

Abbeville Press and Banner.

BRADLEY.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1907.

ESTABLISHED 1844

AND FINER PUBLIC INGS.

City, this editor was greatly
ectural skill of Brigham Young.
As an executive officer he had
in Salt Lake City will stand for
nd as evidence of the loyalty of

a testimonial of the greatness
d by the energy of those who
men. At the head of a band of
e and they stopped in a desert
a few unfriendly Indians. The
far from all civilization, and the
ke that of the story of the Jews

ive Mormons also have their Dead
lived in the valley surrounded by
eir abode between snow capped
y. The river Jordan is a historic
ordan runs along beside the camp
in revelations, and who would
all led Brigham Young through
Who would deny that the same
om than was ever possessed by
g hand was as of the Father car-
that a divine purpose has been
and that it would have set at
heat question.

ation, who inspired him with the
lish a city in a desert, or who gave
abled him to establish a church
for ages, the wonder of the world?
and of the Father, how could he
om-rail transportation that nails
d construct such a building as the
as as a memorial to his skill in
the faithfulness of his followers?
iverse did not give him the wisdom
e the Tabernacle, how could he have
stics and for architecture, is the
ad not been moved by the music of
ning did he instruct his carpenters
organ in existence?

from the power of his inherent
elathers who built the first court
no man living has any actual
has been built at Abbeville.
em? Our oldest inhabitants recol-
t stood in the public square, but
dres preceded it? In the last sixty
es, counting the tobacco barn as
had in the preceding forty-seven

se as Brigham Young, or had re-
itect. does anybody suppose that
uld three or four court houses,
or court purposes? The builders
nstructors of the unsightly tobacco
d as was Brigham Young, does
Abbeville in 1800, does anybody
urt House that would have stood
his children, and his children's
four hands upon our public edi-

architectural structures which had
rithed home to implore Capt. Nickels
Brigham Young became so great
clenmer, our own neighbors, men
na and seek revelation, from on
get a decent Court House and a
e, they would win everlasting grati-
their work was completed, allow
of their fathers

use is built in the middle of a great
ch side and having cement side-
ment walks from each corner to
the good. The fact is, it was one of the
It cost a million dollars.
s an orthodox Mormon he might get
ary instructions, so that he
a monument to his wisdom and
no descendant vandal would touch
verence and admiration.

r revelation and instruction, as
the importance of the great work
him, and he might give us a
the pride of the proudest people on
as builders of public edifices has been
was little helped revelation.
r McMillan get into their heads
ader expands: r public buildings
o Salt Lake has done in going out
oom, good air and shady groves could
ve buildings as that of the Mormons
e to have suitable buildings that would
e and Mayor McMillan were old
favor of a million dollar expendi-
n favor of no Cheap John thing like
of the money could be raised
nds, which our children could pay.
children could come into control.
o far behind the Mormons. They
fty years the start of them and yet
es are about a thousand years ahead
County Superintendent could receive

for our buildings. Let no picaresque
ese buildings ought to be steam heated.
heated. I did not see fire while in
ork would impose little or no hardship
e or no taxes anyhow, and the rich

OF ABBEVILLE.

ose of business Dec. 11, 1906.

Liabilities.	
Capital Stock.....	\$75,000 00
Surplus and Profits.....	23,000 00
National Bank Notes.....	18,750 00
Bills payable.....	10,000 00
Deposits.....	203,880 00
	\$380,680 00

the County.
nds.
in Savings Department.

MONSTROUS PROPOSITION.

Will the Legislature of South Carolina License the Ed- itors of Newspapers to Defame Character?

ARE "DAMAGE SUIT LAWYERS" THREATENING TO BRING THE DEFAMERS OF CHARACTER TO THE BAR OF JUSTICE?

Did the Abolition of the Battering Law Open the Floodgates of Faith, So that No Man's Name is To Be Hereafter Safe?

We are in receipt of a copy of the "Proposed Bill as Agreed Upon Between Committees and Leading Members." If not impertinent, the Press and Banner would like to know the names of the "leading members," and of what they are "members." We would also like to ask who they expect to lead? Are Legislators in leading strings, ready to be led about by self-styled or so-called "leading members?" Have hooks of rings been placed in the noses of innocent delegates to the General Assembly that they may be led about like cattle at a State Fair? Of course it is hardly to be expected that many intelligent or self-respecting members of the General Assembly would so far forget the selves or their accountability to constituents, as to vote for the proposed measure.

Let the reader glance over the Bill and judge for himself and study some of its provisions. For instance: "The defendant in actions of libel" or slander may introduce in testimony in mitigation of damage that the "publication or charge was made by mistake or through inadvertence," and that he has retracted the charge or offered to make correction before the commencement of any action."

Who shall judge of the sufficiency of the retraction, or the exculpability of the inadvertence? Shall the offender be allowed to say what apology he shall make? It seems so.

The idea of allowing the defendant in libelous cases to make such a defense is too ridiculous to be seriously considered. Libelous or defamatory publications are not usually made by "inadvertence," but by malice. The maligned or slandered character cannot be fully restored by "retractions." When matter is printed and sent abroad it is in a more or less permanent form, and cannot be entirely effaced by "apology" or "retraction."

With a slight change in the wording the law could read: "The defendant in actions for stolen money or for theft after trust, may introduce testimony in mitigation of his offense, that the theft or misappropriation of funds was made by mistake or through inadvertence, and that he, having been caught, offered to restore the stolen goods, before indictment."

Such a plea would be infinitely more plausible, than the plea of "inadvertence" on the part of the newspaper which utters a slander. Character is too sacred to be ruthlessly, carelessly or inadvertently attacked. No restoration can be made for defamed character, and every editor ought to know that neither the demands of an honorable newspaper nor the exactions of the reading public require the defamation of character. The thief who runs off with money may make restitution, but the assailer of character can make no adequate restoration.

If, therefore, the thief "shall make it appear in the trial of said action that said article was stolen in good faith and with the intention of appropriating it to his own use, but was caught in possession of the goods unlawfully, he should be allowed to restore the stolen goods."

But one of the most palpable jokes in the aforesaid "Bill by Leading Members" in this effort to pull around unsuspecting delegates by the ring which they may propose to put in their noses, lies in these lines:

"And if it shall appear in the trial of said action that said article was published in good faith, that its falsity was due to mistake or misapprehension and that a correction or retraction of any false or incorrect statement therein was published in the first or second regular issue of said newspaper, of a daily paper on the first page, in all other papers on editorial page," etc.

All that may appear very fair to the innocent member, who is willing for editors to besmirch the character of gentlemen, or throw mud at them, and then apologize or make the false statement that such publication was a mere "inadvertence" and not malice, pure and simple.

Admitting that innocent delegates might be foolish enough to enact any such law, let us see the unfairness of a statement which seems on its face to be fair. When newspapers make charges against character they may use the largest type in the office, at the top of the page and then they may make the retraction in the smallest type in the office and place the same at the foot of the last column of the page. And we saw only a few days ago the statement of just such a case. The editor to appease the injured or offended person offered to make retraction, reparation or something of the kind. He put it in the paper, on the page, as agreed upon, but set it in very small type and put it in the least conspicuous place in the paper. If one editor would perform a trick like that why offer others the chance to do the same thing. There is nothing in the "retraction" to prevent it from being printed in Greek.

It will be noticed that there is a difference between daily and weekly newspapers. The weekly or semi-weekly papers must use "prominent head lines," while the daily may tuck such "retractions" away anywhere on the "first page."

Another notable expression of this Bill, which might be an insult to self-respecting members of the Legislature is, "then in said event recovery of nothing more than actual damages shall be allowed." Solomon in all his glory, could make no such estimate, and no proof could be furnished to prove the damage to a good name. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Who shall estimate the value of a good name. Who could place a price upon the good name of a woman?

We have heard it said that a judge in England once said something like this when trying a damage suit:

"There is not money enough in England to pay a husband for damage to the good name of his wife, but if he connived at wrong-doing, there is not in England a coin small enough to pay the damage to the injured husband."

The question now is will Legislators connive at the injury of their own good name or that of their families, or others, by removing the presence of "damage suit lawyers" who may be employed to see that editors, "by inadvertence," do not assail character without liability to answer for their act

Is the reputation of a good citizen of so little consequence that an editor may assail it with impunity, and then claim that he did it without giving the matter proper consideration, and therefore because of his own carelessness he may ask to be excused for an irreparable injury to another.

If the editors of the State do not, through malice, or "inadvertence," attack character, they need have no fear of "damage suit lawyers," and if they have no fear of "damage suit lawyers" they need not urge the passage of this most iniquitous Bill. Let them not seek to avoid responsibility for acts of malice or "inadvertence."

Let us imagine a case and suppose that an editor said: "Hon. Easy Mark is not fit to carry sloop to a pig pen." Of course the Honorable Easy Mark was indignant and the gentleman demands that the editor "retract" and "apologize." The editor of course was ready to make so easy a settlement, and in the next issue of his paper, publishes a piece something like this:

"In a previous issue of our paper we stated that 'the Hon. Easy Mark was not fit to carry sloop to a pig pen.' The gentleman is indignant and demands that we retract and apologize, and in order that we may be perfectly fair and just to him we hereby retract, apologize and withdraw the statement. Upon further investigation we find that we were mistaken. He is eminently qualified for carrying sloop to any place, and we take pleasure in recommending him to the favorable attention of any one needing a first class sloop carrier."

In a printed note accompanying our copy of this "Bill by Leading Members," it is stated that "we feel satisfied that it was never intended that the newspapers should be placed in the position and at the mercy of the 'damage suit lawyers.'"

In like manner the Press and Banner is quite satisfied that the intelligent Legislators of South Carolina will not place their own character and the character of their families "in the position and at the mercy of such newspapers" as may choose to defame them, and which newspapers may have a wholesome dread of "damage suit lawyers."

In the above mentioned note, marked personal, the following sentence appears:

"There is nothing like home missionary work, and what we want you to do is to see the members of the General Assembly from your county, both Senators and members of the House, and explain to them the necessity of such a statute, involving their co-operation and good will. A word from you will be worth ten times the effort that might be expended in Columbia in securing the passage of this needed legislation."

The Press and Banner feels complimented at the thought by "Leading Members" that we had any influence with our Senator and members of the House, but the "Leading Members" will please excuse us from acting on their suggestions for the following reasons:

First—Fair dealing newspapers in South Carolina do not need and should not want any such inquisitorial law. They need not be afraid of "damage suit lawyers."

Second—Instead of the proposed Bill by Leading Members to license the press to assail character, we believe the people need more and better protection from such unscrupulous newspapers as have reason to be afraid of "damage suit lawyers."

Third—Even if we endorsed so wicked a proposition, we have too much respect for our members of the General Assembly to believe that they would tamely submit to any suggestion that they might be so remiss in fidelity to their people as to vote for it or any similar proposition, that might remove the "damage suit lawyers," who may be the greatest benefactors in making inadvertent editors more careful.

Fourth—The Press and Banner cannot believe that any member of the General Assembly from this county would allow "Leading Members" to put rings in their noses. They are not of the variety to be led, even in shielding newspapers from just punishment for malicious offenses against the citizens.

We believe that an improper effort was hinted at in the following sentence: "A word from you will be worth ten times the effort that might be expected in Columbia." In our opinion any effort outside of an appeal to reason, justice and fairness should not be made to any Legislator. In one sense, the Legislator is juror charged with the duty of doing the right, and just he should not allow himself to be the subject of influence or special pleading.

"Good name, in man and woman dear, my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls:
Who steals my purse, steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and he has slain a thousand;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that which nothing enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

If the Legislator allows the robber of a man's, or a woman's good name, "the immediate jewel of their souls," to plead "inadvertence," should not the law-making power of the State grant the same plea of "inadvertence" by the colored gentleman who steals from the owner's cow lot? If the cow thief is caught with the hide and the horns of the stolen cow, must he be accountable for nothing more than the actual loss in money? The cow thief may make restitution to the full extent of the injury, but the robber of a man's or a woman's good name can not make proper restitution.

Character is the most sacred thing on earth, and he who would rob a man, or a woman, of a good name is lower and meaner than the cow thief. The Legislature should not give less protection to the "immediate jewels of the souls of men and women" than they give to cattle.

The malicious assailant of a good name should be made to face the much dreaded "damage suit lawyers" and he should be punished even as the cow thief is punished.

We make no comment on the expression "leading members." That of course is a term which must be objectionable to all those self-respecting editors who think that they are freemen and are governed only by their own sense of right. If there are "leading members," there must, of course, be led members. We know of at least one member of the editorial fraternity who is not led by anybody. We assume, however, that in this instance, the words were used "inadvertently," and that no offense was intended.

SPECIALLY FINE CABBAGE PLANTS.

I have some plants left over from my own setting, the same kind that I set for my own trucking. I buy the best seeds obtainable on the market. I have two early varieties, Early Jersey Wakefield and Charleston Wakefield. In season we follow these closely with Succession and Late Drumhead.

Prices in thousand lbs \$1.50, 5,000 and over \$1.25, 10,000 and over \$1.00. We have only a limited quantity of very selected stock, we crate them up and deliver them to Southern Express Company, and at very low Express rates. Send orders early, before our stock is gone.

W. F. OARR, Box 84,
Meggetts, S. C.

Farmers' Bank of Abbeville.

State, County and City Depository.

President: F. E. HARRISON. Vice-President: F. B. SPEED. Cashier: J. H. DUFFRE.

Board of Directors: F. E. Harrison, P. B. Speed, C. D. Brown, G. A. Visanaka, John A. Harris, R. M. Haddon, A. K. Watson, Lewis W. Parker, W. P. Greens.

We solicit your business and are prepared to handle it safely and conservatively.

We are in position to make you loans, and to pay interest on deposits, when placed in

Our Savings Department.

WEST END.

New Dots Picked Up Here and There About the City.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Perrin left Friday for their home in Meridian, Miss., after spending some time here with Mrs. James Perrin and Mrs. Leola Perrin. They received many delightful social attentions while in the city. Mrs. Perrin who was Miss Williams of Kentucky made many friends during her stay here who hope that she will be a frequent visitor to our city.

Mr. J. T. Robertson left last Wednesday for North Carolina where he will represent his work with the South Carolina Turf Association.

Miss Eugenia Robertson and Miss Louisa DeBriest are at home again after a few days' visit at Lawrenceville the guest of Mrs. J. D. Corley.

Mr. Jack Harden left Monday for Davidson College where he goes to resume his studies. Mr. Lawrence Parker has been out of the city for the past week on business.

Mr. A. B. Cheatham spent Sunday in Greenwood.

Miss Eunice Calhoun left Saturday for Spartanburg where she goes to begin her school duties after a two weeks' vacation.

Mrs. Beth M. Lewis and her family left for home in Yorkville after spending some time here with her sister Mrs. L. W. Parlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Cowart left Friday for their home in Cayuga, Ga. for a few days' visit with Mrs. P. A. Chestnut.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Nickles left Abbeville Wednesday for Hodges where they will stay. Their friends here wish them a pleasant trip.

Prof. W. B. Bradley was in Columbia last week to attend the Teachers' Association.

Miss Irene Rosenberg and Mr. Sot. Rosenberg have been in Columbia for the past few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. Julius Vianstra.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wasserman have returned to their home in Greer after spending a while here with Dr. and Mrs. Kessler.

Mrs. H. F. Meese and her interesting children left Saturday for their home in Spartanburg after spending the holidays here with Mrs. Quarles.

Miss Louisa Brown has returned from Spartanburg where she spent a part of the holidays with Miss Bertie Bradley, a school friend.

The many friends of Mr. Eugene Fowler are sorry to hear of his illness, but pneumonia and they hope for him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McMurray of Lancaster were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. McKelvey during the holidays.

Miss Elbet Hayward has returned to her home in Columbia after spending a while here with Mrs. Mary Lou Morje.

Miss Tashel and her family attended a number of her neighborhood friends Saturday at an informal bridge party.

Mrs. W. F. Ferguson left Monday for her home in Atlanta after spending a while here with her sister Mrs. J. D. Kerr.

Mrs. J. E. Lattimer entertained the Abbeville Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy Tuesday afternoon at their regular monthly meeting.

Mrs. W. D. Simpson is at home again after spending some time in Monroe with relatives.

Miss Eva Baker has gone to Columbia to make a business tour.

Mr. Edwin K. Lewis came down from Wall-halla and spent Sunday in the city with Mr. Lewis Perrin.

Hon. Frank E. Gary left Monday for Columbia.

Mr. J. Fraser Lyon is in Columbia for a few days the guest of his father Judge J. Fuller Lyon.

BELLEVEUE.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Owen returned to their home in Amity Ga. Friday, after a pleasant visit to relatives at Abbeville and Bellevue.

Mrs. M. D. Wardlaw and Miss Emma Wardlaw were guests of Mrs. C. J. Lyon Thursday and on Friday they visited Mrs. J. T. Bradley.

Mrs. J. E. Britton was a sociable at the residence of Mrs. Mollie Britton of Sandover, Wednesday night 28th of December.

Miss Bess Britton entertained a number of her friends at a sociable Monday night.

Mr. W. H. Pennel has moved back to his old home.

Mr. Oscar Morrish, of Clemson, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Morrish.

Miss Sarah Britton will not return to McCormick she will attend the Bellevue school.

Prof. and Mrs. M. E. Bradley of Clemson, and Mr. Wardlaw Morrish, of Atlanta, spent Christmas with relatives in this community.

There was a sociable at the residence of Mr. T. J. Britt Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner of McCormick were visitors at Mr. J. S. Britt's Wednesday.

Prof. Foster of Clemson spent several days in Bellevue Christmas, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Morrish.

The K of P of Mt. Carmel gave an oyster supper Wednesday night at the Bellevue school.

The Woodmen of the World met at Sandover Thursday night.

Prof. Harper and Mr. Quarles of McCormick were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Wardlaw Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. McGee, of Anderson, spent Christmas with home folks.

Mrs. J. B. Britt spent Friday and Saturday in Abbeville.

This writer was among the invited guests Kennedy Wednesday night at the home of Mr. W. E. at a turkey dinner given.

Mr. John Wardlaw and Mrs. Lealey spent Thursday with Mrs. Cowart.

Mrs. W. E. Kennedy and Mrs. J. E. Britt were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Morrish Friday night.

Mrs. Sprague and Mrs. Conner spent Christmas with Mr. Bottley.

Mr. John Cowart died in Columbia Wednesday morning, his remains were brought to Troy Thursday afternoon and laid to rest in the cemetery at Long Cane.

"Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,
And stars to set, but all
Thou hast all seasons for thine own,
O Death!"

Another Editor's View.

Anderson Mail.

Here is what the venerable Capt. Charles Petty, editor of the Carolina Spartan, has to say about the Creighton case. His views are practically the same as those of The Daily Mail and of hundreds of others:

"When the verdict was announced by the committee appointed to try Mr. Creighton, The Spartan stated that the church was unfortunate in framing charges against preachers. It would be better to be as lenient as our friends of the army and make the charge 'conduct unbecoming a minister of the gospel.' Since the trial we have seen no reason to change our opinion. Mr. Creighton may be a bad, troublesome man, bringing great vexation and annoyance to the preaching elders, but the rank and file of the Methodist church do not believe that he is guilty of gross immorality, or simply of immorality. As evidence of that, many of the preachers of the conference and hundreds of laymen take and read his paper, the Christian Appeal. Recently the people about Bennettsville, mostly members of the Methodist Church, sent \$111 as a Christian present to Mr. Creighton, accompanying it with a letter, endorsing his course and condemning the manner of the trial and the verdict. Such is the feeling in some Methodist circles. It is very unfortunate. A gospel of love, reconciliation, peace, good will, wisdom that is enriched and sanctified by the Holy Spirit is sadly needed in the church."

Chicago News.

"Ah, at last!" exclaimed Mrs. Stubb, with a smile of victory, here is where some great man says bachelors cannot reach heaven."

"Oh that's all right" replied Mr. Stubb, savagely. "They are satisfied I am sure. They have heaven right here on earth."