The Press and Banner.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

By HUGH WILSON & W. C. BENET.

Wednesday, July 31, 1878.

The State Democratic Convention.

The Democratic Convention of South Carolina will meet in Columbia to-day. We have read the reports of the several County Conventions and have gladly noticed that the delegates chosen to be sent to Columbia are with few exceptions truly representative men with wisdom sufficient to know the right and courage enough to do it. Never did the elders of the people meet at a more critical period. A grave responsibility rested on the State Convention of '76; one still graver rests on the State Convention of '78. It is easier work to win a victory than to use it well. Political as well as military history records numerous instances of great victories which were rendered barren by the blindness and folly of the victors themselves. Our people gained a notable victory in '76: that work they did well, and they are ready and eager to achieve a more glorious victory in '78, and they look to the State Convention to show them how to do it.

The press of this State indicates that there is great unanimity of political sentiment within our borders. The recent speech of Governor Hampton at Blackville has been almost universally approved and accepted as the keynote of the campaign. Only in a few corners, Edgefield for instance, has any dissension been expressed. The Edgefield policy did not suit in '76, and it is much less practicable or even expedient now. The views of this extreme school are neither wise nor statesmanlike, and even success gained in accordance with them would neither be solid nor permanent. Senator Butler has said ours is a white man's government. This is true, but not in the sense in which the Liberian is a black man's government. It is a white man's government because it is the government of intelligence, honesty, justice and property; and it will continue to be a white man's government until the negro equals or excels the white as a property-holding, justice-loving, honest and intelligent man. Until that time the colored voters themselves will be satisfied with its being a white man's government. But if we preach that it is a white man's government by virtue of the right divine of race alone, a sum in simple subtraction deducting the white vote from the negro vote will show the negro himself how easy it would be to make it a black man's government. Dodge it as we please, dislike it as we please, a negro's vote counts one, and that is all that a white man's vote counts.

It is to be hoped that the conservatives and the extremists will not clash in conflict in the Convention, that they will succeed in constructing a platform broad enough for this time and strong enough for all time. Let it be more than a mere temporary platform: let it be a strong, enduring bridge over the many difficulties and dangers that lie like a yawning chasm in our way to ultimate success,—a bridge wide, and well-built, with its piers sunk deep in the foundation of truth, justice, wisdom and moderation. But, be the bridge what it may, let us all cross it, and cross it in the same direction. Let our different factions beware of acting like the two goats in the fable that met on a log which spanned a ravine. Neither would give way. They fought, and both tumbled into the abyss below.

Charleston and the Bonds--"Accept with Satisfaction."

Charleston County Convention met on Monday 22d inst., and amongst other business adopted an excellent county platform of which the following is one of the planks:

Resolved, That we accept with satisfaction the solution which has been made by the last Legislature of the question of the State debt, and are gratified that the subject has been removed from the political arena, and that its just and final settlement has been remitted to the courts, and Charleston County will cheerfully abide by and carry out said settlement.

We commend the wisdom of this action and trust other counties will emulate the example. We would recommend the adoption of a similar resolution by the Abbeville County Convention at its next meeting. The question of the State debt was certainly removed from the political arena and remitted to the courts to which it properly belongs: at least so thought the Legislature when it appointed the Bond Court. It has nothing to do with the current campaign, and should not be heard of on the hustings. And yet the air of Abbeville County has been filled with foolish twaddle concerning this subject which is really too abstruse and complex for voters of more than the average intelligence, even if its final settlement were not removed out of the voters' powers altogether. Only the demagogue who craftily presumes on the ignorance of the public can dare to make it a living political issue. The man of truth and honesty will tell his fellow-citizens that all the voting they can do now will not be able to turn a penny of the State debt one way or the other. The decision of the court will be a finality. What the State legally and equitably owes she will be compelled to pay. And those of us who did not like the action of our Legislature had better accept it with a good grace and, like Charleston County, "cheerfully abide by" the decision of the Court. The intelligence of that man is to be doubted who butts his head against a brick wall or tries to dodge the inevitable: and the honesty of that man is not above suspicion who now endeavors to gain votes by raising the ghost of this dead issue and making the State debt a test question in this campaign. Candidates in the canvass of '78 have no more to do with the bond question than with the Berlin Treaty or the annexation of Cyprus.

End of the Charleston Journal of Commerce.

The *Charleston Journal of Commerce* is no more. Its suspension though not unexpected will be sincerely regretted throughout South Carolina. During its brief career of two years it did good work as a faithful servant of the State and a valiant champion of Democracy. It laboured hard and well in '76 and took a strong hold on the affections of the people. It was held in high esteem by the journalistic brotherhood, who will, in common with ourselves, regret to see its face no more. We are loath to say goodbye to its courteous editor and genial staff, and we hope ere long to welcome them back again.

It is a good thing for a town like Charleston and a State like South Carolina to have two great daily journals; hence again we regret the death of the *Journal of Commerce*. Journalistic competition is conducive to journalistic health and activity; monopoly breeds decay and sloth. The *News and Courier* itself should mourn the untimely departure of its rival; for, if we do not greatly mistake, the rivalry had a wholesome effect on the former journal. The *News and Courier* is a better paper to-day than it was two years ago. It is more enterprising, more wide-awake and more liberal. We never weary in praising the great Charleston daily—the best journal in the South. And we would gladly indulge in praising it now if we did not find ourselves forestalled by the self-laudation in last Thursday's issue. Our contemporary in stating the truth forgot to be magnanimous. Instead of putting on the semblance of mourning as well became a journalistic brother, it attended the funeral with all the exultation of an expectant heir. It has deprived us of the pleasure of testifying to the superiority of the *News and Courier* over the *Journal of Commerce*, because, taking the word out of our mouth it has said so itself. Death has terrors to a journal as to all things mortal, and the keenest pang felt by the *Journal of Commerce* before dissolution must have been caused by the reflection, "Earl Percy sees my fall!" Although only a newspaper, "Earl Percy" should have behaved with chivalric courtesy and knightly gentleness, and given the dead rival honourable burial.

The *Journal of Commerce* died of a disease fatal to newspapers—lack of money. Those who established it are said to have lost $60,000. Think of that, ye defaulting subscribers. A five cents paper is no light load to carry.

The Convicts.

We direct attention to an article which may be found in another column of the *Press and Banner*, from a correspondent of the *News and Courier*. The Directors of the G. and A. Railroad have ever been ready to be investigated, and are more than willing that all their acts should be made known. We first went to down the stockade in the interest of truth and justice, and upon our return, made a full report in the *Press and Banner* of the facts, as we saw them. Soon afterwards, Judge Kershaw, while holding Court at Abbeville, ordered a committee of the grand jury to investigate the treatment of the prisoners at work on the Road. Their report, which fully sustained our report, was also published in the village papers, and all disquiet on this subject was put at rest. Now that the matter is brought up again, we have no doubt that the Railroad authorities are as willing to be investigated at this time as they were on previous occasions.

We are surprised if "C. McK." doesn't err in several particulars. He says that the grand jury "confined their investigation to the convicts' guards, and other men in the employ of the contractors." We are informed by a juryman, that one-fourth the evidence taken was from persons in no way connected with, or interested in, the road. Each witness was examined privately. The evidence was taken in writing---which evidence has never been seen by any one connected with the road. No witness knew what any of the other witnesses had testified.

It is to the interest of the company to keep the laborers in condition to do the most effective service, and not to "kill" them, either by overwork, by starvation, by want of sleep, or by all these causes combined. Six died during the month of July, and not eight, as stated. To illustrate the fallacy of the correspondent: if one convict is shot to-day, at the same rate, all will be killed in one hundred days.

We make the following extract from the report of the grand jury, made in June, eight months after the work had been commenced: "The mortality has "been seven died and three killed, out of "one hundred. Two died of heart dis- "ease, two of chronic dysentery, and "one of sunstroke." Three of these never struck a lick on the road.

As to the second statement, we will state that the President informed us that about half-dozen, or more than ten per cent. of one batch were unfit for work when received by the company---among whom were cases of heart disease, hernia, incurable broken leg, &c. The men that we saw at work had the unmistakable appearance of men who had been well fed.

As to the third and fourth statements: The day that we were at the stockade the convicts were at work at Asbury church, a distance, we presume, of about four miles from the stockade. That afternoon they quit work a little after five o'clock. We saw this.

As to the underfeeding, Gen. Bradley and members of the Board of Directors, have stated to us that they give each convict five-and-a-quarter pounds of bacon and twelve-and-a-half pounds of meal per week, with liberal allowances of vegetables.

As to the rigid medical examination of the convicts at the penitentiary, we shall stase that the directors complained to us that all the convicts so selected by their physician were not sent. In one instance a rejected man was sent, while other disabled men were substituted for the able bodied men chosen.

We have authority for saying that the convicts rest a longer or a shorter period in the middle of each day, according to the intensity of the heat, extending from two to three hours. All the convicts sent back to Columbia were chronic cases, some five or six of whom had never done any work at all on the road.

We think great injustice has been done to the Directors of the road in this matter from first to last. The gentlemen connected with the enterprise are our best and most respected citizens, whom we know to be men of honor, and possessed with at least the instincts of common humanity. Send along another investigating committee.

Liberia and the "News and Courier."

Mr. Williams, the adventurous reporter of the enterprising *News and Courier*, has returned to Charleston on board the *Azor*. His letters written in Monrovia are appearing in the columns of our Charleston contemporary and the series thus far gives as interesting reading about the negro Exodus as does the Exodus of sacred writ concerning the emigration of the ancient Israelites. We publish an extract this morning which all our readers white and black will find as instructive as it is strange. We regret that we cannot print the letters in full, and we hope that they will be republished in cheap book form. They are full of valuable, curious, and startling information which the negroes of the South would gladly possess. It would not surprise us, as the result of those letters, to see a steady stream of negro emigration setting in the direction of Liberia. That country seems to invite the Southern negro to go in and possess it. It is fertile, has varied crops, and has room for millions of inhabitants. Its chief recommendation in the negro's eyes is that it is the black man's country—a country where the white man is not allowed to vote. We wish success to the new Exodus. The colonizing spirit is a sure sign of progress, and nothing would do the negro element of the South more good than the sending to Liberia a million of their number. The industrial spirit of the negroes in both countries would be quickened and cultivated, and thus would their advancement in civilization be hastened.

Learning to Read.

The editor of the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian* last week published an article on the subject of "Reading" which so nearly fills our idea of practical education that we reproduce it below. We often notice that even *accomplished* young ladies are poor readers. In comparison with this art, music, painting, other desirable attainments collapse into insignificance. We say teach the girls to read. Dr. Bonner says:

"As to the propriety of girls studying elocution sufficiently to enable them to read well, none we suppose would deny. This is all that is taught in any of our Southern schools, and we are sorry that so little attention has been paid to it. A man that cannot read well, is a man not well educated. We care for they may know, or can do. They need to go back to the spelling book and begin again. Not that we would have a woman ascend the stage as a lecturer, or enter the pulpit as a preacher. Not at all. But in the family, around the fireside, in the parlor, we would that all our girls could read effectively, eloquently, so as to render in the highest style of art the best productions of the best authors, whether prose or poetry, whether simple or dramatic whether comic or tragic."

Cokesbury District Conference.

The Cokesbury District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in Abbeville last Wednesday. The sittings were held in the Methodist Church, and continued until adjournment on Saturday evening. Rev. Manning Brown, presiding elder of the district, filled the chair *ex officio* at all the meetings, and under his courteous chairmanship the important and multifarious business was transacted quietly and smoothly. We publish this morning a full report of the business proceedings. The church was filled at every meeting and sometimes it was crowded to overflowing. Our entire community took deep interest in the visit and business of our Methodist brethren. People of all denominations and of no denomination flocked to hear the various speakers who preached sermons or delivered addresses that will long be remembered in Abbeville for their fervent eloquence. It will not be considered invidious to single out Prof. Carlisle and say that his address on Education delivered on Saturday forenoon made a deep impression on the crowded audience. For scholarly polish, mature thought, liberality and earnest, dignified eloquence, we have seldom heard its match. Again on Sunday afternoon, after an interesting and winning address by Rev. R. D. Smart, Prof. Carlisle spoke to the Sunday-school children with inimitable simplicity and force,—in a way that entranced his young hearers and yet commanded the interest and attention of those of riper years.

The visit of so many clergymen and lay delegates has afforded our community great and memorable pleasure. When the train carried most of them away on Monday morning, our town looked lonely and deserted. Altogether they were an able body of earnest men, who went about their work with hearty good will in spite of the very hot weather. As to their *physique*, all who saw them as they stood on the floor in a body, or walked the streets, remarked the unusual number of very tall men among the members of the District Conference.

Cokesbury Township.

According to appointment, the Hodges Democratic club of Cokesbury township held an election on Saturday, July 27, 1878, for the purpose of indicating its choice of candidates for the approaching campaign. It was understood beforehand that the club would nominate a full ticket. The polls were opened at 8 o'clock and closed at 4 p. m. At the closing of the polls there had been 280 votes cast. The vote resulted as follows:

For the Senate.

J. C. Maxwell,	179

For the House.

F. A. Connor,	132
F. E. Gary,	60
J. N. Cochran,	150
S. McGowan,	145
H. H. Harper,	142
W. K. Bradley,	124
J. H. Rice,	136
R. R. Hemphill,	33

For Probate Judge.

J. Fuller Lyon,	168

For School Commissioner.

J. F. C. DuPre,	135
J. Lesley,	19
David Crawford,	13

For County Commissioners.

G. M. Mattison,	151
S. J. Hester,	60
Jacob Miller,	142
R. A. McCaslan,	10
G. F. Burdett,	104

There were also a few scattering votes. According to the primary plan, the following ticket was nominated, each candidate having received a majority of the votes cast: For Senator, J. C. Maxwell; For the House, J. N. Cochran, Gen. S. McGowan, H. H. Harper; For Probate Judge, J. Fuller Lyon; For County Commissioners, G. M. Mattison, Jacob Miller. The apparent small vote for the ticket nominated is accounted for by the friends of Mr. F. A. Connor voting a single shot ticket.

W. R. RICHEY,
Secretary H. D. C.

Hodges Nominates.

COKESBURY, S. C., July 29, 1878.

Editors Press and Banner:

The following is the result of a ballot of Cokesbury Club, on Saturday last, for members of Legislature and County Officers:

For Senate---J. C. Maxwell.

For House of Representatives---S. McGowan, H. H. Harper, J. H. Rice, J. N. Cochran, F. A. Connor.

Judge of Probate---J. Fuller Lyon.

School Commissioner---J. F. C. DuPre.

County Commissioners---G. F. Burdett, Jacob Miller, G. M. Mattison.

Respectfully, &c.,
B. Z. HERNDON,
President of Club.

A Phenomenon—A Nominee Declines the Nomination.

LEVEL LAND, S. C., July 29, 1878.

Editors Press and Banner:

I see in your issue of the 26th of June, that I have been nominated for the office of County Commissioner by the Long Cane Democratic Club. I wish to say to my friends, of that club, that I desire to decline the nomination, and to announce that I am not a candidate for any office.

Respectfully,
J. M. CARWILE.

At a recent meeting of the Democracy of Oconee County, the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved 1st. That it is the sense of this convention that hereafter no member of the General Assembly should accept a free pass over the railroads.

Resolved 2d. That it is the sense of this convention that an annual session of thirty days duration of the Legislature is sufficient time for all needed legislation; that three dollars per day is ample compensation for the members thereof, and that our candidates for the House be required to pledge themselves to vote for appropriate legislation to effect this end.

Resolved 3d. That in case no legislation should be adopted to reduce the pay of members as hereinbefore provided, that our candidates for the Legislature be requested to pledge themselves to turn into the county treasurer all surplus pay over three dollars per day and milcage, as now fixed by law.

Resolved 4th. That our Senator be requested to accede to the provisions of the foregoing resolutions.

Compliment to Judge Kershaw.

Judge Kershaw adjourned the Court, yesterday afternoon, after a long and most laborious session. The docket is now cumbered with cases, some of them of long standing, but the Judge made as clean a sweep of them as could have been made, during the time he was sitting. We indulge in no formal compliment when we say that both the Bar and the community were impressed with the clearness and impartiality of judgement, the courteous and kind manner, which characterized the Judge in his administration of the law. He won golden opinions from our people, and they look upon him as they did upon our old judges, as one who will hold the scales of justice with an even hand.

When it was announced that the business of the Court was over, Col. E. P. Jones, representing the Bar, offered the following tribute to the Judge, prefacing it with appropriate and touching remarks

JUDGE KERSHAW—To myself has been assigned the agreeable duty, on announcing to you in this public manner, the pleasure and satisfaction, that the Bar of Greenville feel for the kind and demeanor in which you have discharged the various duties imposed upon you, during the sitting of the present term of the Court.

We are assured, Sir, that the State has in you, a public servant, in whom she may safely confide her honor, her safety and the faithful execution of her laws, and this in a degree commensurate with her ancient history and renown. Distinguished alike, and ever gallant, faithful and true, whether it be in the field, the farm or upon the bench.—*Greenville News.*

Twenty persons left Due West last Monday *via* the Greenville and Columbia railroad; some for one place and some for another; some to be gone for a few days and some for a longer time.—*A. R. Presbyterian.*

It is predicted that the next session of Adger College will open with two hundred students.—*Keowee Courier.*

The Democrats of Lexington are in favor of three dollars a day for members of the Legislature, and say that their representatives and senator must accept no free railroad passes.

Sectional Representation by Club Nomination.

Editors Press and Banner:

The recommendation by the State Executive Committee for bringing forward candidates to wit: by the citizens instead of the Clubs, should have found more favor. But this Club rule of course is the forerunner for preparing the way for sectional representation. For instance, a Club makes a nomination, others indorse, a point is fixed for a representative and so on until the centre and the four corners of the County are bristling with their candidates. There might be several other men well qualified in the same sections, but this Club rule has settled the matter notwithstanding local prejudice may have decided against the best men who are qualified to represent the interest of the State and County. But one is allowed from the same section, if more, they stand in each other's way, and it would be a marvel if their characters escaped in the adjustment, for there are a good many murky ponds lying along the path of politics into which candidates are often baptised for purification before they are permitted to become law-givers. Suppose, however, that candidates were brought out by the citizens wherever found, so they were competent, and presented to all the Clubs on an equal footing upon their own merits, then the primary elections could decide the matter quietly and peaceably. This sectional plan is an innovation upon that of County representation. And if allowable, a correspounding system of things should follow. Let the County be districted to suit representation and let the elections be decided by each district separately, that would be leaving the field open for an equal contest. This idea must not be offset by saying that it is impracticable for we are not balking at established rules or customs. As we have started out on departures why not go a step further and increase representation to the number of all the Clubs, and make a grand effort to satisfy this inordinate desire for office? It reminds me in the sketching of the pack of hungry wolves upon the flying trail of Mazeppa, in the race for life; and can only be accounted for upon the plea that democracy has been without a sweet morsel so long that its cravings is like that of the horse-leech. Why not give each Club its own representative in its own interest, narrowed by contraction until each would become indifferent of the matter world by being encased in a crust of selfishness as hard and long as the shell of the tortoise.

As we have no use for one half of the representatives already allowed and that number increased by one from each club would be a suitable body for inventing the perpetual motion, and adjusting the fulerum to the archimedian lever for prising up the globe. A State convention is needed with a stroke of policy to reduce representation at least one-half and fix the sitting of the General Assembly biennially so that only three months session would be a ten-strike towards economy. For too much legislation is an evil, and too many to be honored a burden. In honoring so many candidates I adopt the sentiment of Dolly Fisher's experience in matrimony, its not the thing its cracked up to be. We only need two representatives, yet we have five to provide for, still we should feel less concerned about the sections, and more about how we shall get our wisest and most reliable men elected who can best represent the interests of the State and County. Let us return to first principles and let the citizens make the nomination for all the Clubs and let the primary elections decide and bring forward the nominees for the democratic party. There is vitality sufficient in that machinery to do the work. When that is done democracy will then close her divisions, and move with her columns united for the conflict.

VERNON.

Reply to Philo-Erskine.

Editors Press and Banner:

Of the "consternation aroused in the Seceder camps by the bomb that was let fall in their midst by Erskine" and over which his friend has made himself so merry, I had not heard until I read it in your columns.

Of indignation there was plenty, and for the sake of humanity not to say christianity, I am glad to know that it was not confined to "Seceder camps"—that others sympathised with us in this feeling, that their moral sense revolted at so gross an insinuation against a religious denomination. But, if there was no consternation before, possibly there may be now, for Erskine has found an ally, a champion rather, and right bravely does he speak.

That "Erskine" gave as rumors, simply, "Philo-Erskine" boldly "asserts as facts", and challenges contradiction.

Well now let us see what it is this friend of Erskine so confidently asserts as facts. Is it that a majority of the Board of Trustess of the DeLa Howe Estate are members of the Associate Reformed Church? Why no one, so far as I know has ever denied that fact, or called it in question. Is it anything connected with the doings of that Board? They have made a settlement and invite investigation, so there need be no trouble about that. Is it then that three of the five representatives from this county in the Lower House of the last Legislature, were more or less directly connected with the Associate Reformed Church? Here again, Philo-Erskine is perfectly safe, for I have never heard of one who denied or sought to conceal that fact. But there is still one other and but one other point touched on, whether by Erskine in his first article or by Philo Erskine in his endorsement of it, viz: That the Seceders "as a denomination" are disposed to monopolize these places, that they are seeking to send four representatives to the next Legislature, and that they are combining to this end. If this be what Philo-Erskine so boldly asserts as a fact, then I deny it. And now "let them who can" *prove* it. If this is not what he asserts, he does not assert anything, and his article is void and nothing more. I wish to repeat what I have said before, viz: That with any political aspect or bearing of this subject I have, and will have nothing to do. I do not write in the interest of any person or of any party. I simply resent, as I feel bound to resent, a foul, and as I conscientiously believe a false imputation upon the Church of my father, a charge preferred under the shield of an assumed name, a stab in the dark.

How any man should be willing to defame a Church to defeat an individual, I cannot understand.

W. L. PRESSLY.

Vindicated.

Editors Press and Banner:

You will please publish the following communication as a vindication of the parties interested. Although the paragraph entitled the "Night Assault" appeared in the columns of the "*Medium*" the Editors of that journal refused to publish this reply.

MEDICUS.

Editors Medium:

Any one reading the "Night Assault" in the last issue of the "*Medium*" must come, whether he will or not, to the conclusion that the Asbury neighborhood is in a state of anarchy. But to the credit of the good citizens of our community be it said that such acts of vandalism never occurred until Mr. Boyd made his appearance there. When imagination elopes with a man's feeble wits, reason comes to a stand still, looks after the two and acclaims: 'Tis no telling where they will stop, as in this case of the "night assault." When 25 to 30 shots are fired at a two story house at close quarters "nearly proven fatal" to the occupants, it is a problem hard to solve why no bullet holes can be found except in the plank fence around the yard, which Mr. Boyd declares he made himself while defending his home and fireside. We have passed Mr. Boyd's house of late at any time during the night and day and have never heard the "stealthy tread of the marauders," peace reigned profoundly around the premises, if not in Mr. Boyd's mind. But again we heard heavy cannonading at that place, when Mr. Boyd let loose his formidable artillery. Nobody gets scared, except Mr. Boyd, not even the nearest neighbors, they are perfectly acquainted with the ways in which Mr. Boyd relieves his over-burdened mind. The only truth if there be any in the "night assault" is. "He (Mr. Boyd) is in a bad way generally." To crown the whole, Major J. L. White and Mr. F. L. Morrow, have been arrested, charged with the crimes of the "night assault." To say the least, it is absurd to connect those names with any such deeds and at the same time it is an outrage to our whole community that such arrests have been permitted to be made.

As to Mr. Boyd making application to the Governor for protection, we judge Mr. Boyd called on the wrong person. Barnum of the United States gives protection and lodging to those like Mr. Boyd, and for the benefit of our neighborhood and the "wild anxiety and suspense" of Mr. Boyd it is high time that Barnum be sent for.

MEDICUS.

The trial of John and Neil Revels *alias* Locklear indicted for the murder of Brice, the peddler, was heard at Bennettsville last week. Both were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on the 23d of August next.

Wanted—every one to be free from Pimples, Blotches, Boils, etc., which can be done by purifying the blood with Dr. Bull's Blood Mixture. Used everywhere. 1us.

O. P. H.

RESTING IN THE PEACEFUL SHADES OF THE PAST.

Let Political Records be Buried in Lethean Waters.

"Erskine" Squelched---He will Never Squeak Again.

'Twas O. P. H. that Struck the Blow.

Editors Press and Banner:

In the heated struggle that is yet fresh upon the pages of memory, and notable among the modern historical events, we entertained valid, and sufficient reason in rebelling against usurpation. Our condition, financially, had reached to such a point that endurance ceased to be a virtue and we were constrained to rally our available honest and intelligent forces. Two brief years we have enjoyed a fruition of our labors almost to our heart's content. Peace, harmony and concord have abounded. The ship of the State, with her newly fledged crew, piloted by the magnanimous Hampton (a Washington of the 19th century) bearing upon her topmost mast the banner of Democracy inprinted upon its beautiful folds the tri-colored inscription, honesty, right and intelligence, is moving quietly and proudly upon the waves of prosperity, bidding defiance to the most formidable obstruction.

Time in his never ceasing march has rolled around another campaign period, calling upon us to remain steadfast, solidified, and harmonized in our principles and no political catastrophe dares to approach. Again, we have good sufficient reason to concentrate our forces, to perpetuate an honest and intelligent government. Messrs. Editors, (guardians of the public weal,) are we pursuing the right course to consummate such a desired end? Doth the signs of the times within the confine of Democracy portend auspiciously? Is peace, good will, harmony and unity of purpose abounding plentifully? Is there no faction, turmoil or party strife brewing, threatening our body politic with dismemberment? Why so much growling and contention in our ranks? Have corruption and treachery manifested their baleful effects at this early day of redemption, making it absolutely necessary to engender "party strife" to bring about a purgation in our fold? What do I understand is the tenor or character of the altercations oftentimes (culminating almost into pugilistic collision) that are ripe and antagonising Democrat against Democrat throughout the county. The fight appears to be not against Radicalism, but Conservatism against Conservatism?

What was the design of fictitious "Erskine," in giving vent publicly to such *vile, base, degrading, slanderous* and unprincipled sentiments (more contemmed than radicalism and unworthy of a pure Democrat) that appeared in your columns a fortnight ago? This shameful and ungenerous pretence, which has been ably refuted with contign indignation and scorn, will be held up as a stigma of reproach to all christian genuineness. Evidently *he* is not an exponent of facts and *surely*, is not a fit representative of the intelligence of Abbeville village. Doubtless evil was intended, to promote some selfish end, but *vice versa* will be the final result. That insatiable thirst for official positions, which is prevailing to an alarming extent in our party, will ultimately be the primary means for our downfall. Every foul and unfair means are resorted to, in order to carry some selfish motive. Democracy! Her's has some good plea for contending among ourselves, knowing the importance of unity of action and harmonious good feeling. Take heed and let by-gones be bygones. Don't disturb the peaceful shades of the past prior to the year of 1876. Since that period Reformation has been the watchword. If an effort is made to pry into the archives of the past in quest of material to expose the defects or establish the purity of our Democratic statesmen, "dark spots" and "flaws" more or less, will be revealed, that would startle the community. *Mirabile dictu.* Bury all personal animosities and push forward the car of reform with accelerated velocity. Build up Democracy with renewed strength. Fill up the breaches and make her walls impregnable. Cease "fighting and scratching" about who shall get the nomination. The material that has been suggested to represent our cause is good and can be relied upon with impunity. Why not send both of the contending parties, McGowan and Hemphill, to the House? Each one has superior claims, and Democracy will suffer no detriment in consequence of it? *Satis.*

O. P. H.

Echo from Saluda.

Editors Press and Banner:

I would ask, what are the duties of a School Commissioner?

If it is merely to receive the school money from the Treasurer, and any other source, and pay it out to the teachers of the various schools of the county, then any good business man is qualified for the office.

If he is to superintend the selection of teachers for the public schools, and to visit these schools, and see that the teachers are doing their duty, then he should be a practical teacher himself that he may be capable of judging. We are of opinion that the latter duties are the important ones, if we expect to desire any benefit from the money that is being spent upon the public schools.

We heartily endorse the nomination made by Calhoun Club No. 1, of Mr. James L. Lesly for this office. One who has spent a life time in teaching, and who has done more than any living man in causing our county to be distinguished for its schools and colleges and to be called the Banner County of the State in this particular. Then let old Abbeville one time in her life, honor herself by honoring Mr. Lesly with this office.

SALUDA.

Be Charitable.

LOWNDESVILLE, S. C., July 26, 1878.

Editors Press and Banner:

Gentlemen, please permit me to say a few words in the columns of your valuable paper in regard to the injustice of an uncharitable spirit, which is not only inconsistent with all social virtue and happiness, but it is also in itself unjust, and unreasonable. In order to form sound opinions of characters and actions, two things are especially requisite, information and impartiality. But such as are most forward to decide unfavorably are commonly destitute of both. Instead of possessing, or even requiring full information the grounds on which they proceed are frequently the most slight and frivolous. A tale perhaps which the idle have invented, the inquisitive have listened to, and the credulous have propagated, or a real incident, which ruinor in carrying along has exaggerated and disguised supplies them with materials of confident assertion and decisive judgment. From an action they presently look into the heart and infer the motive this supposed motive they conclude to be the ruling principle, and pronounce at once concerning the whole character. Nothing can be more contrary to both equity and sound reason than this precipitate judgment. No single instance of conduct whatever is sufficient to fully determine it. As from one worthy action, it is credulity, not charity to conclude that a person is free from all vice, so from one which is censurable it is perfectly unjust to infer that the author of it is without conscience and without merit. If we know all the attending circumstances, it might appear in an excusable light, may I say in a commendable form. The motives of the actor may have been entirely different from those we ascribe to him, and where we suppose him impelled by bad design, he may have been prompted by a clear conscience, but mistaken in the principle. It is therefore evident that no part of the government of temper deserves attention more than to keep our minds pure from uncharitable prejudices and open to candor and humanity in judging of others. The worst consequences, both to ourselves and to society will necessarily follow from the opposite spirit.

ALIQUIS.

If any man insults your common sense by offering a first-class 9 Stop Organ for $65, "Shoot him on the spot." All necessity for buying such inferior Organs is forever done away with. **$100,** Cash, or **$110** on Easy Terms, now buys a magnificent **Mason & Hamlin Parlor or Church Organ** with Four Sets Reeds and Ten Stops, in Elegant New Style Case with Illuminated Panels.—Handsomest Style of Case ever produced.—**Special Offer** to introduce this new Style.—Sent on trial.—Guaranteed for a life time.—Rented until paid for.—Other new styles just out.—Illustrated catalogues free.—Address **LUDDEN & BATES, Savannah, Ga., Manufacturer's Wholesale Agents for the South.**

June 29, 1878, 4t

No man in business should ever write a business letter without his card printed at the head of his sheet of paper. It is a first-class advertisement, and prevents numberless mistakes. Order them from us.

Another Explanation.

WIDEMAN'S, Abbeville County, S. C. July 29, 1878.

Editors Press and Banner:

As "Philo-Erskine" seems so much amused at what he calls the consternation raised in the Seceder camps by the bomb thrown by Erskine, I will furnish him a little more of the same sort of amusement. He says "Did you ever see such a rising to [explain?" Who blames them when attacked to defend themselves? He boldly proclaims in one of our county papers that the Seceders are attempting to monopolize the offices of the county, "That they had combined to elect their men, and were determined to stand by them to the last extremity, no matter how untrustworthy, they or any one of them may be shown to be."

There is no combination among Seceders to elect any one. There is no candidate out who is relying on the Seceders vote alone for election. All of them seem anxious to get as many Seceders to vote for them as possible. I pity the candidate who has to rely on the Seceder alone for support, be he Seceder or Methodist, Episcopalian, Baptist or Presbyterian. There is no such combination among Seceders. But they do claim the privilege granted to every citizen, that of voting for who they please, for those men who they think will best represent the true interest of the people. They are too weak to combine for any such purpose as that alleged.

Philo-Erskine in striking at the Trustees of the DeLa Howe Estate, says, "What have they explained away?" If he will read what they had to say, he will find that no attempt was made to explain anything away, but believing that Erskine's article was written to prejudice the minds of the people against them, they simply gave a statement of facts. He says, "Does not the fact still exist that a majority of the Trustees of the De La Howe Estate are Seceders?" That is a fact. Who denied it? Who ever denied it? Is there any harm in it? Are they not as good men as any in this community, or in any other community in this County or State? Who made them Trustees? Did the Seceders do it? or did the Trustees ask it at the hands of any one? In whose stead were they appointed? Dr. A. T. Wideman, and Mr. David Morrah were appointed instead of two negroe's. Are they not as good, as reliable, as honest, and as competent, as the negroe's removed? Would not Erskine, or Philo-Erskine rather see them in the position, "*Seceders*" though they are, as to see negroes in it? As to Mr. Wardlaw's appointment he was recommended by Capt. Perrin or Mr. Jones the retiring Trustees. This is how the Seceder majority came about.

Again, he says, "Is it not a fact that they have a Seceder teacher?" It is a fact that has never been denied. But who elected her? Did the Seceder majority do it? unfortunately for those who are so eager to find something to grumble about the Seceders were not in majority when she was elected. There were two Presbyterians, two Seceders, and one Methodist when she was elected.

Again, he says, "Is it not a fact that the grinding was taken from Cade's Mill, and given to the Seceder Mill?" Who took it away? Did the Trustees do it? Did he not read Mr. Ramey's certificate saying that he had never been ordered by the Trustees to remove it? And if they had have ordered it done, would there have been any harm in so doing? If mistaken not Erskine in his first letter says the grinding had been done at this mill for forty years. This is a good while for the thing to run one way. This looks a good deal like monopoly to me.

Again he says, "And is it not an open secret that if Dr. Link is still employed as physician, (which I confess was not made clear to my mind by any of the affidavits.) it is because impelled by that courtesy which he felt was due a professional brother, Dr. Wideman refused to accept the position when tendered him or when he was consulted in reference to it." "Will Dr. Wideman say that he never was consulted in reference to doing the practice at the institution?" I will answer his last question first. One member of the board of trustees told me he would enter my name for the position if I desired it. I refused. I did not want the position, nor do I think I could have got the position if I had have wanted it. Dr. Link has been the physician for the institution for years. He has given perfect satisfaction. He has never been removed, nor have I ever been' put in his stead. He does not hold the position through any influence of mine. The position has never been tendered me. He still does the practice for the institution when any of them are sick.

Is this clear to Philo-Erskine's mind? He says the affidavits were not. Why does he doubt the affidavits? Is he wanting in truth himself? He seems very ready to doubt plain unvarnished truth in others. If Dr. Link had been removed, what motive could he possibly have in denying it? If I was employed in his stead, why should I deny it? Would it do any harm to own it? I or any other Doctor have as much right to the position as he has, provided always that we are as competent. Does the will of DeLa Howe say that any particular mill shall do the grinding for the institution, or that a Doctor must belong to any particular church before he can practice for the institution and so on with the teacher, and superintendent, or that a majority of the trustees shall not be "Seceders?" I think not.

If the trustees are incompetent let them be removed at once. If the teacher is not as competent as any one of the number that applied for the position remove her. If the trustees are squandering the funds remove them, unfortunately though there are no funds on hands, a great deal of it has been spent, and can never be recovered. With between twenty-five and forty thousand dollars owing the institution, who is unable to pay her honest debts, her teacher for last year was not paid when money was due, (so I have been informed except by note.) The merchant that supplies the place has to wait for his money. The Doctor was paid last year out of the Treasurer's private funds. Who owes the institution? Who has borrowed this money, and will not even pay the interest on it? Was it the Seceders? I think if Philo-Erskine will examine the records he will find the Seceders have had very little to do with placing the institution in her present deplorable condition financially. Will Philo-Erskine be kind enough when next he fires at Seceders, or at DeLa Howe to sign his name to his article? By so doing he will confer a favor on others as well as myself.

Respectfully,
J. W. WIDEMAN.

SOUTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.

On and after Sunday next, the 3d instant the Passenger Trains on this road will run as follows:

FOR AUGUSTA.—(Sundays excepted.)		
Leave Charleston	9 00 a m	7 30 p m
Arrive at Augusta	5 00 p m	6 55 a m
FOR COLUMBIA.—(Sundays excepted.)		
Leave Charleston	5 00 a. m.	8 30 p m
Arrive at Columbia	10 50 a. m.	7 45 a m
FOR CHARLESTON.—(Sundays excepted)		
Leave Augusta	8 30 am	7 40 p m
Arrive at Charleston	4 20 p m	7 45 a m
Leave Columbia	6 50 p. m.	8 00 p m
Arrive at Charleston	12 15 p m	6 45 a m
SUMMERVILLE TRAIN.—(Sundays excepted.)		
Leave Summerville		7 40 a m
Arrive at Charleston		8 40 a m
Leave Charleston		3 15 p m
Arrive at Summerville		4 25 p m

ACCOMMODATION PASSENGER AND FREIGHT TRAIN,—(Daily, except Sundays.)

Leave Columbia	5 30 a m
Arrive at Branchville at	12 25 Noon
Leave Branchville at	12 50 Noon
Arrive at Columbia at	7 00 p m

Breakfast, Dinner and Supper at Branchville.

CAMDEN TRAIN.

Connects at Kingville daily (Sundays excepted) with Accommodation Train from Columbia and with up Day Passenger Train from Charleston. Accommodation Train connects at Branchville with up and down Augusta Day Passenger Trains.

Augusta and Night Trains connect at Augusta with Georgia Railroad, Central Railroad, and Macon and Augusta Railroads. This route is the quickest