

RIORDAN, DAWSON & CO., PROPRIETORS. Office No. 18 Hayne Street.

Subscription rates: per copy, twelve months, \$10; six months, \$5; three months, \$2.50. Advertising rates: fifteen cents a line for the first insertion, and ten cents a line for each subsequent insertion.

CHARLESTON.

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 19, 1867.

NEWS SUMMARY.

Cotton sales in New York 1800 bales, at 17 1/2 to 18c for Middling Uplands. Gold closed at 134 1/2. Liverpool cotton market at 2 P. M. was unchanged.

Colonel McCarty, editor of a Vicksburg paper, who has been arrested by order of General Ord, has been released.

Memphis boasts of rapidly reviving business. There is the prospect of a larger cotton trade than during any year since 1860.

Ex-Governor Bramlette, of Kentucky, has gone over to the regular democracy, and the third party of that State is broken up.

Mrs. Frank Clarke, the inventor of what is known as the "tonic school" system of teaching music, died at Malvern, England last month.

A journeyman mason in London killed himself the other day, in despair at the discovery, the day after his wedding, that his wife had a glass eye.

In reply to a paper which called General Sherman "the coming man," a Georgia Journal pettishly says it hopes he is not coming that way again.

Buenos Ayres has projected a rail road across the Andes to Valparaiso, and requests Chile to cooperate in constructing it.

The negro grand jury in Mobile, which closed its labors last week, found bills against thirty-two blacks, and discharged forty, and against four whites, discharging but two.

The London News, in remarking upon the proceedings of a convention of progressive spiritualists recently held in that city, treats the subject under the general head of "Modern Devil Worship."

A disastrous fire took place on Thursday night at Quilman, Ga., on the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad, destroying a block of buildings containing between seven and eight stores. Loss over \$50,000.

From Brazos, Texas, comes a report that not more than one-third of the cotton actually made will be gathered. Neither money, moral season, nor force, will induce enough negroes to work and gather it.

A nation is considering a project for transforming the machine gallery at the Exposition into a permanent international workshop.

Steam engines, aggregating more than two thousand horsepower, are in operation there.

Mrs. Sumner's first husband left her \$100,000, to be forfeited by a second marriage. For the sake of "adorable Cawley," she parted with the filthy lucre.

Who would she not, as the case stands, prefer the adorable lucre to the filthy Cawley?

Old-fashioned Egyptologists, Flaxman and the rest, did not get Egyptian postage stamps in view when they set up the Sphinx and the pyramids; but the different denominations of those stamps are to have views of those structures upon them.

The ramie plant, which is attracting considerable attention in New Orleans, is a substitute for cotton. It is indigenous to Mexico, gives a fibre finer and whiter than grass cloth, is perennial, and yields abundantly four crops in a season.

The Count and Countess Guillaume de Sobran, of Lebanon, France, has sent 40,000 francs as a subsidy toward the Penitential Army, and expresses the desire that the sum may be applied to the purchase of five hundred needles.

The New York Evening Post wants Butler and Stevens "placed in such a position of contempt that their seats in Congress may be considered vacant even before their terms have expired, or their names have ceased to be called upon the roll of members."

John H. Sumner continues in good health at the Washington jail, and bears his confinement philosophically, sometimes engaging in conversation with his sister and a few other relations, who occasionally call upon him, but most of his time is occupied in reading religious books.

The Dutch have discovered that their prisons are too comfortable, and tempt back convicts, who carry away a fond recollection of the luxuries of the incarceration. At least this is the complaint made in a report by one of the committees of the Second Chamber of the States General.

Captain Mayne Reid is residing at Newport. The News suggested that he give readings, whereat the Captain shows more temper than is necessary in replying: "I hope you will do me the honor to believe that I have come to America for a higher purpose than to make exhibition of myself as a literary showman."

On the Blackriver road near London the rats are escaping from the old sewer now being filled up. The South London News says that myriads of them may be seen clambering over the mounds of the rubbish heaped up around, and scampering off in all directions in search of fresh spots for colonization, to the dismay of the inhabitants.

Mayne, the famous forger, by the laying of a cable under the Rhine, has just been connected with the telegraph network, which places all the fortresses of the Rhine in communication with Berlin, or, in case of necessity, with the Commander-in-chief of a Prussian Army. This will be of great value to Prussia, if hostilities break out next year.

General Grant, as Secretary of War, has issued an order assigning Brevet Major-General Barry to the command of Fort Monroe, and of the artillery school of practice recently established at that post. General Barry is one of the most accomplished artillery officers in the service. He it was who organized the whole artillery of the army of the Potomac and of General Sherman's army in the West.

France, under the new laws for their protection they have increased nearly one million of acres. Less than one-sixth of the area of the kingdom is covered with woodland, while it is estimated that from twenty to twenty-five per cent. of a country should be covered with forest in order to secure uniformly good crops. Our forests, now disappearing, demand the attention of Government.

Advices received at the Treasury Department respecting the Custom House at Brownsville, Texas, has been left but very few officials in charge, owing to yellow fever, from which disease several of them died, while others left the town to avoid its ravages. A Collector to fill a vacancy will be appointed at an early day. Returns for receipts from customs at New Orleans have not been made for two months past, owing to the late prevalence of yellow fever.

A Pittsburgh bridge builder has invented a new stop, which, from the accounts in the Pittsburgh papers, is something wonderful. One paper says: "It expresses the touching tenderness of the human heart, and the tremulous, pathetic tones of the violin. Its effect is indescribable and altogether irresistible. Indeed, the human heart and the nerves which can remain unmoved under the influence of its ethereal tones must be composed of wood and leather."

Austria, at least so far as an army is concerned, is putting on her best behavior. Fortifications is no longer to be addressed by superiors to inferiors. Everybody is to be polite to everybody. An Imperial decree directs that officers are to address common soldiers as "you," and not as "thou"; the latter formula, in Austria, indicating either excessive intimacy or contempt. Superiors addressing inferior officers, sub-officers and soldiers, are also in future to add to their names the title of their rank.

The Prussian Government is very eager to learn the secret of the new Napoleon gun, which is said to be a terribly destructive power. Several Prussian lieutenants, disguised as workmen, recently attempted to get the secret by entering as laborers in the French armories at Toulon. They met other workmen already in the French service, and made engagements for the next day. Upon their arrival at the place of rendezvous they were arrested and imprisoned, learning after it was too late that the workmen they had been treating with were police detectives.

The London Shipping Gazette says that Mr. Reed, chief constructor of the British navy, has designed a vessel intended to carry 600-pounders and plates fifteen inches thick. He proposes furnishing her with engines which will drive her at the rate of fourteen to fifteen knots, and if the Admiralty should approve his plans, and direct the work to be proceeded with, by 1869 England

will possess an engine absolutely impregnable to the artillery of the present day, and capable of collecting, annihilating every war vessel now afloat. Mr. Reed seems to have been at last converted to Captain Coles's system, for this, his new ideal man-of-war, combines the best features of the turret as well as the broadside.

Country vs. City.—Discrimination Against Charleston.

Charleston pays far more than her just share of the whole taxation of the State. There is no desire upon the part of Charleston merchants, and Charles' business men, to advocate any addition to the taxation upon any class or set of people, but self-preservation, and a desire to strengthen the vital energy of the Metropolis of Carolina, make it necessary to urge a reduction of the taxes which are now emptying the pockets of her tradesmen, and forcing old and intelligent merchants either to give up business or to do it at a loss.

The people of this city are taxed in every imaginable form. There is a tax on incomes,—a tax on sales,—a payment to be made for certain privileges,—an assessed tax upon articles of luxury,—a tax upon telegraph, gas and express companies which comes out of the purse of the general public. But the most fatal and objectionable of the whole is the tax upon the amount of sales of goods, wares, and merchandise. This tax, under the tax bill of 1866, is fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of sales for the year ending January 1, 1868. To this is to be added a tax of forty-four per cent. of that fifty cents, to provide for the free schools, and free roads and public buildings. This makes the present tax seventy-two and one half cents upon each one hundred dollars. Upon this is heaped the city tax of seventy-five cents making a total taxation of nearly one dollar and fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars.

Now what is the condition of taxation in the country. There, lands are assessed at a low rate; and, as we understand it, improvements on the land are not assessed at all. A planter may build a house at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, but he pays no tax upon it. Estates worth ten or twelve thousand dollars are assessed at two or three thousand dollars. The whole village of Graniteville, with its cotton mills, cottages and other improvements is only taxed as much per acre; while the same property in Charleston would be made to pay ten or fifteen times the amount that is paid by it in the country. The country has had the control of the taxation, and this city has suffered in consequence. In the country the taxation may not be too low, but in the city the taxation is far too high.

What is wanted is a large reduction in the tax on sales of merchandise. Of course it would be best to abolish the tax entirely, and impose a new tax upon income or net profit. This may be impracticable; but it is not impracticable to cut down the fifty cent tax to a five or ten cent tax,—to convert a tax that is killing trade into one that will allow it to live and prosper. The business of this city cannot be revived, while taxation remains at its present rate. Economy is the cry in the household and in the store; economy is impressed upon men of every condition; but where is the use of economy in personal affairs, if it is wholly insufficient to counterbalance State taxation and make both ends meet?

Our merchants should urge these facts upon General Canby, with all the force that the circumstances allow. They can prove to him that these things cannot go on, without closing the doors of our stores, and turning the streets of Charleston into a wilderness. They can show him that the State is now living through Charleston; and that a policy which drives customers from our merchants, and ships from our wharves, must, in the end, increase the depression of the whole State, and prevent the growth and improvement of even the interior of South Carolina.

Back Taxes.

In December, 1866, the Legislature of South Carolina passed a Tax Bill which, amongst other things, imposed an onerous tax upon brokers' commissions, gross receipts of newspapers, and gross amount of sales of goods, wares or merchandise, between January 1, 1866, and January 1, 1867. Efforts were made to have the tax removed, because unjust, discriminating and retrospective. These efforts were unsuccessful, and it is from the military authorities alone that relief is now expected.

An order of General Canby did reduce the tax upon receipts from sales of goods on commission,—where the transaction was completed before the passage of the Act,—but the rate imposed for the year 1866; but the greater number of the persons who were affected by the tax for 1866 are liable for it to this day.

It will be remembered that 1866 was a disastrous year to nearly all business men. There was great competition in trade, the demand was dull, and every merchant and dealer cut down his profits to the very lowest point. He knew what were his ordinary expenses, and did, perhaps, run on until December without loss, when, in the last month of the year, a tax was thrust upon him for the whole of the transactions which had been completed. His goods had been sold and the money received, his newspaper had made a charge for its advertising; and, when all hope of recourse was gone, there was a heavy tax to drag him down to bankruptcy.

If men had the money to pay the retrospective tax of 1866, no voice would be raised against it. But they have not the money. They staggered through the year; they are paying their current taxation; but not more than a dozen merchants in Charleston have paid the tax laid upon them in December, 1866, for the year then ending. Nor can these taxes be forced to payment without causing fearful suffering and distress. There are many houses of high standing that cannot pay this back tax. An order will not make them pay it. A tax execution will not make them pay it. They have not the money; and the attempt to force it from them will drive them into hopeless ruin. They do not bid business on commission, and had completed their transactions, have been relieved. They could not call upon their clients to refund. An estimate had been made, accounts had been balanced. But these gentlemen did not part with the power of reclamation so entirely as was done by the ordinary merchant. He sold his goods, delivered them, and received his money. His profit may not have been more than fifty cents on the hundred dollars; but it was a profit, until the back tax came to turn it into a loss.

A change can now be made. General Canby has the power, and we believe he has the will, to encourage business, and improve our trade. He can strike this back tax from the tax book; he can relieve the fears of many a man who is now living in fear and trepidation. The control is in his hands; and equity, justice, impartiality, and reason, all urge the one course: that of making the back tax absolutely null and void.

Charleston as a Distributing Centre.

New York has been built up by a system of taxation entirely different from that which is now choking the trade of Charleston. In New York the merchant pays a tax upon his net profits or income derived from business; and his gross sales may be counted by tens of millions of dollars, he does not pay one cent unless he makes a profit. This is the true tax policy, and the only one that will encourage enterprise, and ensure prosperity.

When a merchant knows that only his profits will be taxed, he is willing to reduce his profits to a minimum. At twenty-five cents, or fifty cents, on the hundred dollars, he can grow rich, because he will make up by his large business for the small profit upon each article. If he makes ten thousand dollars, he pays tax upon ten thousand dollars; if he makes one hundred thousand dollars, he pays

taxes upon one hundred thousand dollars; if he makes no profit, he pays no tax. This is but just.

There are times when a merchant must sell at, and below, cost; there are times when he cannot make a profit. Surely he should not then be taxed and weighed down; but, on the contrary, the State should bear gently upon him, and not cause him to contribute in taxation what he cannot justly pay. The State does not tax the pauper or the indigent poor; they have nothing, and they are not taxed. But the merchant who commences business, and loses money upon the operations of the year, is worse than without money. He has not only made no profit, but he has made a loss. Far from having a surplus, he owes money to his creditors. This man would not be taxed in New York, but he would be taxed in Charleston;—whether there be a profit or a loss, the merchant in this city must give his pound of flesh. Is this just? Is this wise? Is this the way to make Charleston a distributing centre of trade? No!

Railroads may bring down freight at nominal rates, and our wharves may be crowded with cotton; but this cannot last if trade only sets in one direction. If cars come down full, and go back empty; if steamships sail with full and go back in ballast; it is because cargoes, and return in ballast; it is because Charleston is so taxed and overburdened, she cannot compete trade to come here. All fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of sales for the year ending January 1, 1868. To this is to be added a tax of forty-four per cent. of that fifty cents, to provide for the free schools, and free roads and public buildings. This makes the present tax seventy-two and one half cents upon each one hundred dollars. Upon this is heaped the city tax of seventy-five cents making a total taxation of nearly one dollar and fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars.

Now what is the condition of taxation in the country. There, lands are assessed at a low rate; and, as we understand it, improvements on the land are not assessed at all. A planter may build a house at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, but he pays no tax upon it. Estates worth ten or twelve thousand dollars are assessed at two or three thousand dollars. The whole village of Graniteville, with its cotton mills, cottages and other improvements is only taxed as much per acre; while the same property in Charleston would be made to pay ten or fifteen times the amount that is paid by it in the country. The country has had the control of the taxation, and this city has suffered in consequence. In the country the taxation may not be too low, but in the city the taxation is far too high.

What is wanted is a large reduction in the tax on sales of merchandise. Of course it would be best to abolish the tax entirely, and impose a new tax upon income or net profit. This may be impracticable; but it is not impracticable to cut down the fifty cent tax to a five or ten cent tax,—to convert a tax that is killing trade into one that will allow it to live and prosper. The business of this city cannot be revived, while taxation remains at its present rate. Economy is the cry in the household and in the store; economy is impressed upon men of every condition; but where is the use of economy in personal affairs, if it is wholly insufficient to counterbalance State taxation and make both ends meet?

Our merchants should urge these facts upon General Canby, with all the force that the circumstances allow. They can prove to him that these things cannot go on, without closing the doors of our stores, and turning the streets of Charleston into a wilderness. They can show him that the State is now living through Charleston; and that a policy which drives customers from our merchants, and ships from our wharves, must, in the end, increase the depression of the whole State, and prevent the growth and improvement of even the interior of South Carolina.

Back Taxes.

In December, 1866, the Legislature of South Carolina passed a Tax Bill which, amongst other things, imposed an onerous tax upon brokers' commissions, gross receipts of newspapers, and gross amount of sales of goods, wares or merchandise, between January 1, 1866, and January 1, 1867. Efforts were made to have the tax removed, because unjust, discriminating and retrospective. These efforts were unsuccessful, and it is from the military authorities alone that relief is now expected.

An order of General Canby did reduce the tax upon receipts from sales of goods on commission,—where the transaction was completed before the passage of the Act,—but the rate imposed for the year 1866; but the greater number of the persons who were affected by the tax for 1866 are liable for it to this day.

It will be remembered that 1866 was a disastrous year to nearly all business men. There was great competition in trade, the demand was dull, and every merchant and dealer cut down his profits to the very lowest point. He knew what were his ordinary expenses, and did, perhaps, run on until December without loss, when, in the last month of the year, a tax was thrust upon him for the whole of the transactions which had been completed. His goods had been sold and the money received, his newspaper had made a charge for its advertising; and, when all hope of recourse was gone, there was a heavy tax to drag him down to bankruptcy.

If men had the money to pay the retrospective tax of 1866, no voice would be raised against it. But they have not the money. They staggered through the year; they are paying their current taxation; but not more than a dozen merchants in Charleston have paid the tax laid upon them in December, 1866, for the year then ending. Nor can these taxes be forced to payment without causing fearful suffering and distress. There are many houses of high standing that cannot pay this back tax. An order will not make them pay it. A tax execution will not make them pay it. They have not the money; and the attempt to force it from them will drive them into hopeless ruin. They do not bid business on commission, and had completed their transactions, have been relieved. They could not call upon their clients to refund. An estimate had been made, accounts had been balanced. But these gentlemen did not part with the power of reclamation so entirely as was done by the ordinary merchant. He sold his goods, delivered them, and received his money. His profit may not have been more than fifty cents on the hundred dollars; but it was a profit, until the back tax came to turn it into a loss.

A change can now be made. General Canby has the power, and we believe he has the will, to encourage business, and improve our trade. He can strike this back tax from the tax book; he can relieve the fears of many a man who is now living in fear and trepidation. The control is in his hands; and equity, justice, impartiality, and reason, all urge the one course: that of making the back tax absolutely null and void.

Charleston as a Distributing Centre.

New York has been built up by a system of taxation entirely different from that which is now choking the trade of Charleston. In New York the merchant pays a tax upon his net profits or income derived from business; and his gross sales may be counted by tens of millions of dollars, he does not pay one cent unless he makes a profit. This is the true tax policy, and the only one that will encourage enterprise, and ensure prosperity.

When a merchant knows that only his profits will be taxed, he is willing to reduce his profits to a minimum. At twenty-five cents, or fifty cents, on the hundred dollars, he can grow rich, because he will make up by his large business for the small profit upon each article. If he makes ten thousand dollars, he pays tax upon ten thousand dollars; if he makes one hundred thousand dollars, he pays

taxes upon one hundred thousand dollars; if he makes no profit, he pays no tax. This is but just.

There are times when a merchant must sell at, and below, cost; there are times when he cannot make a profit. Surely he should not then be taxed and weighed down; but, on the contrary, the State should bear gently upon him, and not cause him to contribute in taxation what he cannot justly pay. The State does not tax the pauper or the indigent poor; they have nothing, and they are not taxed. But the merchant who commences business, and loses money upon the operations of the year, is worse than without money. He has not only made no profit, but he has made a loss. Far from having a surplus, he owes money to his creditors. This man would not be taxed in New York, but he would be taxed in Charleston;—whether there be a profit or a loss, the merchant in this city must give his pound of flesh. Is this just? Is this wise? Is this the way to make Charleston a distributing centre of trade? No!

Railroads may bring down freight at nominal rates, and our wharves may be crowded with cotton; but this cannot last if trade only sets in one direction. If cars come down full, and go back empty; if steamships sail with full and go back in ballast; it is because cargoes, and return in ballast; it is because Charleston is so taxed and overburdened, she cannot compete trade to come here. All fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of sales for the year ending January 1, 1868. To this is to be added a tax of forty-four per cent. of that fifty cents, to provide for the free schools, and free roads and public buildings. This makes the present tax seventy-two and one half cents upon each one hundred dollars. Upon this is heaped the city tax of seventy-five cents making a total taxation of nearly one dollar and fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars.

Now what is the condition of taxation in the country. There, lands are assessed at a low rate; and, as we understand it, improvements on the land are not assessed at all. A planter may build a house at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, but he pays no tax upon it. Estates worth ten or twelve thousand dollars are assessed at two or three thousand dollars. The whole village of Graniteville, with its cotton mills, cottages and other improvements is only taxed as much per acre; while the same property in Charleston would be made to pay ten or fifteen times the amount that is paid by it in the country. The country has had the control of the taxation, and this city has suffered in consequence. In the country the taxation may not be too low, but in the city the taxation is far too high.

What is wanted is a large reduction in the tax on sales of merchandise. Of course it would be best to abolish the tax entirely, and impose a new tax upon income or net profit. This may be impracticable; but it is not impracticable to cut down the fifty cent tax to a five or ten cent tax,—to convert a tax that is killing trade into one that will allow it to live and prosper. The business of this city cannot be revived, while taxation remains at its present rate. Economy is the cry in the household and in the store; economy is impressed upon men of every condition; but where is the use of economy in personal affairs, if it is wholly insufficient to counterbalance State taxation and make both ends meet?

Our merchants should urge these facts upon General Canby, with all the force that the circumstances allow. They can prove to him that these things cannot go on, without closing the doors of our stores, and turning the streets of Charleston into a wilderness. They can show him that the State is now living through Charleston; and that a policy which drives customers from our merchants, and ships from our wharves, must, in the end, increase the depression of the whole State, and prevent the growth and improvement of even the interior of South Carolina.

Back Taxes.

In December, 1866, the Legislature of South Carolina passed a Tax Bill which, amongst other things, imposed an onerous tax upon brokers' commissions, gross receipts of newspapers, and gross amount of sales of goods, wares or merchandise, between January 1, 1866, and January 1, 1867. Efforts were made to have the tax removed, because unjust, discriminating and retrospective. These efforts were unsuccessful, and it is from the military authorities alone that relief is now expected.

An order of General Canby did reduce the tax upon receipts from sales of goods on commission,—where the transaction was completed before the passage of the Act,—but the rate imposed for the year 1866; but the greater number of the persons who were affected by the tax for 1866 are liable for it to this day.

It will be remembered that 1866 was a disastrous year to nearly all business men. There was great competition in trade, the demand was dull, and every merchant and dealer cut down his profits to the very lowest point. He knew what were his ordinary expenses, and did, perhaps, run on until December without loss, when, in the last month of the year, a tax was thrust upon him for the whole of the transactions which had been completed. His goods had been sold and the money received, his newspaper had made a charge for its advertising; and, when all hope of recourse was gone, there was a heavy tax to drag him down to bankruptcy.

If men had the money to pay the retrospective tax of 1866, no voice would be raised against it. But they have not the money. They staggered through the year; they are paying their current taxation; but not more than a dozen merchants in Charleston have paid the tax laid upon them in December, 1866, for the year then ending. Nor can these taxes be forced to payment without causing fearful suffering and distress. There are many houses of high standing that cannot pay this back tax. An order will not make them pay it. A tax execution will not make them pay it. They have not the money; and the attempt to force it from them will drive them into hopeless ruin. They do not bid business on commission, and had completed their transactions, have been relieved. They could not call upon their clients to refund. An estimate had been made, accounts had been balanced. But these gentlemen did not part with the power of reclamation so entirely as was done by the ordinary merchant. He sold his goods, delivered them, and received his money. His profit may not have been more than fifty cents on the hundred dollars; but it was a profit, until the back tax came to turn it into a loss.

A change can now be made. General Canby has the power, and we believe he has the will, to encourage business, and improve our trade. He can strike this back tax from the tax book; he can relieve the fears of many a man who is now living in fear and trepidation. The control is in his hands; and equity, justice, impartiality, and reason, all urge the one course: that of making the back tax absolutely null and void.

Charleston as a Distributing Centre.

New York has been built up by a system of taxation entirely different from that which is now choking the trade of Charleston. In New York the merchant pays a tax upon his net profits or income derived from business; and his gross sales may be counted by tens of millions of dollars, he does not pay one cent unless he makes a profit. This is the true tax policy, and the only one that will encourage enterprise, and ensure prosperity.

When a merchant knows that only his profits will be taxed, he is willing to reduce his profits to a minimum. At twenty-five cents, or fifty cents, on the hundred dollars, he can grow rich, because he will make up by his large business for the small profit upon each article. If he makes ten thousand dollars, he pays tax upon ten thousand dollars; if he makes one hundred thousand dollars, he pays

taxes upon one hundred thousand dollars; if he makes no profit, he pays no tax. This is but just.

There are times when a merchant must sell at, and below, cost; there are times when he cannot make a profit. Surely he should not then be taxed and weighed down; but, on the contrary, the State should bear gently upon him, and not cause him to contribute in taxation what he cannot justly pay. The State does not tax the pauper or the indigent poor; they have nothing, and they are not taxed. But the merchant who commences business, and loses money upon the operations of the year, is worse than without money. He has not only made no profit, but he has made a loss. Far from having a surplus, he owes money to his creditors. This man would not be taxed in New York, but he would be taxed in Charleston;—whether there be a profit or a loss, the merchant in this city must give his pound of flesh. Is this just? Is this wise? Is this the way to make Charleston a distributing centre of trade? No!

Railroads may bring down freight at nominal rates, and our wharves may be crowded with cotton; but this cannot last if trade only sets in one direction. If cars come down full, and go back empty; if steamships sail with full and go back in ballast; it is because cargoes, and return in ballast; it is because Charleston is so taxed and overburdened, she cannot compete trade to come here. All fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of sales for the year ending January 1, 1868. To this is to be added a tax of forty-four per cent. of that fifty cents, to provide for the free schools, and free roads and public buildings. This makes the present tax seventy-two and one half cents upon each one hundred dollars. Upon this is heaped the city tax of seventy-five cents making a total taxation of nearly one dollar and fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars.

Now what is the condition of taxation in the country. There, lands are assessed at a low rate; and, as we understand it, improvements on the land are not assessed at all. A planter may build a house at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, but he pays no tax upon it. Estates worth ten or twelve thousand dollars are assessed at two or three thousand dollars. The whole village of Graniteville, with its cotton mills, cottages and other improvements is only taxed as much per acre; while the same property in Charleston would be made to pay ten or fifteen times the amount that is paid by it in the country. The country has had the control of the taxation, and this city has suffered in consequence. In the country the taxation may not be too low, but in the city the taxation is far too high.

What is wanted is a large reduction in the tax on sales of merchandise. Of course it would be best to abolish the tax entirely, and impose a new tax upon income or net profit. This may be impracticable; but it is not impracticable to cut down the fifty cent tax to a five or ten cent tax,—to convert a tax that is killing trade into one that will allow it to live and prosper. The business of this city cannot be revived, while taxation remains at its present rate. Economy is the cry in the household and in the store; economy is impressed upon men of every condition; but where is the use of economy in personal affairs, if it is wholly insufficient to counterbalance State taxation and make both ends meet?

Our merchants should urge these facts upon General Canby, with all the force that the circumstances allow. They can prove to him that these things cannot go on, without closing the doors of our stores, and turning the streets of Charleston into a wilderness. They can show him that the State is now living through Charleston; and that a policy which drives customers from our merchants, and ships from our wharves, must, in the end, increase the depression of the whole State, and prevent the growth and improvement of even the interior of South Carolina.

Back Taxes.

In December, 1866, the Legislature of South Carolina passed a Tax Bill which, amongst other things, imposed an onerous tax upon brokers' commissions, gross receipts of newspapers, and gross amount of sales of goods, wares or merchandise, between January 1, 1866, and January 1, 1867. Efforts were made to have the tax removed, because unjust, discriminating and retrospective. These efforts were unsuccessful, and it is from the military authorities alone that relief is now expected.

An order of General Canby did reduce the tax upon receipts from sales of goods on commission,—where the transaction was completed before the passage of the Act,—but the rate imposed for the year 1866; but the greater number of the persons who were affected by the tax for 1866 are liable for it to this day.

It will be remembered that 1866 was a disastrous year to nearly all business men. There was great competition in trade, the demand was dull, and every merchant and dealer cut down his profits to the very lowest point. He knew what were his ordinary expenses, and did, perhaps, run on until December without loss, when, in the last month of the year, a tax was thrust upon him for the whole of the transactions which had been completed. His goods had been sold and the money received, his newspaper had made a charge for its advertising; and, when all hope of recourse was gone, there was a heavy tax to drag him down to bankruptcy.

If men had the money to pay the retrospective tax of 1866, no voice would be raised against it. But they have not the money. They staggered through the year; they are paying their current taxation; but not more than a dozen merchants in Charleston have paid the tax laid upon them in December, 1866, for the year then ending. Nor can these taxes be forced to payment without causing fearful suffering and distress. There are many houses of high standing that cannot pay this back tax. An order will not make them pay it. A tax execution will not make them pay it. They have not the money; and the attempt to force it from them will drive them into hopeless ruin. They do not bid business on commission, and had completed their transactions, have been relieved. They could not call upon their clients to refund. An estimate had been made, accounts had been balanced. But these gentlemen did not part with the power of reclamation so entirely as was done by the ordinary merchant. He sold his goods, delivered them, and received his money. His profit may not have been more than fifty cents on the hundred dollars; but it was a profit, until the back tax came to turn it into a loss.

A change can now be made. General Canby has the power, and we believe he has the will, to encourage business, and improve our trade. He can strike this back tax from the tax book; he can relieve the fears of many a man who is now living in fear and trepidation. The control is in his hands; and equity, justice, impartiality, and reason, all urge the one course: that of making the back tax absolutely null and void.

Charleston as a Distributing Centre.

New York has been built up by a system of taxation entirely different from that which is now choking the trade of Charleston. In New York the merchant pays a tax upon his net profits or income derived from business; and his gross sales may be counted by tens of millions of dollars, he does not pay one cent unless he makes a profit. This is the true tax policy, and the only one that will encourage enterprise, and ensure prosperity.

When a merchant knows that only his profits will be taxed, he is willing to reduce his profits to a minimum. At twenty-five cents, or fifty cents, on the hundred dollars, he can grow rich, because he will make up by his large business for the small profit upon each article. If he makes ten thousand dollars, he pays tax upon ten thousand dollars; if he makes one hundred thousand dollars, he pays

taxes upon one hundred thousand dollars; if he makes no profit, he pays no tax. This is but just.

There are times when a merchant must sell at, and below, cost; there are times when he cannot make a profit. Surely he should not then be taxed and weighed down; but, on the contrary, the State should bear gently upon him, and not cause him to contribute in taxation what he cannot justly pay. The State does not tax the pauper or the indigent poor; they have nothing, and they are not taxed. But the merchant who commences business, and loses money upon the operations of the year, is worse than without money. He has not only made no profit, but he has made a loss. Far from having a surplus, he owes money to his creditors. This man would not be taxed in New York, but he would be taxed in Charleston;—whether there be a profit or a loss, the merchant in this city must give his pound of flesh. Is this just? Is this wise? Is this the way to make Charleston a distributing centre of trade? No!

Railroads may bring down freight at nominal rates, and our wharves may be crowded with cotton; but this cannot last if trade only sets in one direction. If cars come down full, and go back empty; if steamships sail with full and go back in ballast; it is because cargoes, and return in ballast; it is because Charleston is so taxed and overburdened, she cannot compete trade to come here. All fifty cents on each one hundred dollars of sales for the year ending January 1, 1868. To this is to be added a tax of forty-four per cent. of that fifty cents, to provide for the free schools, and free roads and public buildings. This makes the present tax seventy-two and one half cents upon each one hundred dollars. Upon this is heaped the city tax of seventy-five cents making a total taxation of nearly one dollar and fifty cents upon each one hundred dollars.

Now what is the condition of taxation in the country. There, lands are assessed at a low rate; and, as we understand it, improvements on the land are not assessed at all. A planter may build a house at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, but he pays no tax upon it. Estates worth