

BY TELEGRAPH.

Our European Dispatches.

PARIS, February 5.—The relief cause was passed in the convention to-day by yeas 22, nays 45. It denies jurisdiction to the courts over all debts contracted prior to the surrender, but leaving it discretionary with the majority of the legislature to confer jurisdiction in all cases as to the purchase of slaves. Richardson, the member of the convention, who was shot by Timony on the 31st inst., is thought by the physicians, will not recover, the ball having passed through the right lung.

MISSISSIPPI.

JACKSON, February 5.—The convention met and adjourned, to give way to the Republican nomination convention. There is a full attendance of this latter body. B. B. Engleston, President of the Reconstruction Convention, is nominated for Governor. The convention is still in session.

ALABAMA ELECTIONS.

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CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

REMARKABLE DOCUMENT.

We lay before our readers this morning one of the most curious documents ever presented to a legislative body in South Carolina, reported yesterday in the Convention by the Committee on the Bill of Rights, and technically described to be a "Declaration of Rights and Form of Government as the Constitution of the Commonwealth of South Carolina."

It will be observed that the existing constitution of the State is proposed to be materially changed, both as regards matter and arrangement. The several sections constitute a series of moral and political axioms on which, it is presumed, the future fabric of legislation in South Carolina is expected to be erected. First, it is set forth that "all men are born free and equal;" second, that slavery shall not hereafter exist; third, that power is vested in and derived only from the people; fourth, that the doctrine of States rights is forever dead and buried; fifth, that under no pretext shall another attempt be made to dissolve the Union; and, sixth, that all citizens shall possess equal civil and political rights.

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Then follows a series of provisions descriptive of the rights and public privileges of persons. Among these provisions, it will be noticed that hereafter no person shall be imprisoned for debt, and that a homestead shall be exempted from seizure or sale. Private and corporate property is to be inviolate, yet laws may be made securing right of way over lands of either persons or corporations for purposes of internal improvement, but a just compensation, in all cases, is first to be made to the owners.

Whoever prepared the document before us has evidently had a keen eye to the probabilities of future stay-laws, for, in section 26, it is expressly provided that the power of suspending the laws ought never to be exercised save by the legislature, or the authority derived from it. Care is taken also that neither the legislature, nor the executive, nor the judicial department of the government, shall in any wise trench upon the functions and powers of the others. Another provision, which would materially change the habits and customs of our people, is that which prevents any individual, who shall fight a duel, or send or accept a challenge, or be in any way concerned in fighting a duel, from holding any office of honor or trust in the State, besides making him liable to such other punishment as the law may prescribe.

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One of the worst features of the proposed constitution is, perhaps, the clause which provides that no property qualification shall be necessary for an election to or the holding of any office. In the present condition of affairs, if this provision be adopted, and carried into effect, the organization of the government will be so essentially democratic that in the wild rush for office that will be made by persons of all classes, for at least the next two or three years, many positions of trust and honor may be filled by individuals unidentifiable with the interests of the State, whose only claim upon the suffrages of the people is a mere legalized residence.

The evil influence of bribery, tumult and improper conduct in elections is guarded against; and no office is to be created, the appointment to which shall be for a longer term than during good behavior. All navigable streams are to be public highways, free to the citizens of the United States, without any imposition of tax or toll, and no owner of a wharf, erected on the shores of a navigable stream, is permitted to charge for the use of the said wharf, unless expressly authorized to do so by the legislature.

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It is but true to say that the document from which we have quoted bears upon its face the evidence of careful compilation, and, after perusing it, no one will gainsay the remark that several propositions are clearly and succinctly stated.

THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

This article of the constitution, if adopted according to the text published below, will affect grave changes in the judiciary of the State. The judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court, in two Circuit Courts—to wit: a Court of Common Pleas having civil jurisdiction, and Court of General Sessions having criminal jurisdiction only—and in District and Probate Courts and Justices of the Peace. The Supreme Court is to consist of three judges, who are to be elected by the General Assembly for the term of six years, and so classified that one of the judges shall go out of office every two years, the judge holding the shortest term of office under this classification to be the Chief Justice during his term of office.

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The article provides in a very clear manner for filling all vacancies that may occur, the circuits which each judge shall occupy, and the jurisdiction which each judge shall exercise. The circuit judge is to be elected by the people of his circuit, and shall hold office for the term of four years. The Courts of Common Pleas are to sit in each judicial district at least twice a year, and to have full jurisdiction in all matters of equity. But the courts heretofore established for years, and which have no jurisdiction over civil cases, are to be abolished, and the jurisdiction of the State is to be divided into judicial districts, each of which shall have a Circuit Court, a District Court, and a Court of Probate, and a Justice of the Peace, and such other courts and officers as may be necessary for the administration of justice.

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WASHINGTON, January 5.—Eleven set speeches were delivered to-day on the Reconstruction bill.

The Committee on Reconstruction will report favorably on the bill removing the disabilities of Governor Patton.

The House discussed to-day the Grant-Johnson correspondence, but deferred action on the subject.

The Revenue to-day, \$1,131,000.

General Howard has issued a circular that officers under the rank of Major that were mustered out but retained in the Bureau shall be paid \$150 per month.

THE RESIGNATION OF MINISTER ADAMS RECEIVED—NO PROSPECT OF A WAR WITH ENGLAND.

WASHINGTON, February 3.—The resignation of Mr. Adams, Minister to England, has been received, and his successor decided upon. The change in the mission is not on account of any dissatisfaction as to the course of Mr. Adams in his conduct of our affairs in England, but it is done on the voluntary motion of Mr. Adams. This action has no reference to the settlement of the Alabama claims, which are to be prosecuted vigorously to a finality.

The report that the President will declare war against England, should the answer of that government be unsatisfactory, is utterly unfounded. The Executive does not assume that he has the power to declare war, and there is no reason to apprehend hostilities between England and the United States.

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BALTIMORE, February 5.—Cotton dull. Flour steady. Wheat firm; prime to choice Southern \$2 70 to 85. Corn active. Oats better, at 73 to 76. Cies, nothing doing. Provisions more active. Rice ribbed B. A. 18 1/2.

ATLANTA, February 5.—Cotton firm; sales 695 bales; receipts 840; Middling 17c.

SAVANNAH, February 5.—Cotton opened dull, closed active and advanced; Middling 17 1/2; sales 2000 bales; receipts 3620.

MOBILE, February 5.—Sales of Cotton 2000 bales; closed firm; Middling 17c; receipts 1798 bales.

WILMINGTON, February 5.—Spice Turpentine advanced, and firm at 63. Rosins, lower grades in good demand; strained \$2 20; No 2 \$2.25. Middling Cotton at 17c; No 20, advanced 5c.

Alabama Elections.

MONTGOMERY, February 4.—Eleven hundred votes were polled to-day; six white men voted, four of them candidates. The election is progressing quietly.

Voting on the Alabama Constitution.

MOBILE, February 5.—Three thousand five hundred and seventy-two votes were polled yesterday and to-day, of which three thousand five hundred and thirty-six were colored, and thirty-six white.

Market Reports.

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