should be exempted by law from the performance of military duty, and the officers of another bank be required by law to perform military duty. He hoped no invidious distinctions would be made or allowed by the Senate. He asked no more for the bank of Newberry than had already been granted in the charter of the bank recently proposed to be established in Columbia, and agreed to by the Senate.

Mr. McAllely said no such exemption of the officers from military duty had been introduced into the charter of the Chesterville Bank.

Mr. Mazzyk said that while he was in favor of the proposed amendment, he thought the matter could be well postponed till another year, when the exemption claimed for the directors could be stricken out of the charters of all the Banks.

Mr. Huey thought it would be better to begin at once. Delays were dangerous. He should insist on his motion being put, in order that the sense of the Senate might be had upon the subject. The motion was carried in the affirmative. The bill was agreed to and ordered to the House of Representatives.

A bill to prevent the obstruction of the free passage of fish up Lynch's Creek received its second reading, and was ordered to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Carew moved to suspend the general orders for the purpose of making a report on the bill to extend the charter of the Bank of the State of South Carolina. Report read and ordered for consideration to-morrow.

DECEMBER 7, 1852.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A bill to incorporate a Bank in the town of Newberry was received from the Senate and read a first time, and referred.

Also, a bill to renew the charter of the Planters and Mechanics' Bank of this State.

Also, a bill to renew the charter of the Union Bank of South Carolina.

Also, a bill in relation to the execution of Slaves and Free Persons of color, which was read a third time and passed.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, B. J. Johnson in the chair, and proceeded to the consideration of bills prescribing the manner in which Electors for President and Vice President shall be elected.

Mr. Kershaw addressed the house in support of the Electoral Bill.

Mr. Keitt, in a speech of much ability, advocated the present system of choosing Electors.

Mr. Boylston offered the following resolution, that the Committee do rise, report the bill, and ask leave to sit again on the last Wednesday in November next.

Mr. Greene moved to lay the resolution on the table. Negatived.

Mr. Asmore moved to amend, by substituting "that the Committee ask leave to sit again on to-morrow," for the "last Wednesday in November next." Laid on the table.

Mr. McGowan was in favor of the original resolution. He stated that any immediate action by the House would not place them in a more favorable position with regard to the next Presidential election, which was not attainable by legislation upon the matter in the next year.

Mr. Owens expressed himself in favor of the resolution.

Mr. Tradewell was opposed to the resolution, which he was certain originated in hostility to the bill, and was resorted to as an expediency to defeat it.

The question was then taken on the resolution and carried. The Committee then rose.

The consideration of the bill to arrange the State into districts for the election of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, was taken up. A series of amendments were offered, contemplating some changes in the arrangement, and severally voted down.

A motion was made by Mr. Tucker, that the House do take a recess till 6 o'clock. Lost.

The House soon afterwards took a recess till 6 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Gadberry moved that the bill to re-district the State be recommitted, with instructions, and upon that demanded ayes and nays.

Mr. Greene moved to lay the motion on the table; which was taken by yeas and nays. Ayes 70, Noes.

The bill was sent to the Senate with some slight modifications.

No DIMINUTION.—We inserted a paragraph some days since, by which it would seem that the abolition vote has largely decreased during the past four years. The following from the New York Herald may serve to throw some light upon the subject.

"As nearly as we can ascertain, the aggregate vote for Hale for President is about 150,000.—The vote for Van Buren, the free soil candidate in 1848 was in round numbers, 293,000. This prima facie, would indicate a great falling off in the abolition free soil vote; but it is not so. In 1848, there were, perhaps, 100,000 democrats in New York alone, who voted for Van Buren from a purely factious and personal spite against Gen. Cass. We apprehend that Hale's vote, on the contrary, is as substantially anti-slavery as that for Birney in 1844; and taking that (some sixty thousand) as a basis, the free soilers have made again of 80,000, doubling their strength, and thirty per cent, over, in eight years. This does not indicate the death of the anti-slavery abolition movement of the North; but when we take into the estimate the fact that a large number of free soil abolition whigs, following the lead of William H. Seward, voted for General Scott, and that they are ready now for some movement, there is every reason to anticipate an anti-slavery reorganization, in due time, upon a more formidable basis than ever. The Seward organs are already casting about to see how the land lies, and we may expect a combined movement as soon as there is an opening. Let the South stand their ground.

Mr. Griffin moved to suspend the further business of the Senate till 7 o'clock; agreed to.

EVENING SESSION.

The Senate took up the bill to establish and incorporate a bank in the town of Newberry, which was read section by section.

Upon the reading of the 10th section exempting the officers of the Bank from military duty, Mr. Huey moved that it be stricken out, on the ground that as the officers of the bank were engaged in a profitable business, they ought equally with other citizens, to perform public duty.—He saw no reason why they should be exempted from the performance of military duty.

Mr. Mazzyk seconded the motion. He was heartily in favor, he said, of the proposition. He had made a similar motion last year when banks were proposed to be chartered. The custom of exempting bank directors from military duty arose from a false impression that bank directors were public officers, they were no such thing.—They were private citizens, engaged, it is true, serving the public in a peculiar way. But so were tailors, bakers and clerks in a mercantile establishments. He saw no reason why bankers

of thousands upon the battle-field, the youth of this favored land were permitted to enjoy the blessings of peace beneath the paternal roof.—While the States of Europe incurred enormous debts, under the burden of which their subjects still groan and which must absorb no small part of the product of the honest industry of those countries for generations to come, the United States have once been enabled to exhibit the proud spectacle of a nation free from public debt; and if permitted to pursue our prosperous way do the same again.

But it is now said by some that this policy must be changed. Europe is no longer separated from us by a voyage of months, but steam navigation has brought her within a few days' sail our shores. We see more of her movements, and take a deeper interest in her controversies.

Although no one proposes that we should join the fraternity of potentates who have for ages lavished the blood and treasure of their subjects in maintaining "the balance of power," yet it is said we ought to interfere between contending sovereigns and their subjects, for the purpose of overthrowing the monarchies of Europe and establishing in their place republican institutions. It is alleged that we have heretofore pursued a different course from a sense of our weakness, but that now our conscious strength dictates a change of policy, and that it is consequently our duty to mingle in these contests and aid those who are struggling for liberty.

This is a most seductive but dangerous appeal to the generous sympathies of freemen. Enjoying as we do the blessings of a free government, there is no man who has an American heart that would not rejoice to see these blessings extended to all other nations. We cannot witness the struggle between the oppressed and his oppressor anywhere without the deepest sympathy for the former, and the most anxious desire for his triumph. Nevertheless, is it prudent or is it wise to involve ourselves in these foreign wars? Is it indeed true that we have heretofore refrained from doing so merely from the degrading motive of conscious weakness?

For the honor of the patriots who have gone before us, I cannot admit it. Men of the Revolution who drew the sword against the oppressions of the mother country, and pledged to Heaven "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to maintain their freedom, could never have been actuated by so unworthy a motive. They knew no weakness or fear where right or duty pointed the way, and it is a libel upon their fair fame for us, while we enjoy the blessings for which they so nobly fought and bled, to insinuate it.

The truth is that the course which they pursued was dictated by a stern sense of international justice, by a statesmanlike prudence and a far seeing wisdom, looking not merely to the present necessities, but to the permanent safety and interest of the country. They knew that the world is governed less by sympathy than by reason and force; that it was not possible for this nation to become a "propagandist" of free principles without arraying against it the combined powers of Europe; and that the result was more likely to be the overthrow of republican liberty here than its establishment there.

History has been written in vain for those who can doubt this. France had no sooner established a republican form of government than she manifested a desire to force its blessings on all the world. Her own historian informs us that, hearing of some petty acts of tyranny in a neighboring principality, "The National Convention declared that she would afford succor and fraternity to all nations who wished to recover their liberty; and she gave it in charge to the executive power to give orders to the generals of the French armies to aid all citizens who might have been or should be oppressed in the cause of liberty."

Here was the false step which led to her subsequent misfortunes. She soon found herself involved in war with all the rest of Europe. In less than ten years her government was changed from a republic to an empire; and finally after shedding rivers of blood, foreign powers restored her exiled dynasty, and exhausted Europe sought peace and repose in the unquestioned ascendancy of monarchic principles. Let us learn wisdom from her example. Let us remember that revolutions do not always establish freedom. Our own free institutions were not the offspring of our Revolution.

They existed before. They were planted in the free charters of self-government under which the English colonies grew up, and our Revolution only freed us from the dominion of a foreign power, whose government was at variance with those institutions. But European nations have had no such training for self-government, and every effort to establish it by bloody revolutions has been, and must, without that preparation, continue to be a failure. Liberty, unregulated by law, degenerates into anarchy, which soon becomes the most horrid of all despotisms. Our policy is wisely to govern ourselves, and thereby to set such an example of national justice, prosperity, and true glory, as shall teach to all nations the blessings of self-government, and the unparalleled enterprise and success of a free people.

We live in an age of progress, and ours is emphatically a country of progress. Within the last half century, the number of States in this Union has nearly doubled, the population has almost quadrupled, and our boundaries have been extended from the Mississippi to the Pacific.—Our territory is chequered over with railroads, and furrowed with canals. The inventive talent of our country is excited to the highest pitch, and the numerous applications for patents for valuable improvements distinguished this age and this people from all others.

The genius of one American has enabled our commerce to move against wind and tide, and that of another has annihilated distance in the transmission of intelligence. The whole country is full of enterprise. Our common schools are diffusing intelligence among the people, and our industry is fast accumulating the comforts and luxuries of life.

should be taken however, to commence no work which is not of sufficient importance to the commerce of the country to be viewed as national in its character. But works which have been commenced should not be discontinued until completed, as otherwise the sums expended will, in most cases, be lost.

The report from the Navy Department will inform you of the prosperous condition of the branch of the public service committed to its charge. It presents to your consideration many topics and suggestions of which I ask your approval. It exhibits an unusual degree of activity in the operations of the Department during the past year. The preparations for the Japan expedition, to which I have already alluded; the arrangements made for the exploration and survey of the China Seas, the Northern Pacific and Behring's Straits; the incipient measures taken towards a reconnoissance of the continent of Africa eastward of Liberia; the preparation for an early examination of the tributaries of the river La Plata, which a recent decree of the provisional chief of the Argentine Confederation has opened to navigation; all these enterprises, and the means by which they are proposed to be accomplished, have commanded my full approbation, and I have no doubt will be productive of most useful results. Two officers of the navy were heretofore instructed to explore the whole extent of the Amazon river, from the confines of Peru to its mouth. The return of one of them has placed in the possession of the Government an interesting and valuable account of the character and resources of a country abounding in the materials of commerce, and which, if opened to the industry of the world, will prove an inexhaustible fund of wealth. The report of this exploration will be communicated to you as soon as it is completed.

In former messages I have, among other things, respectfully recommended to the consideration of Congress the propriety and necessity of further legislation for the protection and punishment of foreign Consuls residing in the United States; to revive with certain modifications the act of 10th March, 1838, to restrain unlawful military expeditions against the inhabitants of contiguous States or territories; for the preservation and protection from mutilation or theft of the papers, records, and archives of the nation; for authorising the surplus revenue to be applied to the payment of the public debt in advance of the time when it will become due; for the establishment of land offices for the sale of the public lands in California and the Territory of Oregon; for the construction of a road from the Mississippi valley to the Pacific ocean; for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture for the promotion of that interest, perhaps the most important in the country; for the prevention of frauds upon the Government in applications for pensions and bounty lands; for the establishment of a uniform fee bill, prescribing a specific compensation for every service required of clerks, district attorneys and marshals; for authorizing an additional regiment of mounted men, for the defence of our frontiers against the Indians, and for fulfilling our treaty stipulations with Mexico, to defend her citizens against the Indians "with equal diligence and energy as our own;" for determining the relative rank between the naval and civil officers of our public ships, and between the officers of the Army and Navy in the various grades, of each; for recognizing the naval establishment by fixing the number of officers in each grade, and providing for a retired list upon reduced pay of those unfit for active duty; for prescribing and regulating punishments in the navy; for the appointment of a commission to revise the public statutes of the United States, by arranging them in order, supplying deficiencies, correcting incongruities, simplifying their language, and reporting them to Congress for its final action, and for the establishment of a commission to adjudicate and settle private claims against the United States. I am not aware, however, that any of these subjects have been finally acted upon by Congress. Without repeating the reasons for legislation on these subjects which have been assigned in former messages, I respectfully recommend them again to your favorable consideration.

I think it due to the several Executive Departments of this Government, to bear testimony to the efficiency and integrity with which they are conducted. With all the careful superintendence which it is possible for the Heads of those Departments to exercise, still the due administration and guardianship of the public money must very much depend on the vigilance, intelligence, and fidelity of the subordinate officers and clerks, and especially on those entrusted with the settlement and adjustment of claims and accounts. I am gratified to believe that they have generally performed their duties faithfully and well. They are appointed to guard the approaches to the public Treasury, and they occupy positions that expose them to all the temptations and seductions which the cupidity of speculators and fraudulent claimants can prompt them to employ.

It will be but a wise precaution to protect the Government against that source of mischief and corruption, as far as it can be done, by the enactment of all proper legal penalties. The laws, in this respect, are supposed to be defective, and I therefore deem it my duty to call your attention to the subject, and to recommend that provision be made by law for the punishment not only of those who shall accept bribes, but also of those who shall either promise, give, or offer to give to any of those officers or clerks a bribe or reward touching or relating to any matter of their official action or duty.

It has been the uniform policy of this Government from its foundation to the present day, to abstain from all interference in the domestic affairs of other nations. The consequence has been that while the nations of Europe have been engaged in desolating wars, our country has pursued its peaceful course to unexampled prosperity and happiness. The wars in which we have been compelled to engage, in defence of the rights and honor of the country have been fortunately of short duration. During the terrific contest of nation, which succeeded the French revolution, we were enabled by the wisdom and firmness of President Washington to maintain our neutrality. While other nations were down into this wide sweeping whirlpool we sat quiet and unmoved upon our own shores.