

The Enforcement Act.

The question not only of the exact meaning of what is known as the Enforcement Act, but of its constitutionality, will, no doubt, come up soon before the Supreme Court. Its decision may concern, not only the political and social status of the colored people, but touch the theory and structure of the United States Government itself. This is attempted to be wrested from its true meaning by an unwise interpretation of those laws which were enacted in the heat of the passions engendered by the war, and justified in the opinion of those who possessed them by the circumstances of the country at the time. But as well said by the Nation, no government of this kind can last long as a free government; it has the seeds of ruin in it. The legislation of men who spoke and voted with the passions of civil war upon them, must subsequently be examined with close scrutiny. It maintains that the fifteenth amendment should have no effect on State rights or duties greater or other than the prohibitory clauses already existing in the Constitution, nor should lead to any violent or unprecedented departures from the beaten track of American constitutional law. It points out with force the evils which a contrary construction put upon it, has worked. Under it a United States Judge has prevented a Legislature from meeting and has set up a new one by an injunction issued at night, and executed by a military force; a case of ordinary murder has been taken out of the hands of the State police and brought before the Federal Courts, on the ground that the murder was committed to hinder the murdered man from voting three months later; and that several persons have been arrested and compelled to give bail, at great distances from their homes, on charges of having intimidated voters, by dismissing them from their employment—a precedent which would, of course, place every employer of labor in the country at the mercy of his men for months before election, and enable them to skulk or cheat him with impunity.

We are glad to see these sound views promulgated at last. The evils of haphazard and vindictive legislation, of which we have drunk to the dregs in the South, begin to appear in their true light and form to the more sober and sensible people of the North. They perceive now, to use the words of the Nation again, that under the Enforcement Acts the Federal authority has been made to cover almost any offense which can be made to appear, in any degree, likely to "intimidate" a man. If he is threatened, assaulted, robbed or murdered, dismissed from his service, or if his house is burned, or his wife insulted, or his children kidnapped, or custom taken away from his store, or people dissuaded from attending his lectures, or from subscribing to his paper, it may be said that his case is covered by the fifteenth amendment, although there may be State laws in force punishing these acts severely. It is to be hoped that the Supreme Court will put an extinguisher upon all this partisan and villainous perversion of the proper meaning of the amendments made under cover of the Enforcement Act. It should fix the boundaries of the jurisdiction of both the General and State Governments in such a way that the one shall not be used to override the other, and the citizens shall be henceforth freed both from the raid and harrying of freebooters riding through the country, in making domiciliary visits and from the arrests and surveillance of detectives and constables, on the watch in the interests of party and of their miserable fees, to catch them in some constructive and imaginary violation of law, after, perhaps, having outwitted them into it.

The South Carolina Conference of the M. E. Church convened in Greenville, yesterday, at 9 o'clock. Ninety-seven clerical and fourteen lay members answered to the call of the roll. Devotions were conducted by Bishop Marvin. Rev. W. C. Power was elected Secretary, with four assistants.

Even Durell complains of the enforcement law. He stigmatizes it as bad, and knows to him to be bad when he executed it. It was passed by a Republican Congress, he says, to perpetuate the Republican party.

The Carolina Central Railroad, connecting Wilmington and Charlotte, has been completed.

**The Railway to the Pacific.**  
The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Col. Tom Scott's Southern Texas and Pacific Railway scheme, and urged its claims upon Congress. There is no doubt that they will be pressed, and there are many good reasons why they should be favorably considered and acted upon. In addition to those mentioned by us some days ago, others just as strong might be mentioned. The Indian question is one which can be better managed if this road should be built. The Territories will be made safer for life and property, and millions be annually saved to the Government in its transportation and in the cost and subsistence of troops. As a highway across the continent, it will at all times be freed from obstructions, crossing, as it does, the mountain divides at low elevations, and saving largely in grade and curvature.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1874.  
SENATE.

The House sent to Senate concurrent resolution to petition the United States Government, praying an appropriation from the public moneys, as will be sufficient to restore to the depositors in the Freedman's Savings Bank and Trust Company the amount of which they have been deprived by the failure of said bank. Concurred in.

Mr. Bowen presented petition of A. Hendricks, praying to be relieved of payment of certain taxes on property destroyed by fire.

Mr. Evans presented claim of V. Little, for advertising Governor's proclamations.

Mr. Smalls presented annual report of County Commissioners of Beaufort for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1874.

Mr. Jerry presented petition of Charleston Library Society, praying restoration of certain property, and to be discharged from all liens of taxes and exemption of said property from taxation.

Mr. Andrews presented the petition of sundry merchants and citizens of Orangeburg County, praying legislation in reference to exorbitant charges on way freight on South Carolina Railroad.

Mr. Nash presented claim of True Southern newspaper, of Sumter, for publishing Governor's proclamations.

Mr. Gaillard, from Committee on Contingent Accounts, to whom was referred sundry accounts of E. R. Stokes, J. Woodruff, Clerk of Senate, and others, for stationery, fuel, labor, &c., amounting to \$3,901.30, reported back same, with a recommendation that accounts be paid. So ordered.

Mr. Nash, from Committee on Finance, reported favorably on bill to amend an Act to validate all payments made by County Treasurer of Edgefield, under provisions of joint resolution to authorize County Commissioners of Edgefield to levy a special tax of three mills, and to declare the intent of said joint resolution.

Mr. Andrews introduced joint resolution to appoint a committee to investigate books of the State Treasurer.

Mr. Jerry—Joint resolution to restore to the Charleston Library Society the title to certain lands forfeited for non-payment of taxes, and to declare same free from taxation.

Mr. Nash—Bill to authorize County Commissioners of Richland to levy and collect a special tax to pay past due indebtedness.

Mr. C. Smith—Bill to repeal Section 33 of Chapter CX, of Title II, of Part III General Statutes.

Mr. Dunn rose to question of privilege, and made a lengthy speech in reply to the statements of the State Treasurer in his annual report, relative to the action of the special joint committee appointed to investigate the matter of the hypothecation of certain bonds.

Mr. Nash introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that the State Treasurer be requested to report the amount paid for publishing laws for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1873, and amount paid to each paper publishing same.

Mr. Dunn introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, that the State Treasurer be requested to furnish, at his earliest convenience, the names, classes and denominations of all bonds which have been funded under the Funding Act of the last session; and also the classes, numbers and denominations of those old bonds still outstanding, interest coupons of which have been funded under said Act.

Messrs. Curtis, Trenholm and Simkins were appointed a committee on part of the House and Messrs. Jerry, Whittemore and Jones on part of the Senate, to agree upon the day of adjournment.

The Conference Committee relative to recess recommended adjourning from the 22d December to the 12th January, 1875. Agreed to. A message of concurrence was received from the House.

The bill relative to Trial Justices for the city of Columbia was amended and engrossed for a third reading.

The report of the Committee on Finance, relative to the Union Savings Bank of Columbia, was made special order for Friday, at 1 P. M.

After discussion of general orders and executive session, the Senate adjourned.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
Bills to amend Section 61 of an Act to reduce all Acts and parts of Acts providing for the assessment and tax-

ation of property into one Act, and to amend the same; and to repeal an Act to empower the City Council of Charleston to elect an Inspector-General of Timber and Lumber, and for other purposes, were rejected.

A number of reports of committees were submitted.

Mr. Spencer, from Committee on Engrossed Bills, reported as duly engrossed bills to amend an Act to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors and to alter and amend the law in relation thereto; to amend charter of Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island Ferry Company.

The Senate sent report of Senate Committee on Public Buildings on Governor's message No. 2, recommending that present lessee of property on Arsenal Hill be allowed to continue said lease until the meeting of next General Assembly, and read acceding therefrom be placed at the disposal of the Governor, was agreed to and ordered to be returned.

Mr. Meets introduced a bill to facilitate and save expenses in appeals.

Mr. Bamphill—Bill to renew and extend the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the redemption of forfeited lands, upon certain conditions therein mentioned."

Mr. R. G. Howard—Bill to amend Section 55, Chapter 120, Title 4, General Statutes relative to liens on crops.

Mr. Couch—Bills to designate officer by whom sales ordered by Courts of Common Pleas and Judges thereof shall be made; to amend an Act to renew and amend charter of town of Chester.

Mr. Leslie, from Committee on Judiciary, submitted a lengthy report on a bill to regulate the pay of members of the General Assembly, insisting that \$600 per annum shall be the sum paid. After debate, laid over for future consideration.

The enacting clause of bills to amend an Act to incorporate Carolina Savings Bank of Charleston; to provide for the appointment of physicians for the County of Charleston, and payment of same; to amend an Act to grant, renew and amend the charters of certain towns and villages therein mentioned, as far as relates to the town of Sumter, were stricken out.

A concurrent resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the affairs of the Bank of the State, was laid on the table.

A resolution to ascertain what disposition was made of the furniture of committee rooms used at last session of the House, was adopted.

Mr. Spencer, from Committee on Engrossed Bills, reported as engrossed for a third reading, bills to amend an Act requiring a bond from County Commissioners before entering upon duties of their office; joint resolution to amend joint resolution to appoint trustees under will of late Dr. John De La Howe; to repeal an Act to establish an Inferior Court, for trial of criminal cases, in Charleston County.

**THE COURTS.**—UNITED STATES DISTRICT—CHARLESTON, December 15.—Judge Bryan presiding. Jesse C. Clifton, of Chester, was finally discharged in bankruptcy. John Fisher, trustee Citizens' Savings Bank, vs. J. L. Neagle, a bill for sale of collateral, it was ordered that plea of defendant be overruled and that he do answer by the day fixed in February, or the bill to be taken *pro confesso*. The report of D. J. Winn, assignee, in the matter of Elijah Pringle, bankrupt, was confirmed. In the petition of Daniel Brown, for leave to prove debt in the matter of the Blue Ridge Railroad Company, it was ordered that the petition be referred to Registrar Carpenter.

**UNITED STATES CIRCUIT**—Judge Bond presiding. In the cases of the Blue Ridge Railroad on petition by Anson Baug, Esq., for review in the proceedings of the District Court; Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company against H. H. Kimpton, and Jas. T. Welsman and others against H. H. Kimpton, will be tried before Judge Bond, in Baltimore, on the 18th instant. The case of Hayward vs. Bissell was heard, and the report of J. E. Hagood, special master, was confirmed and judgment obtained. In case of United States vs. John Fraser & Co., an order was issued requiring Samuel Lord, special master, to sell property on the first Monday in February next, and to collect the assets in the hands of the Registrar of the Court.

**SPARTANBURG AND ASHEVILLE RAILROAD.**—The meeting at Union on the 12th was very satisfactory. Speeches were made by Col. Steadman, Hon. C. G. Memminger, President R. Y. McAllen, of the Spartanburg and Union Railroad, James G. Holmes, Jr., of Charleston, and Col. I. G. McKissick, of Union. Letters were also read by Col. McKissick from Gen. Vance, Clingman and others. Col. McKissick introduced a resolution, which was adopted, that the people of Union, in mass meeting assembled, pledge themselves to give the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad \$150,000.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CHARLESTON.**—Loss NEARLY \$250,000.—A destructive fire occurred in Charleston, on Tuesday last, which destroyed the new Champion cotton press, corner of Church and Cumberland streets, together with about 3,000 bales cotton. The grocery store adjacent was badly damaged; the two-story brick building next door was entirely consumed. There was a partial insurance on the property destroyed.

The hotel at Berzelin, on the Georgia Railroad, twenty-one miles from Augusta, was destroyed by fire on the 15th, together with a number of out-buildings.

**CITY MATTERS.**—Subscribe for the PHOENIX—don't borrow.

Reading matter on every page. We are now among the shortest days of the year.

Fine Norfolk oysters at Fine's saloon.

All the choice brands of tobacco kept at Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

Go to Fine's saloon to get the finest oysters in town.

Buy your cigars at the Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

Crackers—eating and fire—can be obtained at Hardy Solomon's grocery.

Best of cigars at Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

The stock of goods at Messrs. Shiver & Co.'s is being run off below cost—some of them almost at half price.

All the necessaries for compounding egg-nogg can be obtained at Hardy Solomon's.

The hopes of the little folks were considerably dampened last night. Instead of snow, a rain set in.

Promptness and attention are the rules at Hardy Solomon's grocery establishment.

The Legislature has agreed to take a recess from Tuesday, December 22, to Tuesday, January 12, 1875.

Brandy fruits, preserves, jellies, jams, etc., at Hardy Solomon's grocery.

Transient advertisements and notices must be paid for in advance. This rule will be adhered to hereafter.

Give Hardy Solomon a trial, if you want anything in the grocery line. His stock is fresh.

If you want Christmas groceries, go to Hardy Solomon's family grocery, Columbia Hotel Row.

What will it profit a man to fill his store chock full of Christmas goods, if he fails to advertise the same in the PHOENIX?

Hardy Solomon keeps the largest collection of groceries of every kind to be found in the city. Examine them.

Mr. D. Epstein opened a lot of holiday goods, yesterday—just such things as are suitable to the season in every way. Step up and inspect them.

Congressman L. C. Carpenter will accept our thanks for a copy of the Congressional Directory and other useful Government publications.

Old type metal, at 25 cents a pound, can be obtained at the PHOENIX office, for small quantities; 20 cents by the 100 pounds—delivered at the depot.

Mr. J. E. Gyles, opposite the United States Court House, has just opened another lot of choice goods, suitable for the holidays and other days.

Job printing of every kind, from a miniature visiting card to a four-sheet poster, turned out, at short notice, from PHOENIX office. Try us.

Mr. Geo. E. Pritchard, the originator of the extensive tramways in Williamsburg County, is in Columbia. One of them connects Williamsburg and Clarendon.

Our old friend, W. E. Rose, Esq., will accept our thanks for a liberal bunk of bride-cake—celebrating the nuptials of his daughter Lizzie with Mr. H. W. Smith.

A bolt of homespun was carried off from Messrs. Shiver & Co.'s establishment, yesterday, and some cocoa nuts from Messrs. Loric & Lowrance. The robbers made off.

Apple butter, peach butter, plum butter, raspberry butter, and every other kind of butter, (except sweet,) can always be obtained from Hardy Solomon.

Several attempts at robbery have been made on houses in different parts of the city during the last few nights. And as for poultry yards, they have suffered severely—many a Christmas dinner being spoilt.

Notices in the local column are charged for at the rate of fifteen cents a line, for nine lines or more. Less than that space, \$1. All local reference to advertisements will be charged for.

Mr. Daniel M. Dratts, of Lexington, was robbed of \$150, in the wagon yard of Messrs. R. D. Senn & Son, of this city. The robber attacked him suddenly, choked him and then made off with the money.

Mr. John Agnew, Jr., has opened a completely-appointed cigar store in the Columbia Hotel building, where he will keep all the approved brands of cigars and tobacco that can be obtained. Mr. W. J. Hildt will be glad to meet his friends there.

Mr. McKenzie's Saloon is a curiosity, and daily attracts numbers of delighted visitors. The room is decorated with moss, evergreens, etc.; the tables are covered with toys, and a tastefully-arranged grotto fills the rear end. Santa Claus can be seen at all hours.

The services attending the ordination of the Rev. James H. Stringfellow to the priesthood, held yesterday morning, in Trinity Church, were of unusually interesting character. The Right Rev. Bishop of the Diocese, and about a dozen ministers, including the father of the candidate for ordination, assisted in the solemn and pleasing ceremonial.

The following is the programme for the first quarterly exercises of the Chirosoptic Society, which will take place at the University to-morrow evening, beginning at 7 o'clock: Critique, P. J. Mishaw; Oration, W. M. Dart; Essay, C. J. Babbitt; Reading, Thaddeus Saltus. Debates—Was the execution of Louis XVI justifiable? J. H. Stewart in the affirmative, and T. McCants Stewart in the negative.

The following Chiefs of Chieora Tribe, No. 2, Improved Order of Red Men, were elected Tuesday night, to fill the offices of the Tribe for the term commencing 1st Sep, Cold Moon, G. S. D. 333: Sachem—Charles Narey; Senior Sagamore—Alexander Oliver; Junior Sagamore—P. Campbell; Chief of Records—A. H. Halladay; Keeper of Wampum—T. C. Crews; Prophet—F. M. Drennan, Jr.

**CONCLUSION OF CORONER'S INQUEST.**—Coroner Coleman and the jury, yesterday, heard the conclusion of the evidence in the case of Jerry Smith, and a verdict was rendered that congestion of the lungs, exposure and bad whiskey caused his death. In the case of William Weston, killed on the South Carolina Railroad, on Sunday last, the engineer and conductor not being present, the examination was continued until the 23d instant. The Coroner's office contains only a dry goods box and a chair without a back. The jury stood up while holding the inquest.

**LECTURE.**—We have the pleasure to announce that Dr. T. A. LaFar, of Baltimore, has consented to deliver his celebrated lecture, "Man and Woman," Thursday evening, December 17, at Parker's Hall, 7 1/2 o'clock. Admission, 50 cents. Gallery, 25 cents. Speaking of the lecturer, the Raleigh News says:

The lecturer handled his subject, "Man and Woman," in a masterly manner. His explanation of the relations existing between the Creator and the created, and his portrayal of the influence and sphere of woman, the wife, the mother and the daughter, is of a character calculated to prove beneficial to the listener. The lecture throughout abounded with much reason and thought.

**THE NEW POSTAGE LAW.**—On the first of January, 1875, the new postage law—requiring pre-payment at the office of publication for all papers sent outside of the County—goes into effect. Residents of Richland County receive their papers free of postage. Subscribers to the DAILY PHOENIX will, therefore, enclose the postage with their subscription, which will be as follows: One year, 50 cents; six months, 25 cents; three months, 15 cents; one month, 10 cents. TRI-WEEKLY, one year, 30 cents; six months, 15 cents; three months, 10 cents. WEEKLY GLEANER, one year, 20 cents; six months, 10 cents; three months, 5 cents. Where the postage is not sent with the subscription, the time will be shortened to that extent. The new rates of postage are less than half of the old.

**SUPREME COURT—WEDNESDAY, December 16.**—The Court met at 10 A. M. Present—Chief Justice Moses and Associate Justices Wright and Willard.

The case of Josiah D. Perry *et al.*, appellant, *in re* Billings, executor, *vs.* Clinton *et al.*, and Kennedy G. Billings, executors, respondent, *vs.* Irvin Clinton and Perry, appellants, were heard together. Mr. Moore was heard for appellants; Messrs. Allison and Kershaw for respondents.

Edward B. Mabley, executor, appellant, *vs.* J. S. Cureton *et al.*, respondent. Mr. Kershaw was heard for appellant; Messrs. Moore and Allison for respondent.

John H. McElwee, assignee, respondent, *vs.* Thomas S. Jeffreys, agent, appellant. Mr. Wilson was heard for appellant; Mr. Thomas for respondent.

Robert Smalls, respondent, *vs.* F. E. Wilder, appellant. On motion of Mr. Youmans, for respondent, motion to reinstate this case denied, with costs.

At 3 P. M., the Court adjourned until Thursday, 17th, 10 A. M., when the Seventh Circuit will be called.

**MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.**—Northern and opens 6.30 A. M., 3 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., 1 P. M.; closes 6, 1.30 P. M. Greenville opens 6.45 P. M.; closes 6 A. M. Wilmington opens 4 P. M.; closes 10.30 A. M. On Sunday open from 2.30 to 3.30 P. M.

**MISS ADA GRAY.**—This talented young lady is thus spoken of by the Petersburg Index and Appeal:

"The public does well to relax its thoughts by attendance on the legitimate drama. And the drama has rarely been presented in more favorable person than in the performance of Miss Ada Gray. There is always good need that the people who worry and work and think shall relieve themselves occasionally with some comic entertainment. There are plays and plays—all useful in the way which we indicate, but none more grateful than the performance last night rendered at the Academy of Music."

The company give two performances in Parker's Hall, to-morrow and Saturday evenings. Reserved seats at Ly-Brand's.

**TREASURER CORDOZO'S REPORT.**—State Treasurer Cordozo has submitted his report to the Legislature. The following is a summary of it:

Receipts from all sources for the year ending October 31, 1874, \$1,718,765.41; expenditures, 1,692,075.04. Receipts from the phosphate royalty during the year, \$43,162.80; of this amount \$38,496.01 were expended, of which \$18,965 went to the newspapers for publishing the Acts. The expenditures were made under the specific tax levy, and were kept within the appropriations; but as the appropriations were largely in excess of the amount raised by taxes, there are large deficiencies. The unpaid appropriations at the close of the fiscal year amounted to \$839,104.15, and of this amount \$520,079.62 are deficiencies for the year just closed. Bonded debt outstanding at close of fiscal year, \$9,540,750.28, which includes \$977,500 of the new consolidated bonds issued under the Act to reduce the volume of the public debt. The past due interest foots up \$1,840,188.69, which, together with the unpaid appropriations, makes a total floating debt of \$2,679,292.75. Contingent liabilities \$1,797,608.29, arising from endorsement for various railroads, \$1,987,169.05 of the old bonds and stocks have been consolidated under the Act to reduce the volume of the public debt. The report touches upon various matters connected with the outstanding bonds, and reviews at some length the statement made by Senator Dunn in reference to the \$1,757,500 of the State bonds, alleged to be in the hands of H. H. Kimpton unaccounted for. The records of the office show that Kimpton retains these bonds as collateral security for \$609,009.77 due to him by the State. Kimpton appears on the report as a creditor of the State for that amount.

**PHOENIXIANA.**—Social ostracism is very unsocial.

Anything and everything in the grocery line at Hardy Solomon's.

Choice cigars and tobacco at Columbia Hotel Cigar Store.

Choice brands of champagne and other wines at Hardy Solomon's.

It requires no particular skill to make a blunder.

With hungry men, meal times are the best times.

The most mischievous liars are those who keep sliding on the verge of truth.

Idleness is hard work for those who are not used to it, and dull work for those who are.

Money is the "root of all evil" to those who spend their lives rooting for it.

**LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
John McKenzie—Christmas Goods. Shiver & Co.—Salesmen Wanted. Jacob Levin—Auction Sale. Agnew & Son—Horse & Mule Shoes. Union Council, No. 5, R. & S. M. Richard Jones—City Taxes. C. J. Laury—Apples at Auction.

**HOTEL ARRIVALS, DECEMBER 16.**—*Andria House*—B J Singleton, Newberry; W H Haynes, Baltimore; B W Lockwood, Mrs B W Lockwood and two children, Opelika; J N Burton, Ga; B B Barron, N C; J A Laval, Columbia; E A Wagener, Charleston; E E Ellison, Winstboro; P M Spence, Ridgeway; B B Chilling, New York.

*Manston House*—W T Gaillard, S C; J K Hawkins, A B Addison, Georgetown; Dr E W Wheeler, T Simms, city; J L Austin, New York; C F Hoke, Atlanta; J A Cannon, Pomaria; S S Crittenden, Greenville; O M Royster, Ram Cat; J W Livingston, Seneca; J S Cathcart, Winstboro.

**HAS LOST HIS MIND.**—Our citizens remember the case of Mr. James Boyd, of Chester, S. C., who fell among thieves in this city three or four weeks ago, and was robbed of \$75, after having taken a draught of what he supposed to be whiskey. We learn that since that time reason has almost, if not entirely, deserted him. He has never been himself since that unfortunate morning, and is now a driving idiot. Physically, too, he has been prostrated; his tongue swelled up to an enormous size and burst, and, all in all, his condition is a very sad one.

[Charlotte Observer.]

**YOUR DAYS ARE FEW.**—The Directors of the Masonic Relief Association of Norfolk, Va., assure the public in the most positive manner that their second and last grand Gift Concert will take place upon the 29th instant, (as advertised elsewhere,) or the money will be refunded to purchasers of tickets. Your days are few for the securing of prizes. There will certainly be no postponement. Take due notice thereof, and govern yourselves accordingly.