

The Tax Bill. At the evening session of the Senate, Friday, the House tax bill was taken up and passed, with amendments.

There was some discussion upon the amount to be appropriated for the support and maintenance of public schools, Mr. Dunn having moved to substitute one and three-fourths mills in place of the two mills in the bill as it came from the House.

While we cannot say that we are satisfied with this result, it is, so far, better than we expected. The shadows of coming dissatisfaction rest heavily upon the minds of members, and the spectre of gathering troubles haunts their daily and nightly visions.

The Bond-holders Alternative. The bill to reduce the public debt was read the third time in the Senate, yesterday, and further amended. It was unanimously passed, and ordered to be sent to the House.

word to say next. Some may agree to the proposition, and others may determine to wait for the changes to occur which will bring both the ability and the will to do them justice.

That is to say, each must assume this new form and suffer this reduction, before it can presume to ask pay, either principal or interest. This is repudiation, certainly.

In his message, the Governor informs the General Assembly that he has not received the report of the Board of Trustees of State University, nor the reports of the members of the Faculty.

At a proper time we shall recur to this subject, and notice some of the observations and reflections indulged in by the Governor in his message.

A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT.—A horrible accident occurred on the North eastern Railroad, on Thursday evening. The head of a colored man, named Boston Washington, about fifty years old, and residing in Morris street, was ground off by the wheels of a car and a colored man, named Benjamin Mills, was painfully injured in the jaw and hands.

FIRE ON ST. HELENA.—The store on the Lind's End road, St. Helena, formerly owned by Mr. Taft, but lately occupied by Nichols & Co., was destroyed by fire on Thursday night last. 11,000 pounds of seed cotton was lost, beside other things of value.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE. SENATE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873. Mr. Hope presented the annual report of the County Commissioners of Lexington. Also, the accounts of J. A. Ellison, J. T. Setzler, Miss N. E. Dally, for services rendered as school teachers.

A message was received from the Governor, announcing his approval of the following: Joint resolutions authorizing the County Commissioners of Kershaw County to levy a special tax; to require Edward I. Cain, Sheriff of Orangeburg County, to give a new official bond; an Act to amend Section 56, Chapter XIII, Title I, Part I, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the bonds of County Treasurers.

Mr. Cardozo introduced a bill to provide for the vaccination of all children attending the public schools. Mr. Owens—Bill to incorporate the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars.

Mr. Jeter—Joint resolution to relieve the citizens of Union County from paying taxes on their lands on the assessment of 1873.

A House concurrent resolution to provide for a statement of the affairs of the Bank of the State was concurred in and returned to the House.

Mr. R. M. Smith introduced a joint resolution, providing for the extension of the time for the payment and collection of taxes for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1873.

GOVERNOR ALLEN, OF OHIO.—Partner Allen, the old ex United States Senator of thirty years ago, recently elected Governor of Ohio, has about \$30,000 worth of cattle, which he is now shipping to Baltimore, preparatory to closing business on his farm for the next two years.

DEATH OF AN UNKNOWN MAN.—The white man who was injured by being struck by a freight train on the South Carolina Railroad, near the Six Mile House, on Wednesday afternoon, died at the city hospital, Thursday night.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS.—Judge Bond has appointed the following persons Commissioners of the United States Court for the District of South Carolina: Melvin J. Hiron, of Kingstree; Robert A. Sison, of Barnwell; John McManus, of Chester; H. O'Beir, of Winnsboro.

Owing to John Robinson's illness being in town, the regular Thursday evening prayer meeting has been postponed, said a recent number of the Enterprise, of Dallas, Texas.

UNITED STATES COURT, CHARLESTON, December 20.—In the Circuit Court, Judge Bond presiding, the case of C. E. Burkmyer, assignee of W. G. Whilden & Co. vs. Robert Adgar, a suit to set aside mortgage, an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, from the decision of Judge Bond dismissing the bill.

In the District Court, Judge Bryan presiding, the petition of Chelsea Robbins, of Chesterfield, for voluntary bankruptcy, was referred to Registrar Clawson for adjudication.

Signor Grandi, the Secretary of the Italian Consulate in New York, has just returned to Charleston from Port Royal, and gives a deplorable account of the condition in which he found the immigrants sent to Almoda by agreement with the Port Royal Colonization Society.

WELL PAID.—From a debate in the House of Representatives, between Messrs. Hoar and Dawes, it has leaked out that Grant's pay amounts to \$400,000 per term.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," as a gentleman said of his handsome, scolding wife.

Jones doesn't believe in hard pillows. He says in rather violent language for so mild a man—"Down with them!"

A LaCrosse babe, whose sex shall be nameless, has two tongues.

Funeral Invitation. The friends and acquaintances of Col. and Mrs. L. D. Childs and family, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of Mrs. L. D. Childs, at the Washington Street Church, THIS AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock.

MARRIED. On the 11th instant, by the Rev. R. E. Cooper, at the residence of the bride's mother, Mr. J. C. B. SMITH, of Columbia, and Miss JENNIE E. STEELE, of Rock Hill. No cards.

Christmas Presents. A CHEAP and well-assorted stock of WATCHES, JEWELRY, &c., suitable for Christmas Presents, may be found at GEO. BRUNS', Dec 21 6 Columbia Hotel Building.

Myrtle Lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias. The Regular Convention of Myrtle Lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias, will be held in Odd Fellows' Hall, TO-MORROW (Monday) NIGHT, at 7 1/2 o'clock. The Armorial Bank will be conferred. The first nomination for officers for the ensuing term will be made. Members are particularly requested to come forward prepared to settle all dues to the close of this term.

CHAS. A. CALVO, Jr., Keeper of Records and Seal.

Acacia Lodge, No. 94, A. F. M. By dispensation, the Regular Communication of this Lodge will be held in Masonic Hall, TO-MORROW (Monday) EVENING, the 22d, at 7 o'clock. This being the night for election and installation of officers, members will come prepared to pay their dues. By order of the W. M. JOHN DORSEY, Secretary.

IMPORTED WINES, BRANDIES, &c. SCOTCH WHISKIES, Old Jamaica Rum, Old Brandy, Oldard, &c., Holland Gin, Sherry Wine, Port Wine, Madeira Wine. Also, a large stock of fine old Whiskies, Cigars, &c. Dec 21 J. C. SEEGERS.

CHRISTMAS-CAKES, OF EVERY VARIETY AND SIZE. SOME are plain and others are richly ornamented. In preparing the CAKES, special care has been taken in the selection of the most choice material. They are light, nice and rich. Also, a large assortment of very choice CANDIES, both fresh and plain, made of the best and purest of ingredients. At JOHN H. HEISE'S, Plain Street. Dec 21

A BILL INTRODUCED. In either House of the Legislature is often laid on the table, and no further notice taken of it. THE INDIAN GIRL trusts, however, that such will not be the case in regard to this advertisement, as she is determined to make it the interest of smokers to heed the notice she now gives.

IN THE LEGISLATURE the bonded debt, State debt, &c., is attracting public attention; but, doubtless, a debt of gratitude due a friend is attracting yours, which can only be paid by the presentation of some gift as a token of regard. This pleasant duty you will not care TO POSTPONE CHRISTMAS being the accepted time; and what more acceptable gift can be offered than a nice box of Cigars or Meerschaum Pipe. As a special inducement, Cigars will be sold by the box (this week) at wholesale prices. This will enable every one to make a handsome present and save their money. Dec 21

CITY MATTERS.—Subscribe for the PHENIX. Holiday for the children—all of this week. Abundant supplies of fowls in market yesterday. Yesterday was warm enough for ice cream and cobbler.

Those "blasted" Christmas horns continue to grow aggravating. Only three deaths occurred in Columbia for the week ending the 20th—all colored.

The fashion here, for several days, has been to sit with open doors and windows, so as to catch the breeze. The Chicago Times wants a home for fallen men established in that burg. We suggest that they just roof the town in. The "girl of the period" santerring before us down the street is one panorama of awful surprise from top to toe.

Our neighbor, Mr. John O. Seegers, advertises a lot of genuine imported fluids—some of them essential in compounding egg nog. Captain Heise is prepared for the Christmas festivities with cakes and confectionery of every kind. He is one of our old stand-bys.

The ladies are singing about "the moth-eaten bustle, the old iron bustle, the cloth-eaten bustle that hung on so well."

Another May day yesterday—although the heavy frost, early in the morning, indicated a resumption of the sway of December.

Messrs. Kluward & Wiley are also in need of funds, and offer great bargains in clothing as inducements to purchasers to invest.

There is a Gypsy camp in the neighborhood of the Asylum branch, and every day numbers of the band are to be seen upon the streets. Bring in your Christmas advertisements. The people are scanning the papers carefully to see where they can purchase to the best advantage.

Mr. Broun's Christmas card appears in another column. He has a very pretty selection of goods in the jewelry line. The Elgin Almanac is a funny production. As was to be expected, the proprietors of the "Grand Central Dry Goods Establishment" are out with an attractive card relative to the holidays. Read it and follow the directions contained.

To day, December 21, is the shortest in the year—nine hours and eight minutes. The sun rises at 7.26 and sets 4.34. For the next seven days the length of the days will remain the same—nine hours and ten minutes.

The bill to raise supplies, now pending before the Legislature, and which had its third reading in the Senate, last night, provides, in the last section, that all taxes shall be payable in specie, greenbacks and State certificates of indebtedness. By-the-way, certificates were received by merchants, yesterday, at ninety five cents on the dollar.

There is great complaint about the gas. The smell is intolerable. Another ground of complaint is the registering by the meters—they certainly do not record correctly. Unless a remedy is applied, and that promptly, safety lamps and patent fluid will come into more general use than ever.

Transfer printing inks are invaluable to railroad companies, banks, merchants, manufacturers and others. They are enduring and changeless, and will copy sharp and clear for an indefinite period of time. Having just received a fresh supply of inks, we are prepared to execute orders at moderate prices.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES THIS DAY.—St. Peter's (Catholic) Church—Rev. J. L. Fullerton, First Mass 7 A. M.; Second Mass 10 1/2 A. M.; Vespers 4 1/2 P. M.

Trinity Church—Rev. P. J. Shaud, Rector, 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

Lutheran Church—Rev. A. R. Rude, 10 1/2 A. M.

Marion Street Church—Rev. S. B. Jones, 10 1/2 A. M.; Rev. O. A. Darby, 7 P. M.

Washington Street Church—Rev. Sid. H. Browne, 11 A. M.; Rev. William Martin, (funeral services of Mrs. L. D. Childs,) 3 P. M.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Northern mail opens 6.30 A. M.; S. P. M. closes 11 A. M.; 6 P. M. Charleston opens 8 A. M.; 5.30 P. M.; closes 8 A. M.; 6 P. M. Western opens 6 A. M.; 12.30 P. M.; closes 6, 1.30 P. M. Greenville opens 4.45 P. M.; closes 8 A. M. Wilmington opens 4 P. M.; closes 10.30 A. M. Ob Sunday open from 2.30 to 3.30 P. M.

PHENIXIANA.—To train a child in the way, etc., walk in that way yourself occasionally. When a man is a brute, he is one of the lowest kind. Laughing shakes out the kinks in the chain of life.

People who are always prating of Christian love and kindness, seldom have time to practice those virtues. To expect others to keep a secret which you cannot keep yourself, is the fooliest kind of folly. No man who paid regularly for his newspaper was ever bit by a mad dog.

THE CHRISTMAS TIDE.—The repetition of the months again brings round the Christmas tide—the season of good-fellowship and kindly acts, when far-reaching benevolence looks beyond the narrow limits of selfish instincts, to spy out the wants of others; and when the open hand scatters blessings upon the rich and poor alike. It is impossible to refuse recognition of the cheery festival, in the full spirit of its accepted meaning. Peace on earth and good-will to men are not empty words on at least one day in the year, and the religious faith which interprets the spiritual significance of the command unites with the usage of the civilized world in establishing the traditional observance. In olden countries, where legendary lore imparts a poetic tinge to the festivities of the closing year, a pleasant flavor of antiquity mingles with the frolics of the young and old—the bear's head is still produced in solemn state, the holly-berries gleam, the ancient games are played, and the mistletoe hangs in the hall, all old but fresh, and all the better because the grand-dames, long years before, kept Christmas so. But in the younger communities of America, we borrow our legends, and find other ways of commemorating antique customs.

A hundred years hence, Americans will have traditions, but they will be traditions of another sort from those of which the old books tell us. They will represent the fresher life of an age of advanced civilization, when rude usages were displaced by the finer quality of merry-making, and when the gentler arts of life were utilized for practical ends. The annual returns of our Christmas tide show the marks of higher cultivation, of a better appreciation of the inner meaning of the season of good deeds and softly-spoken words, of a better reading of the great lesson of Christian charity. Our poor are fed, our naked clothed, our sick comforted; our people lay by their intense rivalries, defer their eager search for wealth, and walk their way, in peace with themselves and all mankind; and when the festival reaches its end, the community is brightened, sweetened, and strengthened. No matter how dull the skies, nor how furious the tempest; the rays of sun-shine that good acts produce pierce the gloomiest corner and lighten up men's hearts.

The practical character of our people, their addition to their own affairs, and their poverty of traditions, have often led to unjust criticisms upon them from those who do not read between the lines; but no American citizen who deserves the name ever yet forgot the poetry of the Christmas time. It is then that we are thankful—more thankful than on Thanksgiving Day, for that is not the day when gifts go out—and we like to be generous at the exact time when generosity is in place. We know when to give and how to give; we believe in hospitality and benevolence; and while we are grateful for the favors of the year, we do not hesitate to share our substance with those less fortunate than ourselves.

Christmas in America is always the sparkling season of supreme content, when no Scrooge could go unconverted, and when we all may pray with Abou-ben-adhem, that our names may be written in the list of those who love their fellow-men.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. J. C. Seegers—Imported Wines, &c. Indian Girl—Tobacco, Pipes, &c. John H. Heise—Christmas-Cakes. Geo. Bruns—Christmas Presents. Meeting Myrtle Lodge. Meeting Acacia Lodge. Kluward & Wiley—Clothing, &c. W. D. Love & Co.—Dry Goods, &c. D. C. Peixotto & Sons—Auction. NERVOUS DEBILITY.—A DEPRESSED, IRRITABLE STATE OF MIND; WEAK, NERVOUS, EXHAUSTED FEELING; NO ENERGY OR ANIMATION; CONFUSED HEAD, WEAK MEMORY, OFTEN WITH DEBILITATING, INVOLUNTARY DISCHARGES.—The consequence of excesses, mental over-work or indiscretions. THIS NERVOUS DEBILITY finds a SOVEREIGN CURE IN HUMPHREYS' HOMOEOPATHIC SPECIFIC, No. 28. It tones up the system, arrests discharges, dispels the mental gloom and despondency, and rejuvenates the entire system; it is perfectly harmless and always efficient. Price \$5 for a package of five boxes and a large \$2 value of powder, which is important in old serious cases; or \$1 per single box. Sold by ALL DRUGGISTS, or sent by mail on receipt of price. Address HUMPHREYS' SPECIFIC HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE COMPANY, No. 562, Broadway, N. Y. For sale by GIZKIN & MCGREGOR, Columbia, S. C. Dec 17 111m