The Advertiser.

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BY
DURISOE, KEESE & CO.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

The ADVERTISER is published regularly every WEDNESDAY MORNING, at THREE DOLLARS per annum; ONE DOLLAR and FIFTY CTS. for Six Months; SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS for Three Months,—*always in advance.*

☞ All papers discontinued at the expiration of the time for which they have been paid.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rate of ONE DOLLAR and FIFTY CENTS per Square (10 Minion lines or less,) for the first insertion, and ONE DOLLAR for each subsequent insertion

☞ A liberal discount will be made to those wishing to advertise by the year.

Announcing Candidates $5,00, in advance.

National Union Convention.

A National Union Convention of at least two delegates from each Congressional District of all the States, two from each Territory, two from the District of Columbia, and four delegates at large from each State, will be held at the city of Philadelphia on the second Tuesday (14th) of August next.

Such delegates will be chosen by the electors of the several States who sustain the Administration in maintaining unbroken the Union of the States under the Constitution which our fathers established, and who agree in the following proposition, viz:

The Union of the States is, in every case, indissoluble, and is perpetual; and the Constitution of the United States, and the laws passed by Congress in pursuance thereof, supreme and constant, and universal in their obligation;

The rights, the dignity, and the equality of the States in the Union, including the right of representation in Congress, are solemnly guaranteed by that Constitution, to save which from overthrow so much blood and treasure were expended in the late civil war;

There is no right, anywhere, to dissolve the Union, or to separate States from the Union either by voluntary withdrawal, by force of arms, or by Congressional action, neither by the secession of the States, or by the exclusion of their loyal and qualified representatives, nor by the National Government in any other form;

Slavery is abolished, and neither can, nor ought to be, re-established in any State or Territory within our jurisdiction;

Each State has the undoubted right to prescribe the qualifications of its own electors, and no external power rightfully can, or ought to dictate, control or influence the free and voluntary action of the States in the exercise of that right;

The maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially of the right of each State to order and control its own domestic concerns, according to its own judgment exclusively, subject only to the Constitution of the United States, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend, and the overthrow of that system by the usurpation and centralization of power in Congress would be a revolution dangerous to republican government and destructive of liberty;

Each House of Congress is made, by the Constitution, the sole judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its members; but the exclusion of loyal Senators and Representatives, properly chosen and qualified under the Constitution and laws, is unjust and revolutionary.

Every patriot should frown upon all those acts and proceedings everywhere, which can serve no other purpose than to rekindle the animosites of war, and the effect of which upon our moral, social and material interests at home, and upon our standing abroad, differing only in degree, is injurious like war itself.

The purpose of the war having been to preserve the Union and the Constitution by putting down the rebellion, and the rebellion having been suppressed, all resistance to the authority of the General Government being at end, and the war having ceased, war measures should also cease, and should be followed by measures of peaceful administration, so that union, harmony, and concord may be encouraged, and industry commerce, and the arts of peace revived and promoted; and the early restoration of all the States to the exercise of their constitutional powers in the National Government is indispensably necessary to the strength and the defence of the Republic, and to the maintenance of the public credit.

All such electors in the thirty-six States and nine Territories of the United States, and in the District of Columbia, who, in a spirit of patriotism and love for the Union, can rise above personal and sectional considerations, and who desire to see a truly National Union Convention, which shall represent all the States and Territories of the Union, assemble, as friends and brothers, under the national flag, to hold counsel together upon the state of the Union, and to take measures to avert possible danger from the same, are especially requested to take part in the choice of such delegates.

But no delegate will take a seat in such Convention who does not loyally accept the national situation and cordially endorse the principles above set forth, and who is not attached, in true allegiance, to the Constitution, the Union, and the Government of the United States.

A. W. RANDALL,
President.
J. B. DOOLITTLE,
O. H. BROWNING,
EDGER COWAN,
CHARLES KNAP,
SAMUEL FOWLER,
Executive Committee National Union Club.

We recommend the holding of the above Convention, and endorse the call therefor,

DANIEL S. NORTON.
J. W. NESMITH,
JAMES DIXON,
T. A. HENDRICKS.

Washington, June 25, 1866.

The Richmond *Enquirer* to which we are indebted for the first copy of the above important movement that we have seen, says of it:

"It is to be regretted that the authors did not confine themselves to the *practical*, and avoid assaults on theories or systems which the sword has put down, and driven out of the field of discussion. It is impossible for men to command their convictions, or to control the operations of their minds, though they may command their conduct, and may agree to consider a question as finally settled that they may not think logically settled. Several of the dogmas in the commencement of the call, are liable the objection we have intimated, and serve only to exclude citizens from the organization who will, for all practical and valuable purposes, unite heartily and cordially in the movement."

There are bloody times in Little Rock, Arkansas. On Monday night, the 11th inst., the residence of Dr. Webb, at Little Rock, was entered by some one knowing that his safe contained over $70,000. The doctor was, at the time, sleeping in his bed with his son, a boy of twelve years. Both were brutally murdered with an axe. The assassin then procured the key of the safe, but could only open one door. A negro man servant has been arrested. Upon his boot heel, were found thumb and finger prints in blood. The fact that the doctor's dog, a furious animal, was found tied, the next morning, is a strong convicting circumstance against the negro, as he was the only living person, besides Doctor Webb, who dare attempt to tie the dog. Dr. Webb has lived in Little Rock for nine years, and was universally respected.—Columbus Sun.

☞ Texas election returns are largely in favor of Throckmorton for Governor, and the Union Conservative ticket elected by an immense majority.

SENTENCE AND EXECUTION OF A NEGRO IN GEORGIA.—Three ladies, in Floyd county, Ga., were recently returning home from a visit to a neighbor, when a negro came upon them in a secluded out of the way place, and attempted to detain them all. Two of them succeeded in getting away from him, the other one he took into the woods and tied her and kept her there for his own purposes for two days. Her friends found her at the end of that time. The negro was caught, and the lady was asked what punishment she desired to have inflicted on this demon. She replied she wanted his arms cut off, and then wished him skinned alive. The sentence was executed. The negro lived about ten minutes after the operation.

THE ADVERTISER.

JAMES T. BACON, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 1866.

The Last Day.

Capt. BENJ. ROPER, Tax Collector, will be at this place on Monday next for the purpose of receiving the tax of those persons who have failed to pay their tax. After then his books will close—and woe be unto all defaulters.

☞ The article over the signature of "JUSTICE AND EQUITY" will appear next week.

☞ Mr. EDWARDS has our thanks for late Charleston and New York papers.

Great Grocery Emporium.

We bespeak for the advertisement of JAMES STOGNER, to be found in another column, very special attention. Mr. STOGNER will certainly be able to satisfy the grocery aspirations of all who call upon him at 308 Broad Street, Augusta, Ga.

Who Wants a Still?

If any, let him speak. Not to us however, but to J. N. BESCH, 41 State Street, Charleston. See the card elsewhere with the euphonious and suggestive caption, "Stills, Stills."

I Want a Remedy:—An Uncommon Want,

When every day and hour sends forth a new one. We mean a remedy for the universal poverty and bankruptcy of the people. Monday last was Sale day in Edgefield, and there being a pretty sharp sprinkling of our fellow citizens upon the square, we straggled around to see what we could pick up. We saw nothing but men in animated discussion as to the best and speediest means of relief for the people. We picked up nothing but new plans looking to the same important end. We were reminded of the beginning lines in that bad and beautiful poem, "Don Juan,"

"I want a hero:—an uncommon want,
When every year and month sends forth a new one,
Till after cloying the gazettes with cant,
The age discovers he is not the true one."

The latter two lines, however, have no application to the case, for we certainly want the remedy, and we earnestly hope that some among the valuable articles, on the subject contributed to our columns may happily suggest a good and feasible plan of relief. We cordially invite other communications on the subject. Our only object when we commenced, was to state how *perfectly all-engrossing* we found the question of the public indebtedness, as we wandered among our friends on sale-day.

Twenty Thousand Yards!

Twenty Thousand yards of what? Find the new advertisement of A. T. GRAY & Co., and see. And bear in mind that A. T. GRAY & Co., have no talent for humbug, but always mean exactly what they say.

That "Hole in the Wall."

Again we exalt the horn of the "Hole in the Wall." Its genii, Ed. & JACK, have sent us a picher of iced and lemoned punch, and having tasted, we cannot, like Eve in the garden, help from exhorting every body else to taste. Fly therefore, all ye that thirst, to the "Hole in the Wall." Fly as straight as would a bee from a buckwheat patch to its hive; for in the "Hole in the Wall" are sweets to be found!

About to be Delivered into the Custody of the Civil Authorities.

Those of our fellow-citizens who still remain under military arrest in Charleston will, in a few days, be delived into the custody of the Sheriff of Edgefield District. They are eight or ten in number: Messrs. Lanham, Coleman, Powell, Herlong, Lowry, Minor, Cook, Benson, ——. Of course they will apply for bail, and the probability is that they will go at large. For the misdemeanors of which they are *accused*, they will be tried before the civil Courts. All such cases, as those to which we allude, have been turned over by Gen. Sickles to the civil authorities; or if not yet, will shortly be. Gov. ORR will very soon issue a proclamation setting forth this matter. We learn these facts from Gen. M. C. BUTLER, who has lately returned from Charleston, where he has been for two or three weeks past, seeing after the interests of the prisoners above named.

"We Thank Thee, Jew, for That."

The Atlanta *New Era* says: "The new Army Bill, passed the House of Representatives a few days since, 'prohibits anybody who served in the civil or military' of the Confederacy, from entering the United States army. Let Southern men remember this. The United States can fight its own battles! Let it do so. Southern men everywhere say amen. Let us all remember that should the United States become involved in a foreign war, it is *unlawful* for any Southern man to enter the army of the United States."

Good Point.

The Richmond *Enquirer* makes an excellent point in reference to the continued payment of taxes in the South without representation in Congress. "The time has come," says that paper, "when the legality of such proceedings might be, and ought to be, tested in the Courts." The Constitution expressly declares that representation and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within the Union, according to their respective numbers."

Revival of an Old and Famous Journal.

The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, of Augusta, Ga., established thirty years ago, by Dr. MILTON ANTONY, founder of the Medical College of Georgia, but not published during the late war, has been most successfully revived; and we are much pleased to be in receipt of its first number, that for July 1866. This journal has always stood very high in the learned and scientific world; and has always been noted for its able original communications no less than for its valuable selected articles. The number before us is filled with extremely interesting and reliable surgical statistics of the war.

Medical and scientific men of the South can bestow their patronage no more wisely and patriotically than upon the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*. It is edited by Dr. JOSEPH JONES, Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Georgia. Published by E. H. PUGHE, the very enterprising Printer and Publisher, of Augusta, Ga. Terms—Five Dollars per annum in advance.

☞ All apprehensions about the cholera in New York City have ceased. There is a case occasionally, but it excites only local attention; the quarantine is also free from the scourge. No deaths or admissions on the 29th from that disease.

☞ The twenty Fenian prisoners in the hands of the Canadians will be tried, it is now confidently asserted, by a high official of the Government before the civil Courts. The trial will not come off until the popular excitement is allayed.

☞ The Laurensville *Herald* announces the election of Capt. R. E. Richardson to the office of Clerk of the Court for that district. This is the first election ever held in Laurens District for this office. John Garlington, Esq., held the office for sixty years, having received the appointment for life, when the election was not before the people. He did hold it during life.

Another Great Meeting!

At Woodville Academy.

We have received a communication from prominent citizens of the neighborhood of Woodville Academy and Phoenix Post Office, requesting and authorizing us to announce that a Public Meeting will be held at Woodville Academy on Saturday, the 14th July inst.; to which meeting they respectfully invite the members of the Legislature for Edgefield District; and also their fellow-citizens generally.

The communication which we have had the honor to receive, makes no mention of the object of the meeting; but we feel no hesitancy in stating it to be the consideration and discussion of the indebtedness of the people. Genl. R. G. M. DUNOVANT, Hon. G. D. TILLMAN, Maj. JOSEPH ABNEY, and others, have been invited, and are expected, to address the meeting.

Woodville Academy is near the Abbeville line, and, though not authorized to say so, we opine that the members of the Legislature from Abbeville District, and many of our neighbors across the line, will be present on this occasion; and, further, that distinguished gentlemen from Abbeville will probably address the meeting: thereby making it one of unusual interest and importance.

Not the least attractive feature of the proposed assemblage will be the Pic Nic.

For the Advertiser.

MR. EDITOR: According to previous notice, there was a large and most respectable meeting of the people, at Meeting Street, or Little Stevens Creek, on Friday the 29th inst.

On motion, Dr. JOHN LAKE was called to the chair, and Dr. D. C. TOMPKINS requested to act as Secretary.

The Chair explained, in some appropriate remarks, that the object of the meeting was to consider the indebtedness of the country, and, if possible, to devise some means of relieving it, and of alleviating the distress consequent thereupon.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to prepare business for the meeting, viz: Dr. D. C. Tompkins, Capt. T. Dean, Wm. Stevens, Gen. Paul Quattlebaum, Jno. Smyley, Dr. O. W. Allen, Capt. Jas. Dean, Benj. Cogburn, J. A. Bland, Col. Jno. Huiet, Dr. Walter Nicholson, Benj. Mays, and Maj. Benj. Nicholson.

In the meantime, Major JOSEPH ABNEY, Dr. JOHN LANDRUM, Mr. LUKE CULBREATH, Mr. THOMAS JONES, and Col. JOHN HUIET addressed the people assembled, with earnestness and power, on the all-absorbing topics, that had brought them together. It is to be regretted, however, that our time prevents us, at present, from giving anything like a full expression of the views advanced by these gentlemen. Perhaps we may be able to do so in your next issue. Suffice it to say, that all concurred in the necessity of doing something, and of urging upon the Governor the importance of calling together the Legislature, that they may adopt measures for avoiding or staying the flood of litigation and ruin which is likely to burst upon us.

The Resolutions reported by the Committee, were finally adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the proceedings and Resolutions of the meeting at Bethel on the Ridge, and recommend that such meetings be held all over the State.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Legislature, if it has the constitutional power, should equalize or regulate the indebtedness of the people, according to the principles of equity and justice, keeping in view, the depreciation of their property, and their actual losses, by the war and its results, and their means and ability of making payments; and if the Legislature lacks the power, that it be requested to call a Convention of the State for that purpose.

And be it further Resolved, That it is the duty of the Legislature to pass any other constitutional measures, that may occur to their wisdom, for the relief of debtors, and for the restoration of confidence, and of proper relations between debtor and creditor.

Resolved, That the Chairman appoint a Committee of three to urge upon His Excellency, the Governor, the necessity of calling an Extra Session of the Legislature, to consider the vital interests of the State, which are now in imminent peril.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Edgefield *Advertiser*, and copied in all other friendly Journals of the State.

Under the 4th Resolution Dr. John Landrum, Col. James C. Smyly, and Dr. D. C. Tompkins, were appointed a Committee to confer with the Governor. The meeting then adjourned.

JOHN LAKE, Chair.

D. C. TOMKINS, Sec'ry.

For the Advertiser.

A Constitutional Stay Law.

MR. EDITOR:—We are in a fearful crisis. Conquered by our enemies—insulted and oppressed by tyranny—impoverished—disheartened—in debt, without the wherewith to pay—and utter ruin of so large a majority of our citizens, now so gloomily anticipated, in consequence of the removal of the "Stay Law," constitutes a crisis, that may well cause the stoutest hearts and strongest nerves to fear and tremble. Much has already been written upon this all-engrossing subject: and we believe the people are fully awake to their own interests; and while other and more able pens have discussed, and wiser heads have proposed remedies, legal and equitable, we hope to be excused for making a few suggestions to the people, from a stand-point *strictly constitutional*.

Such is the nature of Civil Law, that it is impossible to make a legal remedy, in regard to debts or private contracts, without violating the constitutional law of the land. If then the law can afford no remedy, the indebtedness of the people ceases to be a question of civil law, and necessarily becomes a question of moral law. Hence, our only *constitutional* remedy is by appealing to the "Higher Law"—the law of God. It is wisely said in this *unerring* Code of Law, that "the love of money is the root of all evil," and we, the people, may be justly charged with having worked our own ruin with the "*greediness of filthy lucre.*" "Owe no man anything," is one of its divine precepts, to which few, if any, have given their adhesion. Hence the indebtedness of the country. That the majority of this indebtedness of the people, is due, to one another, is a source of some comfort, inasmuch as it also places the remedy in their own hands, or more properly speaking, *it should be, in their own hearts.*

While this "Higher Law" no where teaches a disregard to private contract[illegible] on every page, that integrity of soul, and purity of heart, which can not look on "repudiation" without a blush of shame. And yet, it plainly teaches the doctrine of "*forgiveness.*" "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Who will do thus? We may also be asked, where will be the equity in this mode of settlement, since all men are not equally indebted? It is just as easy, just as equitable, to forgive debts, in the present condition of our country, as to go to law and let the *Lawyers* consume the substance of both debtor and creditor in extortionate costs, fees, &c.

"Now, therefore, there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" Such is the language of the moral law—the Constitution of the "Law of Love." It furthermore teaches "love thy neighbor as thyself,—and as ye would have others do unto you, do ye so even unto them." This is our only "*Constitutional Stay Law.*" Forgive the debts of your debtors,—and your creditors, forgiving your debts,—the country will be relieved of debt by the simplest, the best, and the only Constitutional Remedy. Who believes it? Who will adopt it? Alas! for human selfishness.

NEMO.

☞ The celebration of St. John's Day at Anderson on the 23d inst., is represented through the *Intelligencer* to have been imposing. After a procession, an address was delivered to an immense concourse in the Baptist Church, by Capt. Thomas, following whom, His Excellency, Gov. Orr, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State, entertained the audience with a Masonic speech. The services of the day were closed by a sumptuous repast at the Benson House.

☞ The Jacinto *Patriot* says that one hundred acres of good land, lying with in three miles of Corinth, Mississippi, was sold a few days since at auction, being a trustee's sale, for thirty-five cents per acre.

For the Advertiser.

Stay Law, Taxes and Roads.

To the Editor.—Some time ago, I addressed you a communication, in regard to the Court of Errors, annulling the Stay Law. Since that writing, the newspapers bring us intelligence of the final decision of the Supreme Court of Alabama upon the Stay Law of that State. In Alabama it is held, that so much of their Stay Law as interdicts the service of writs, and other mesne process *before* judgment upon a contract, is unconstitutional; but that so much of it as allows a stay of Execution *after* judgment, so as to prevent levy and sale for a limited period, is constitutional. For all practical purposes this decision gives the people of Alabama just as good a Stay Law as ought to be desired.

Is there any ground for hope that our Judges, after they shall have realised the ruin and distress brought upon South Carolina by their recent decision annulling our entire Stay Law, will retrace their steps and *compromise* upon some such construction of the Constitution of the United States, in relation to enforcing contracts as the Courts of Alabama have done? It is seriously to be apprehended that there is but small ground for such a hope. Pride of consistency in the Judges, and the overshadowing influence of the Bar, are likely to prevent any considerable measure of relief being afforded by the Courts.

Our people may yet have to claim protection of the United States' Courts against the Tribunals of the State, in reference to the Stay Law. The right of appeal from the Court of Errors to the Federal Courts exists, and it is urged upon debtors, by all means, to take such an appeal—to make a case, and raise funds enough, even by subscription if necessary, to secure the services of able Counsel. There are many strong reasons for believing that the Supreme Court of the United States would affirm similar doctrines in regard to staying Executions as have been established by the Courts of Alabama. Stranger things have happened than a citizen of South Carolina successfully seeking redress from the Courts of the United States against the cruel tyranny and ruinous oppression of his own *timid* state Courts.

If the startling surprise and indignation of the people, at the annullment of the Stay Law could be concentrated and properly expressed, it might be that the Legislature at its next Session would be able to enact some sort of law enjoining Executions, so as to meet the approbation of the Court of Errors. Many Courts of last resort, have often before now reconsidered and reversed their previous decisions from motives of public policy, and to promote the general welfare. Because no petitions, or memorials praying a continuance of the Stay Law were sent up to the Legislature at its last Session, it was hence inferred, by those who were anxious to have some ground for drawing such an inference, that the people were careless about the Stay Law. Nine-tenths of the people of the State never had the remotest dread but that the Legislature would continue the Stay Law, and it was for this reason mostly that no instructions were given to the Legislature. Let public opinion now speak in thunder tones so as to reach even the ears of the Judges, as well as those of the Legislators, and some regard may yet be had for the wishes of the great mass of the State.

In any event, some remedy can, will and must be found, to prevent the State being bought at auction by the strolling Yankees with carpet sacks of Greenback Shinplasters, who are now prowling about the country, or shortly will be, in search of the best Cotton plantations by the time the Sheriffs advertise them for sale. The people of the South have no money. Their gold was shipped to Europe to buy munition and stores for the Confederate army. Their Bank Bills and Confederate Notes were utterly destroyed by the war. The remnant of cotton they had on hand at the close of hostilities, has been sold for the most part, and expended for necessaries. Then where are our people "to the manor born," to get money from, unless they be allowed to make two, or three cotton crops, with which either to pay debts, or buy their neighbor's land, in competition with a Yankee purchaser? Greenbacks are more plentiful at the North than ever Confederate Notes were at the South, and if our Judges wish to have the State inundated with Yankees, —if they would destroy the homogenity of our society,—if they desire to drive the mass of Carolinians into penniless exile, for no fault except too much devotion to the State, and to the teachings of most of those very Judges and Chancellors, then they have only to persist in annulling all Stay Laws. The debts of Guardians, Executors, Administrators and Trustees alone, which are generally owing by the very bone and sinew of the land, are quite sufficient to sell one-third of all the property in the State, if debtors are not allowed a reasonable time to work them out, —and most of these large debts are past due, as but few estates were settled up during the war.

Never, in the history of the world, have a set of public officers so misunderstood what the exigencies of the times required at their hands, to promote the public good, as our Judges in annulling the entire Stay Law at a blow, in the present ruined condition of the country. Even the very Chancellor who wrote nearly all the ordinances of the Secession Convention—who aspired to lead in the Secession movement,—now seems equally anxious to turn upon our impoverished people and hunt them down, thereby subjecting himself to the suspicion that he only espoused Secession principles to ride into power. His course in both the reconstruction Convention, and the Court of Errors, appears clearly to indicate that he is demolishing the spring board by which he vaulted into his present eminence. He may think that he has risen so high the people cannot reach him, but such pleasant thoughts might prove a delusion. Our people at least, will remain steadfast to their ancient faith, although their old leaders may turn renegades. Volumes could be written upon the necessity of a Stay Law at this time, but perhaps I weary the reader, so will quit the subject for the present at least.

Something now of Taxes. When the late war broke out, South Carolina contained over four-hundred thousand slaves, who bore the chief burden of State Taxes, which were extracted from the pockets of their masters. Since Emancipation has taken place, without a cordial and general co-operation among the white population of the State, the negroes will pay hardly any Taxes at all, and the burden of carrying on the State Government will have to be shouldered by the three hundred thousand whites alone. It is well known that it was difficult to collect Taxes from Free Negroes, even from those who were freeholders, before the abolition of slavery. But few freedmen have as yet any property except their heads, a dog and a walking stick. Nearly every colored male, over twenty-one years of age, possesses all these items of estate, and the Legislature at its last Session, for many obvious reasons, levied both a Poll Tax and a Tax upon dogs, in order among other things, to reach Quashee's purse as well as that of the white man.

Our *ascertained* State debt is about seven millions of dollars, of which the war debt constitutes about two millions. The annual interest upon this alone is over four hundred thousand dollars, which must of course be paid by Taxes. I believe it is not expected ever to pay the principal. South Carolina is the only one of the "so-called Confederate States," (as it might be treason not to use Lord Russell's designation,) that has not and probably will not repudiate her war debt. In case the Radical Congress should not insist upon our Repudiating this debt, the people may hereafter look into the matter to ascertain if they got an equivalent for their Bonds. If the debt should be repudiated, it will have to be done by an amendment of the Constitution, as that instrument prohibits the Legislature from passing any law impairing the obligation of contracts.

The Bank of the State, which has from its origin been a festering sore upon our body politic, has near four millions dollars of bills in circulation, without any valuable assets with which to redeem them. If the State does not redeem those bills a persistent and desperate effort will be used to make her do it, and whoever knows any thing of the *corruption*, in South Carolina legislation—whoever is posted as to the overwhelming influence of *Corporations* in our Legislature, will tremble for the success of such a bribe as say *two millions* would offer to a *majority* of the General Assembly, in the present poverty-stricken condition of their private affairs.

Again: the State is stockholder and indorser to the extent of several millions dollars in her Railroads and in the Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee Railroad, known as the "Rabun Gap" or "Blue Ridge." At the last Session of the Legislature, by concerted action among all these Railroads, mainly through the stockholders and officers of the Roads, (who best know for what special purpose they became members of the Legislature,) the State Mortgage and *first* lien upon the Roads was *postponed* to a *second* lien, so as to enable the Roads to raise funds from other sources by giving the new creditors a first lien. It was idle for the few disinterested and faithful Representatives of the people to oppose the concerted scheme. They were easily out-voted, and all their attempts to have the Railroads sold, so as that they could be rebuilt honestly without taxing the already overburdened and ruined people, were of no avail. In the late Convention an effort was made to throw some safeguards around the State Treasury, and to fix some restraints upon the previous all-controlling influence of Corporations in the Legislature, but all to no purpose. But few could be found to sustain such propositions. There were too many stockholders and friends of the Corporations even in the Convention.

As the only means of avoiding Bankruptcy, or the disgrace of repudiation, our people will yet have to arise in their strength, and incorporate a provision in their Constitution that all Charters of Incorporation shall be subject to repeal or alteration by the Legislature at any time, or that no officer or stockholder beyond a small specified amount of any industrial Incorporation shall be eligible to a seat in either branch of General Assembly, or that the Legislature shall never use, or lend the *credit* of the State, above a limited sum, either to build Railroads in other States, or to erect new Capitols at a cost of undefined millions. The Constitution of almost every State in the Union has one, or two, and in some cases, even all three of these provisions. If our people delay much longer to establish similar organic laws, they will have become inextricably involved in debt, not to promote the public good, but simply to advance private interests. Unless something be speedily done to protect the Treasury of the State, our public debt is bound to increase more rapidly and largely than ever,—our taxes to swell and multiply until we will have become the best taxed and worst governed State in America. Corporate privileges and State aid to Corporations, or Contracts with the State to do some insignificant, or foolish thing, are the favorite means employed to plunder the State by those who think they have a *divine right* to be quartered on the public.

A Constitutional Convention would doubtless be the best way to effect the desired reforms, and the writer respectfully suggests to his fellow-citizens, at the October elections in 1867, to make the question throughout the State of "Convention, or no Convention," a test among candidates for both Houses. This recommendation may not be heeded,—is not expected to be heeded—but sooner or later, a Convention must be assembled to make the reforms indicated, as certain as night follows the day, and as sure as human nature works by fixed laws in reproducing like results. Our Banks have been accustomed to suspend specie payments, or to expand or contract their paper issue at will, to the ruin of thousands of the people at large, yet the Legislature has never been able either to afford any relief to the injured parties, or to punish the Banks, because too many *interested* stockholders and officers of the Banks have always managed to represent themselves in Columbia, at the sacrifice of their constituents. Our Railroads have charged what freight or fare they pleased, —have carried the mail or not as they liked,—and have got State aid as they wanted it, simply for the reason that we have no constitutional checks like those above mentioned.

But let us return from this digression. Pay day will come some time for interest and even the principal of the Railroad Bonds indorsed by the State, as well as for assessments upon State subscribed stock, and where is most of the money to come from, except out of the State Treasury? Even the South Carolina Railroad has not paid one dollar of the two millions of its Bonds indorsed by the State, although by the terms of the indorsement the *whole* principal of the Bonds was to have been paid in January last. If this great Road, which is the wealthiest in the State, has failed to meet its debts by *dividing all the profits among the stockholders*, what better can be expected of the poorer and shorter Roads, especially as they all more or less have to be rebuilt since the war? Large amounts of both principal and interest already due upon the Bonds of the State, and those she has indorsed, remain unpaid, and her credit is even now dishonored, because neither she, nor the Corporati as for whom she has indorsed, have the wherewith to meet the obligations. True, the State has issued half a million of Treasury Notes toward liquidating present indebtedness, but those Treasury Notes themselves will have to be redeemed.

Moreover, the Blue Ridge Railroad will cost other and further millions to complete it, most of which will have to be subscribed by the State, as no one else will lend that monument of folly money except upon good security. Then, as the State will have to subscribe the needed money, either out of her treasury, or by issuing her Bonds, or by indorsing the Bonds of the company, upon either of which the interest will have to be paid by the State until the Road can be completed so as itself to be able to pay the interest upon its Bonded debt, whence is the money to be derived, with which to do this except by additional heavy Taxation? Still further: the New State Capitol, which has already cost about three millions dollars in gold, by gross mismanagement, must be finished by the expenditure of several hundred thousands dollars more; over twenty Court Houses and Jails, burnt by the Yankees, must be rebuilt; nearly every public Bridge in the State must be reconstructed; our largely increased number of Paupers must be provided for; thousands of poor orphans, whose gallant fathers perished in the war, must be educated; the widowed mothers of those orphans, and the numerous heroic poor men who were permanently disabled in the service of the State, must be pensioned;—and where, let it be asked again, is the money to come from except by Taxation.

To come to the point, if Sambo is not made to pay his share of the Taxes, that share will have to be paid by his white employer, or by those poor white men who have no negroes about them. If the revenue anticipated by the Legislature from negroes and dogs is not collected this year, then at the next Session the people's Representatives will be forced to raise the Tax upon land, town lots, cotton, doctors, lawyers, merchants, etc., as well as to fasten Taxes upon other items—almost every item of the white man's estate. While these are facts, that ought to be patent to every one, we yet hear of many white persons who have large numbers of freedmen employed, and who boldly say that they will neither pay the Taxes of said freedmen, nor inform against them to the Tax Collector. Such conduct, if persisted in, would be both suicidal and unpatriotic, and could proceed only from ignorance or avarice, blind to its own interest, or from pretended friendship, but real enmity to the negro, since the Tax Gatherer can either imprison Cuffee, or attach his wages in the hands of his employer, either for the Poll Tax or the Tax upon dogs, and make him pay *costs* besides. It is the duty of every white employer to tell the whole truth to his freedmen, and to see to it that their Taxes are paid. Our Tax Collector will need all the help he can possibly get to gather the Freedmen's taxes, and every good citizen will and ought to render that help cheerfully.

A word as to our Highways. They are in almost an impassible condition every where. No one works the Public Roads now, or seems to care if they are worked. The main cause is perhaps that the negroes have no permanent residence,—that no record can be kept of permanent colored road-workers, owing to the fact that but few of them are freeholders, and that they are constitutionally migratory vagabonds in all countries where they are free to roam. The best remedy for this state of things is for the Commissioners of Roads to let out by contract to the lowest bidder, the working of all the Highways in each Battalion, by militia Beats, or otherwise, and tax the people, both white and black, to foot the bill. This is the only (or at least it is the favorite) method of working Public Roads in all free societies, and it was the plan of both opening and keeping up highways in several of the Southern States before the abolition of slavery. It is by far the cheapest and most efficient method of working Highways, as all travelers in communities where the system prevails, can testify. So convinced was our Legislature of this, even many years ago, that an act was passed allowing discretion to the Commissioners of Roads in each District to either work the Roads by calling out all hands liable to do the duty, or to let the working by contract. It is to be desired that the several Boards of Commissioners will proceed at once to act under this law, which has been allowed to sleep on the Statute Book too long already. It is a grievous evil that our Highways generally are in such a condition as to endanger the lives of a family who visit even their next door neighbors. Let us try the contract system as an experiment any way. Under that system we could work our crops without being disturbed. The Contractor would consult his own interest in repairing the Roads *immediately* after every washing rain, and the roads would be kept in good order all the while. He would also study road making as a science, and *one mind* would give unity as well as something like permanence to a settled plan for improving the Roads, instead of our present no plan at all, where each mile of Road has a different overseer almost every year.

COKE.

For the Advertiser.

MR. EDITOR,—The proposition for relieving the present indebtedness of the country, made in your last issue, signed W. W. ADAMS, Esq., though genious and plausible, is, in our opinion, imperfect.

The scheme, as we understand it, is simply that South Carolina should borrow five millions of dollars, with the avowed intention of lending the same to her citizens, upon certain conditions, viz: That those seeking the benefit of such loan should receive it by first mortgaging their land to the State at one-third less than its real value.

First.—The scheme is impracticable. The State has no credit, and besides, is in debt,—insomuch that it was only after continued and indefatigable exertion, that she was enabled, in the winter of 1865, to borrow the pitiful sum of $100-000, with which to meet the current expenses of the Public Departments. In order to borrow money, the State must issue her Bonds, and those Bonds must be based upon some unquestionable and tangible security. When thrown upon the market, capitalists will naturally inquire as to the policy of investment therein, and just as naturally shrink therefrom when the real condition of the State is exposed to their experienced eyes. The City of Charleston, as we understand, has offered to pay five per cent. per month upon all sums loaned it by capitalists,—and even that ruinous per centage has been refused at the North.

For the sake of argument, however, we admit the practicability of the scheme, and state a few objections thereto:

First.—The passage of such an Act by the Legislature would be subject to the odious cry of Class Legislation. There would be at least two classes of our citizens excluded from its proposed benefits: Those who are not seized of real estate, and those upon whose property (real and personal) certain liens exist by means of executions in the Sheriff's office, and mortgages regularly recorded in the Office of the Register of Mesne Conveyance, or any lien whatsoever. The former cannot borrow a dollar of the $5,000,000, because they own no land to mortgage to the State by way of collateral security; and the latter would find themselves in the same category, because of the liens upon their property which must necessarily take precedence of any mortgage given to the State. These two classes compose at least one-fifth of the citizens of the District,—and that very portion who need relief at the present moment,—and yet undoubtedly they would be excluded, by the very nature of circumstances, from any benefit of the proposed loan on the part of the State.

Second.—The scheme proposes only a change of creditors. The State would become the mortgage creditor of its citizens, and the citizen, instead of being in the power of individuals, who are generally supposed to possess a soul, would have placed himself, bound hand and foot, at the tender mercy of a soulless Corporation, and that too at the clear loss of one third of his real estate.

Third.—The proposed scheme opens the door to fraud of gigantic proportions.

Its entire validity depends upon the fact that those who borrow the money, would, so soon as it had been received, seek their creditors and liquidate their debts. The borrower, to a great extent, would be largely indebted to individual creditors, perhaps to double the amount of his visible estate. Is it natural to suppose that he would pay this indebtedness? On the contrary, is it not evident to any judge of human nature, that such debtor, after having mortgaged his land to the State, and received the money into his hands, would reason thus,—"Well, I owe twice as much as I can pay. I have mortgaged my all to the State from whom I have received $1000, or $10,000, as the case may be. I cannot pay my debts; it is doubtful even whether I can even raise the mortgage from my land;—it is a good opportunity for me to go into parts unknown, or to enter into a large speculation. Let the State foreclose her mortgage;—and as for the creditors, to whom I was indebted, before the Mortgage was executed, the devil take the hindmost." This would be exposing human nature to a temptation to fraud unparralelled in Legislation. Such an Act would enable every dishonest debtor to jeer his creditors with the taunt "*scabies occupet extremum*," and to "whistle them down the tide to prey on garbage."

Fourth.—The proposition does not prevent the sueing to judgment, and the enforcement of execution. It is true the State would be the Mortgage Creditor, but the execution creditor would have nothing to do but order the Sheriff to sell the land subject to the mortgage, and the purchaser thereof could immediately enforce a writ of *habere facias possessionem*,—and thus even the man, who was disposed to undertake the loan honestly, would not be ultimately protected in the possession of his freehold.

Other and equally conclusive objections to this scheme suggest themselves to our mind, but we forbear to make such objections cumulative and prolix.

We have a high regard for the honest intention of "W. W. A." We are satisfied of the sincerity of his motives, and do not question the purity of his impulses. But the question is one of vital importance, and ought to be freely ventilated. The people really need assistance, and if, from their primary meetings in the different Districts, they forward to the Governor, petitions for relief, void of personal abuse and scurrilous assertion,—petitions comporting with their own dignity and self-respect, and in conformity with the civilization of the age,—such relief will ultimately be granted.

In our next article we propose to discuss this subject more minutely and endeavour to suggest some scheme looking to the relief of our citizens.

PERSONNE.

☞ Several young men in Boston have been poisoned by wearing paper collars. The arsenic used in enameling the collars, according to the opinion of the physicians, was absorbed into the system and produced painful local inflammations, resembling boils or carbuncles.

☞ An estimate of the growing cotton crop, based upon reports of Sheriffs and prominent persons in every county of the cotton States has been made. It is reported the average crop is between one-fourth and one-fifth of the crop of 1860.

☞ Twenty wagon loads—men, women and children—of those romantic vagrants called Gipsies, passed through Harrisburg, Pa., last week.

For the Advertiser.

MR. EDITOR.—Please allow me a small space in your paper to answer certain allegations contained in the communication of W. W. ADAMS, Esq., in your last issue, well calculated to mislead the public mind, and place myself in a false position before the people of the District. After avowing myself the author of "RUSTIC," I will very briefly notice some of his criticisms.

I would inform the gentleman that I utterly disclaim using anything like "vituperation" against him, or any of his profession. Lawyers are like the rest of mankind, divided into two classes. The late war has demonstrated that there are many of them as brave, self-sacrificing, and patriotic as the best of any