

Cotton Futures. Cotton futures are very uncertain just at present. Much complaint is made throughout the entire cotton belt of the latter rains, which are regarded as unseasonable and calculated not only to destroy the stamina of the plant and wash it away in many places, but to so promote the growth of weeds as to seriously interfere with the process of cultivation.

But "cotton futures" has a technical as well as general meaning. When "the trade" use these terms, they mean the delivery of cotton at some definite future period and at some fixed and stipulated price. A. may be a merchant and B. a planter. The latter may want assistance of the former, till his crop is grown. Under these circumstances, each may be willing to take some risks as to the extent and character of the next crop; and there is certainly nothing immoral in B.'s agreement to deliver and A.'s agreement to receive so many bales of cotton at a given rate per pound.

It may be a foolish thing for a man to contract to deliver 1,000 bales of cotton, or 10,000 bushels of wheat, in December next, when he can have no correct means of ascertaining how the cotton or corn market may rule at that date; but to us the contract seems as legitimate as if he had contracted to build a house, or a ship, or complete so many miles of a railway. In any one of these contracts he may make money, if circumstances favor him, and lose money if they prove adverse.

On the 28th of March last, a German confectioner, named Charles Baswildebald, disappeared from Macon, Ga. For three or four weeks, vain search was made for him, and his friends finally concluded that he had lost his life in the swamp. The mystery of his disappearance was fully explained on the 30th ult., when his body was found hanging on a pine tree, near the top, some fifty or sixty feet from the ground.

Henry Ward Beecher's Noble Plea for Justice to the South. It was announced from Washington, a week ago, that on decoration day, the friends of all soldiers, Union or Confederate, lying buried at Arlington, might visit their graves and adorn them with flowers. It seemed that the era of good feeling had really dawned, and all wise and tender spirits said, "Amen." But next day, it was reported that a committee of the Grand Army of the Republic had straightway hastened to the War Department to inquire who is to control the ground on that occasion, and to beg that the "insult" might be averted.

The Farmers' National Congress met at Indianapolis on Thursday last and adjourned on the following day. As indicating the strength of the farmers' organization, it may be stated that twenty-four States were represented, from Vermont to Georgia, embracing ninety societies, with 150 delegates. According to the report of the Secretary, there are already 10,000 agricultural associations in the country, with an aggregate membership of 400,000 farmers.

Most Beautifully Said.—While nothing stings the smitten heart as neglect or disrespect shown to the graves and memory of those heroes who died in the defence of Southern rights and independence, yet nothing, at the same time, more deeply touches the feelings of our people than the expressions of appreciation of her fallen braves from those who were once arrayed against us. At Arlington, Friday, Dr. Talmadge gave expression to the following beautiful sentiments, which alike reflect credit on himself and the section he represents: "Let nothing be done to stir up the old feud between the North and the South. Surely there has been blood enough shed and groans enough have been uttered and families destroyed to satisfy the worst man on earth and the worst demon in the pit; and if, amid this holocaust of the dead, any hand, North or South, shall ever be lifted to tear down a peace established at so much sacrifice, may that hand turn white with the snow of an incurable leprosy. Instead of flowers upon such a villain's grave, let the whole nation come and fling a mountain of nettles and nightshade."

FREAKS OF TYRANNY.—The New Orleans Picayune, in commenting on the recent facts ending in the discharge of Col. DeBlanc by the United States Commissioner, for want of proof of an "overt act," says: "The decision of the Commissioner, however, is important in one respect. He adjudicates that Col. DeBlanc and his associates, in resisting Kellogg's corps d'armee, committed no offence against the laws of the United States, and, therefore, were not amenable to prosecution under these laws in the courts of the United States. Kellogg and his military were enforcing the supposed laws of the State of Louisiana, and resistance to this enforcement was an offence, if any, to the laws of Louisiana. Hence, the killing of two of Badger's mercenaries, and the whole organization against carpet-bag rule and the collection of taxes, were not matters for the judicial tribunal of the United States to consider, but exclusively under the jurisdiction of the State of Louisiana. This is a great deal, if it shall be adhered to; for it will be the end of collecting taxes in the parishes. The only penalty for kicking Kellogg's tax collectors out of the parishes will be suits or prosecutions in the State courts, which every good citizen, we presume, will be prepared to meet. But we do not learn that any suits or prosecutions have been instituted before the parish tribunals for any acts done by Col. DeBlanc and his supporters. This looks very discouraging for the usurpers. There may be danger that DeBlanc will multiply indefinitely, wherever Kellogg ravens come to roost and gorge; and Badger's artillery may safely creep under old sheds, instead of floundering out over rocks and mud-holes, and floundering back again, becoming glories by tremendous actions, rather than shells."

The Washington Chronicle announces its purpose to enlarge and adopt the quarto form. The Chronicle has a great many Government advertisements.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE "DUNDEARY" HOAXES THE MURRAY HILL FASHIONABLES.—Yesterday, nearly every family in the neighborhood of Murray Hill received an invitation, neatly engraved on steel, and printed on fine cards, as follows: AMATEUR OPERA. PURITANA. Union League Theatre, Twenty-sixth street, Thursday Evening, May 22, At 8 o'clock. Admit Gentleman and Lady. Tickets, 84.

Full Dress. German Eleven. Across every ticket was written the one word, "Complimentary," in red ink. At a quarter to 8, carriages began to arrive in front of the Union League Theatre, freighted with elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, in full evening dress. The gentlemen alighted from the carriages, and looked with astonishment at the closed doors. Then they called the janitor, and asked why the doors were not open.

The janitor was called upon so often, that he found it necessary to post a notice on the door, as follows: "This theatre has not been engaged for an amateur operatic performance this evening, consequently it will remain closed." The multitude steadily increased, each new comer appealing to the throng already gathered and asking what it meant. A handsome gentleman arrived from the Union Club and exhibited a supplementary notice which he had just received, as follows: "Owing to a misunderstanding about securing the Union League Theatre, this evening (for which the management is not responsible,) the amateur opera will take place at Robinson Hall, Sixteenth street, between Union Square and Fifth avenue, Southern side."

At 9 o'clock, the Union League Club stationed a valet in full uniform in front of the theatre, who informed each newcomer that the opera had been postponed. At 11 o'clock an excited crowd assembled at George P. Browne's chop-house, 924 Broadway, and insisted that he should lead them to Wallack's Theatre in search of Mr. Sothorn. That gentleman could not be found. Auctions inquiries were made for him at his hotel and at the Union Club, but he was not in. At the clubs numerous groups discussed the hoax, and many acknowledged that they had been sold. It is estimated that upward of 1,000 persons visited the Union League Theatre last evening. At 1 o'clock this morning a Steer reporter visited Mr. Sothorn's hotel. On the door of his room a notice was posted, as follows: "Gone to bed." Hearing the sound of a piano, the reporter rapped. The door was opened, and Mr. Sothorn and Mr. Philip Lee (the husband of Miss Neilson) were seated at the piano singing. The reporter told Mr. Sothorn that it was rumored in the clubs that he had perpetrated a stupendous joke on the residents of Murray Hill. Mr. Sothorn looked at Mr. Lee, they both looked at the reporter in astonishment, and Mr. Sothorn exclaimed: "Impossible! impossible! if there is any one thing more than another that I do abhor, it is a practical joke."

Both expressed ignorance of the joke, and manifested sincere sorrow for the persons who had been hoaxed. Both had received invitations to attend the Amateur Opera, but previous engagements had prevented their acceptance. They called for brandy and water straight and the reporter retired.

The German-speaking Catholics have raised over \$500,000 for a Catholic daily paper in New York.

Local Items. CITY MATTERS.—The price of single copies of the PHOENIX is five cents. More rain, yesterday. Old newspapers for sale at PHOENIX office, at fifty cents a hundred. A Republican paper is to be published in Anderson County. A gas lamp in front of the different engine houses is desirable. Sheriff B. G. Yocum, of Chester, left this city, yesterday, on his way to Vienna.

The State Dental Association convenes in Palmetto Engine House, this morning, at 10 o'clock. The Sumter News has entered its eighth year. It is ably edited, and cuts into the ruling regime weekly. A. A. Gilbert, Esq., of the Sumter Watchman, is in the city. His paper is the oldest in that section of country. A bluish silk umbrella, with a crooked handle, has been spirited away. The article is much needed at the PHOENIX office.

The committee of arrangements on picnic, to be given by Excelsior Lodge, No. 7, I. O. G. T., will meet this afternoon, at 6 o'clock, at Masonic Hall. The sale of express goods comes off at the auction room of Mr. Jacob Levin, this morning, at 10 o'clock. Look out for bargains. There will be an accommodation train on the Camden branch of the South Carolina Railroad to-day. It will leave on regular schedule time—2 P. M.

Captain Jack and His Antecedents. The Oshkosh Angle, in a late issue, gives some interesting particulars concerning the birth and parentage of the famous Captain Jack, which we condense as follows: Captain Jack is now about forty years old, and is the son of his father's side, of an American who spent many years among the Modocs, where he was known as "Colonel Jack." It was in 1848 that this young Texan, brave as a lion and full of a spirit for adventure, attached himself to an emigrant train, then on its way to a settlement at the headwaters of the Columbia River, in Oregon.

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Chemistry for the Czar—"What are the Russians to do with Khiva, now they have got it?" asks the Times. Well, perhaps they will decompose the Khanate of Khiva, and precipitate the Khan.

LARGE FIRE.—THE COUNTY JAIL DESTROYED.—About fifteen or twenty minutes past 12 o'clock, Tuesday night, the fire bell started our citizens from their slumbers, and it was soon ascertained that the flames proceeded from the jail, located in the very heart of the town. The whole upper story of the building was destroyed before the engines reached the spot. The fire had made such headway before it was discovered, that it was utterly impossible to save the building. The jailor barely had time, it is said, to turn the prisoners out, before the upper roof fell in. We learn that there was an insurance of \$2,000 upon the concern. The loss is a heavy one to the County, the building having been erected at a cost of \$6,000. The jailor says there is but little doubt that the fire was an incendiary one.—Sumter News.

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MURDER IN GREENVILLE.—A parallel to the Hodge Van-Eaton murder has been discovered in Greenville. A passenger from that town reports the discovery of the body of a tobaccoist in Davis' pond, about a mile beyond the corporation. There were several wounds upon the body, indicating that a murder had been committed.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS Meeting Anonia Lodge. Lecture by Prof. Warron. HOTEL ARRIVALS, June 4.—Wheeler House—J D Brooks, Wilmington; W A Butler, J F Smith, Baltimore; G Y Yocum, Chester; Mrs Wheeler, Yorkville; W D Starling, Richland; J W Beck, city; Geo W Gwinn, Mrs M J Clark, H J Furber, N Y; W L DePass and wife, Camden; J H Alexander, G P Kirkland, Barnwell; W C Hill, Germanton, N C; Dr G F S Wright, Pomaria; Dr R S Whaley, Newberry; Dr John S Thompson, Patterson Wardlaw, Abbeville; J W Heyward, D P Phifer, Nowberry. Hendric House—G W Turner, Graniteville; Mrs E E Boyd, J B Boyd, Leesville; Mrs T B Walker, Camden; W H Snowden, Charleston; P S Williams, W U Tel Co; W H Heiskell, Md; W C Hill, N C.

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Persons in arrears to the PHOENIX for subscriptions are notified that prompt payment must be made. It is either money or no paper. Rev. C. W. Warren delivers his peculiar lecture on "Snobs and Snobbery," in Parker's Hall, this evening. It is said to be very amusing as well as entertaining.

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