

The bill as reported from the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, to make appropriations to meet the ordinary expenses of the State Government for the present fiscal year, is projected upon nearly the same scale as heretofore. There is some diminution in the amounts intended for contingent funds, printing and the public schools. But the reform is so slight here that it is almost impossible to see it. We do not propose, however, to-day, to show the desirability and feasibility of a general reduction in the proposed appropriation. We will not waste words in any such futile attempt. We had appropriated for the support of the University \$52,800, of which sum \$24,000 is to go to professors, \$2,500 for miscellaneous expenses, \$12,800 for beneficiary scholarships and \$3,000 for the preparatory school. In close connection with this expenditure, we find \$10,000 for the State Normal School and \$10,000 for payment of interest on the bonds of the State Agricultural College and Mechanical Institute. Altogether, the educational appropriations foot up the sum of \$73,800, in addition to which the sum of \$249,000 is appropriated for public schools.

Irrelevance to this general subject, we venture to make a single suggestion. It may not be considered, but we are sure it ought to be. Attached to the University is a library of much value. It should be guarded and protected with great care. And while money is lavishly bestowed upon the institution, the library surely ought not to be forgotten. Would it not be well, in fact, to re-examine the scheme of expenditure, to see whether as much as \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year could not be diverted from some of the projects upon which it is now proposed to expend it, and give it to the purchase of new books? Fall as the library is of choice works, it is notably deficient in the publications with which the press has teemed within the last fifteen years, a half generation of men, a great space—as an old historian phrases it, *moritallis aevi*. Within this period, science has made immense strides, travelers have explored and described the uttermost parts of the earth, new and interesting problems have been elaborated, and literature enriched with the conclusions of toiling and illustrious thinkers upon a novel class of subjects. A few days ago, Speaker Elliott, on the floor, spoke with justly in appreciation of the library. We commend the suggestions he has made to him, and those who shared with him. The claims of the library in the point of view we have indicated are deserving of serious consideration. They are entirely ignored in the bill.

Hard times prevail all over the country, but the destitution in New York city is said to be something appalling. Never in the history of that city has there been such a constantly increasing army of homeless, unemployed ones. The many benevolent institutions are taxed to their utmost, and the papers daily make demands for means to all the exhausted coffers of the charitable associations. Collections are taken up on Sundays in the churches to buy food and clothing for the starving poor; and the ladies of the different congregations meet daily in the churches, homes, and sew and distribute articles among the needy, without regard to sex, or caste, or kind. In Jersey City, Brooklyn and New York, there are 600,000 people crowded into tenement houses, often forty or fifty families living in one tenement. There are 170,000 people living in 2,700 tenements; and, with all that public and private charity can do, how are these people to be fed and clothed while thrown out of work? The increase of crime and evil-doing is owing to the increased pauperism. The rich have responded generously; wealthy ladies have gone in their carriages, and personally bestowed money, and given other help; but the attempts have been spasmodic, and the many benevolent organizations cannot begin to succor all the needy poor. Frequently families are picked up on the streets, who have been turned adrift into the streets because of unpaid rents, and who have literally neither food, clothing nor shelter. It is now a serious problem with thoughtful people what is to become of all these homeless, hungry poor, with ranks constantly growing larger.

Bishop, who started on a voyage around the Atlantic coast to the Gulf of Mexico, in a paper canoe, took the latter by rail from Wilmington to Lake Waccamaw, from whence he commended the voyage down the river to the sea, below Georgetown. His arrival at Charleston has been expected for several days past.

The Louisiana question.  
The New Orleans correspondent of the New York Herald, under date of 28th ult., indicates a conclusion adverse to the action of the Returning Board and the present composition of the Legislature, as likely to be arrived at by the Congressional Investigating Committee. He says they are disposed to regard the Kellogg Government as unstable and powerless, but recognize, also, an almost insurmountable difficulty in affording a proper and satisfactory remedy. Two of the members—Messrs Wheeler and Frye—visited the Legislature and expressed astonishment as well as admiration at the forbearance of the people under such a system of government. In a letter to a friend, Bishop Wilmer describes in striking terms the effect of the sub-committee's report in winning back the friendship of an abused people. Since it was made public, he says, the prayer for Congress has been read in churches in which it has not been heard since the close of the war. "The people here knew they had friends in Congress and foes, but they did not realize until now that they had representation." Meanwhile the Louisiana question continues to be agitated in Washington. Senator Conkling delivered an intemperate partisan speech on the subject on Thursday, and it is reported that the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections has decided that the Kellogg administration must be recognized as the legal Government of Louisiana. It seems likely, also, that Pinchback will be admitted as Senator from that State. If all this be done, the issue will go before the country at the next election for President of the United States, whether we have passed from the stage of a constitutional to a military form of government.

DOUBLE TAXATION.—The Winsboro News shows that the present system of taxing credits, such as notes, bonds and mortgages, is unjust, because it really imposes double taxation upon the people.  
"Let us assume," it says, "that A owns \$10,000 worth of land and B has \$10,000 in cash. A borrows this money, giving as security a mortgage on his land, and invests the loan, say, in personal property. The two parties now hold between them \$20,000 worth of property and a piece of paper; nothing more, nothing less. Yet, when an assessment is made, A returns \$20,000, and B returns his mortgage at \$10,000, making in all \$30,000. Whence comes this extra \$10,000? It exists nowhere, save in the fertile brain of the astute money-grabbing legislator, and the only tangible thing about it is the tax upon it paid into the treasury. Let us make the statement more general. Assume that in South Carolina there are \$50,000,000 worth of property and \$50,000,000 in cash. Now suppose all the cash to be loaned to the holders of the property, and the entire property in the State mortgaged for payment. Then there would be \$50,000,000 of property, \$50,000,000 of cash, and \$50,000,000 of mortgages. When the assessment is ordered, all these are returned, and the State is apparently worth \$150,000,000. A levy of sixteen mills on this assessment is really an assessment of twenty-four mills on the actual amount of property in the State.  
"The true method," it concludes, "of discovering the actual amount of property in the State, is by permitting each individual to deduct all his liabilities from his assets, and to return the difference, even if, as in algebra, it has a minus sign before it. If John Smith owns \$50,000 worth of property and owes \$40,000, should he be required to swear to the auditor that he is worth \$50,000, when no capitalist will treat him for more than \$10,000, minus the homestead? The present system of taxing credits without exempting debts, as approved a method of extortionate taxation as an exorbitant assessment could possibly be."

The resolution complimentary to Andrew Johnson passed by the New Jersey House of Representatives—41 to 17—must afford him especial gratification. He came so very near conviction and disgrace, so far as that could be accomplished by the judgment of an unreasoning Senate, of which the well known and bigoted Mr. Frelinghuysen, from New Jersey, was a member. The home of that Senator now bestows a eulogy upon the great impeached, although she was at the time of the impeachment one of the bitterest of Republican States. Is this not a sign of the great revolution that is rolling irresistibly towards its consummation?  
MR. EDITOR: We would like to inquire, through your columns, why it is that Ward 1 is so often left in darkness? Very frequently it has happened lately, that the lamps have not been lighted. The contractor should certainly perform the duties which he agreed to. Let us hope that it will not occur again.  
OBSERVER.

1875—Mardi Gras, February 9, 1876.  
MEMPHIS, TENN.  
WESTERN AND ATLANTIC R. R. Co.,  
OFFICE GEN. PASS'G. & TICKET AGT.,  
ATLANTA, GA., January 23, 1876.  
The following telegram, sent by the Associated Press Agent at New Orleans, explains itself:  
NO MARDI GRAS.—NEW ORLEANS, January 21.—The Mystic Society here have decided to dispense with the parade on Mardi Gras day, on account of the absence of his Royal Highness King Prosperity.  
For several years Mardi Gras has been celebrated in Memphis, Tenn., with such success as to rival New Orleans, and last year it was pronounced by every one who witnessed it to be far better than anything ever seen in this country. The celebration this year at Memphis will surpass all others in elegance and splendor. For the convenience of those who desire to go, the Western and Atlantic Railroad and its connections will sell, commencing February 5, ROUND TRIP TICKETS FOR ONE PASS, \$22.50, good to return before February 15.  
Through First Class Day Coaches leave Atlanta daily at 9 35 P. M., for Memphis, without change, and no charge is made for occupying seats. Magnificent Palace Sleeping and Drawing-room Coaches leave Atlanta daily at 9 35 P. M., for Memphis, without change. Our supply of Palace Drawing-room and Sleeping Cars is ample for any emergency, and special cars can be furnished upon application, to leave Augusta, Athens, Rome, Savannah, Charleston, Macon, Columbus or Charlotte. Parties desiring to go should notify me as early as possible. B. W. WRENN,  
Gen. Pass'g. and Ticket Agent,  
Atlanta, Ga.

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE LOUISIANA OUTRAGE.—All the leading London journals have editorials on the subject of the great outrage perpetrated in Louisiana by President Grant. The Times says:  
"It is true that the language of the Constitution is very loose, and will allow a daring administration to assume powers as despotic as those with which Roman consuls were invested when they were charged to see that the commonwealth received no detriment." But this license has never hitherto been allowed to go too far, and it is seriously maintained that the Federal Government is bound to interfere, on Governor Kellogg's invitation, at New Orleans, because five unqualified members have been admitted to the Legislature, the United States army may be used to coerce the Legislature at Albany and Harrisburg for no better reason than that the great States of New York and Pennsylvania have shown themselves hostile to the party in power at Washington. It cannot be denied that the President acted with deliberation and with a full knowledge that his interference would not be needed to repress insurrection, but to disturb the balance of parties."  
The Morning Post says:  
"The whole affair reminds one more of Mexico, or of one of the petty States of South America, than of the great republic. And not the least sombre feature in the business is the fact that the President planned, or at least consented to what has been done, several days before it occurred, and that the whole affair was a deliberate and determined exercise of the most arbitrary and unconstitutional power."  
The Pall Mall Gazette says:  
"The President has determined to enforce decisions which the public opinion of the whole Union stigmatizes as shamelessly partisan and corrupt, and which even those who gave them admit to have been arbitrary and without foundation in law. And in enforcing them he has allowed one of his officers to imitate the worst practices of Spanish American military adventurers."

ICELAND.—The descendants of the Vikings are proud of their record of 1,000 years, and Professor Kneeland is showing at Boston that they have good reason so to be. The settlement of Iceland in the ninth century, by Norsemen, who could not live under the oppression of an oligarchy, gave tone to the national character, making Iceland, while an independent republic, the conservator of art and literature in a dark age. 400 years before Columbus, the Northmen discovered Greenland and the North American coast; and while this does not detract from the glory of Columbus, it shows the courage and persistence, in the face of obstacles, characteristic of the Scandinavian. But the golden age of Iceland has passed, and the works of her sages have become the world's heritage, still the nation has reason to be proud of a people who, in their varied history, have never ceased to maintain the right of self government.

A PHILOSOPHER.—An old citizen of Dayton, Ohio, who has raised two families, has been for many years in the habit of observing—among other things—the growth of the boys and girls, and makes some surprising assertions. He takes their measures in January and July, and has discovered that growing children grow far more between January and July than in the other half of a year. In fact, almost the entire growth of the year is during the former period. This philosopher infers from this that all nature is harmonious, and that the physical growth of humanity is governed by the same laws which prevail over the vegetable kingdom.

How It Is Done.—The way in which Federal office-holders rapidly acquire fortunes, is well illustrated in the case of Mr. Thomas Williams, National Bank Examiner, who was in this place a few days since. Mr. Williams receives his appointment from the Government, and resides in Washington City. He has the banks in several States as a district, over which he exercises an examiner's watchful care, and which he visits a stated number of times during the year. His services are paid for at the rate of five dollars per day and two dollars for every twenty-five miles he is compelled to travel in order to reach any bank within the scope of his territory. On Friday he closed his labors at Lexington, and the following day came to Richmond. The distance is twenty-five miles, and for this he was entitled to two dollars—the regular fare by stage. His duties here with three national banks required his actual labor only on Friday and Saturday, which, at five dollars a day, gave him ten dollars, and thus, with his mileage, would make twelve dollars. But he understands the routine of how not to do it, and thereby "turns an honest penny." Instead of making out his charges against the banks for the amount actually due him, he counts his mileage at the rate stated for the whole distance from Washington City to Richmond for three separate trips, or one to each bank. And in place of twelve dollars, he receives for one day's work \$150. Truly, this is a glorious Government of ours, and the softest place on earth is an office under Grant. Is it singular, then, that all the office-holders in the land are squalling for a third term?  
[Richmond (Ky.) Register, Jan. 22.]

ST. VALENTINE PARTIES.—Scribner for February, in noting how the celebration of St. Valentine's Day, which once was observed with so much interest and fervor, has dwindled to the mere anonymous sending of epistolary pleantries, urges the introduction of Valentine parties, and clearly demonstrates that, when entered into with the proper spirit, a vast fund of amusement and entertainment will be afforded by them. One way in which such parties may be conducted, is for each invited guest to send the hostess at least one valentine, something of a humorous or bantering kind being preferable, the sender indicating whether the valentines are intended for lady or gentleman, and the hostess will address them as she chooses, without knowing their contents or the name of the sender. Another way is for the hostess to furnish each of her guests with a list of those expected, thus giving each one an opportunity to write to particular persons. The hostess, however, should receive the valentines before the party, and, if any of her expected guests may have been overlooked, supply a few extra ones for them. After the guests have assembled, the hostess delivers the missives to their proper addresses, the recipients being compelled to read them aloud for the benefit of the company. The valentines, some from their aptness, others for an exactly contrary reason, thus read aloud, can hardly fail to create a good-humored merriment; and such parties, we believe, would be a most enjoyable way to celebrate the arrival of St. Valentine's Day.

Some statistics of the trade between Cuba and the Atlantic sea-ports of the United States may explain why there are a vast number of people in this country who feel a very lively interest in the political affairs of the island, and anticipate its future with deep concern. The figures are for the year 1874, and have just been made up at Havana. During the year, we bought from Cuba sugars, tobacco and other articles of export to the value of \$35,000,000, for which we paid mostly in American gold. From Havana alone, the exports to this country were of the value of \$20,000,000, of which \$12,000,000 were in sugar, and nearly all the remainder in tobacco. But while we sent this huge sum of money to Cuba, she purchased from the United States only \$15,000,000 worth of goods and products of all kinds, leaving a balance of trade against us of \$70,000,000. So long as the present anarchy and misrule continues on the island, there is no prospect of our side of the ledger showing any better account, and for that reason it would be a fortunate day for us when any turn of the wheel would restore peace to Cuba, no matter under what political auspices, and open up a market for the manufactured articles which a busy and industrious population would need and have. As the situation now stands, the United States is the best customer Cuba has, and it is American gold which is very largely paying for the maintenance of a government which Americans detest, and contributing to the support of a war which it would be to our eventual interest to have brought to a speedy termination.

"Gentlemen," said a pious old Democrat to the by-standers on the street in Nashville, last Tuesday afternoon, "for the last forty years, I have endeavored to live the life of a consistent Christian, and during that whole time I have studiously avoided the utterance of all language unbecoming the Christian character; but I cannot speak of this thing without giving way to the wildest profanity; you will, therefore, excuse me when I say that the man, woman or child who voted for Andrew Johnson, or was in any way instrumental in securing his election to the United States Senate, is a miserable and ostentatiously raffish subcutaneous pallid, and I don't care what preacher hears me say so."

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

Reading matter on every page. Transient advertisements and notices must be paid for in advance. A dangerous place—the State House fence on Assembly street. The semi-annual examination in the University will begin on the 8th inst. There was no quorum in the House, yesterday afternoon. The Senate convenes to-day.

A detachment of Lieut. Beck's recruits departed for the seat of war, yesterday. The Southern and Atlantic telegraph line has been extended to New Orleans. The one item that should be heartily encouraged by everybody, everywhere—journalism.

We understand there are clubs of the best people getting ready to go to the Memphis Mardi Gras. Col. Bridgers will accept our thanks for a "complimentary" for 1876 over the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. Your advertisements are read after your store is closed, and are often perused before it is opened in the morning.

Lieut. Beck has enlisted quite a number of men—principally colored. The flag is still up, and a few more can get accommodated. 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. George Hall met with a serious accident, last night, by falling down the stairs leading to Parker's Hall. His head was badly cut and bruised. The gas bills for the past month are a decided improvement on those for December. Kerosene is cheap, but gas at \$5 per 1,000 feet is not only cheap, but very convenient, and certainly the best light obtainable. We call attention to circulars of Mr. B. W. Wrenn, General Passenger Agent Western and Atlantic Railroad. He is always up with the times. Parties desiring to be present at Memphis should address him at once.

The gas bills for the past month are a decided improvement on those for December. Kerosene is cheap, but gas at \$5 per 1,000 feet is not only cheap, but very convenient, and certainly the best light obtainable. Mr. Laurey will have a large stock of fruit, etc., to dispose of to-day, and those desirous of purchasing, may be assured of bargains. Bananas, oranges, apples, etc. He is also supplied with more substantial articles—bacon, cabbage, onions, &c. Nearly opposite PHOENIX office.

What is the matter? The majority of the stores under the Alexander Opera House have been rented and the renters are desirous of obtaining possession; but work has been suspended, with no certainty of its renewal at an early day. Who is to blame? Look into it, gentlemen interested, and save trouble hereafter.

We have been requested to state that all Royal Arch Masons, with their families, desirous of visiting Charleston during the annual grand convocation of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, will be passed over the various railroads for one fare. A certificate from the High Priest of the Chapter to which the member belongs, will be required by the railroad agents.

As Mardi Gras will not be kept up in New Orleans this year, the citizens of Memphis, Tenn., have redoubled their efforts to have a grand display. The King has ordered the different railroad and steamboat lines to reduce their fare, and all have complied. A card in another column from B. W. Wrenn, Esq., of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, announces that he will furnish round trip tickets at extraordinarily low rates.

SALE-DAY.—Yesterday was sale-day, but owing to the stringency of the money market, but little property was disposed of, and that little at very low prices. Messrs. H. & S. Beard sold a lot in Waverley for \$375. Messrs. D. C. Peixotto & Son sold a lot on Main street, near Washington, for \$1,475; also, about fifty head of horses and mules, at prices ranging from \$40 to \$125.

"THE BALL."—The ball of the Richmond Rifle Club comes off on Thursday evening next, in the Southern Insurance Company's Hall. Mr. McKenzie furnishes the supper. The Rifles are a fine body of men, under the leadership of Capt. Hugh S. Thompson, ably backed by Messrs. W. C. Swaffield, W. R. Oathart, John T. Sloan, Jr., and Willie Jones, Vice-Presidents. The company numbers 107, and yet the organization is scarcely six months old.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.—COLUMBIA, S. C., February 1, 1876.—The Court of General Sessions, Judge R. B. Carpenter presiding, convened to-day. The grand jury was called and regularly empaneled, and Joe. A. Hendrix appointed foreman. His Honor then delivered an elaborate charge, of which the following is a brief synopsis:

1. To punish County officers for contracting for work for which there is no money to pay; also, to punish same for paying debts for which no appropriation has been made.
2. Murder and manslaughter.
3. Duelling, challenging, &c.
4. Assaults with deadly weapons, carried concealed about the person.
5. Rape.
6. Kidnapping.
7. An Act to punish engineers and conductors for disobeying rules of railroad companies, and also under same Act the duty of railroads to give notice of an approach of trains to public crossings.
8. An Act to punish willful obstructing of railroad tracks.
9. An Act to punish arson.
10. An Act to punish burglary.
11. An Act to punish stealing notes, bonds, &c.
12. An Act to punish the stealing of growing crops.
13. Act to punish breach of trust when committed with fraudulent intent.
14. Act to punish stealing of stock.
15. Act to punish pick-pockets.
16. Act to punish malicious wounding of cattle.
17. Act to punish fence burning.
18. Act to punish fraudulent branding of cattle.
19. Act to punish malicious trespassing on lands.
20. Act to punish malicious injury to bridges erected by County Commissioners.
21. An Act to punish obstructing of ditches.
22. An Act to punish cutting of shade trees.
23. Act to punish forgery and counterfeiting.
24. Act to punish perjury and subordination of perjury.
25. Act to punish Clerk of Courts, Sheriffs and Trial Justices for refusing to pay over fines, &c.
26. Act to punish bribery.
27. Act to punish acceptance of bribes.
28. Act to punish aiding in escapes.
29. Act to punish wagers on elections.
30. Act to punish fraudulent (repeating) voting at elections.
31. Act to punish bribery at elections.
32. Act to punish the buying of offices.
33. Act to punish intimidation of voters.
34. Act to prevent payment of tenants on account of political opinions.
35. Act to punish drunkenness in office.
36. Act to punish County officials for neglect of duty.
37. Enforcement Act.
38. Act to punish bigamy.
39. Act to punish gambling.
40. Act to punish lotteries.
41. Act to punish vending ofulent spirits in Richland County.
42. Act to punish common carriers, public officers and proprietors of the theatre for refusing to receive persons on account of color, previous condition, &c.
43. Act to punish accessories. His Honor dwelt at some length on the Act which requires all persons vending ulent spirits to apply to the Grand Jury for license to sell the same, if not resident within some incorporated town.

There were four bills given out to the Grand Jury. Only one case was tried, viz: The State vs. James Owens, Henry Bethel and Hilliard Owens, charged with grand larceny. Verdict not guilty as to Henry Bethel, but guilty as to the others.  
Dr. E. H. Heinlich temporary foreman of Jury No. 2.  
There being no further business before the Court, adjourned until tomorrow, at 10 o'clock.

A CARD.—The ladies of the Sewing Society of Washington Street Church, desire to return their most earnest thanks to Governor Z. B. Vance for his courteous compliance with their request to deliver a lecture in aid of their work. The sum realized by the proceeds of the lecture will be devoted to finishing their much-needed church, and they will ever remember with profound feelings of gratitude, the eloquent speaker, who came from their sister State and lent his talents to assist in the sacred work.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—Northern mail 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.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Eighty Acres and an Ox. O. J. Laurey—Bananas, Coconuts. Meeting Palmetto Steam Fire Co. Dr. R. Vampil—Caution. O. J. Laurey—Bacon, Apples, etc. Chieora Tribe, No. 2.

HOTEL ARRIVALS, FEBRUARY 1.—Hendrix House—F. K. Cunningham, Lancaster; J. F. Lyles, Fairfield; J. B. Gilbert, Sumter; J. Kenwick, Union; W. W. Cloud, York; W. S. Danham, A. S. Cartledge, J. A. Henderson, city; J. W. Colton, J. D. Radcliffe, J. O. Colton, N. Y.; G. Webb, Savannah; T. F. Weston, H. O. Marston, N. Y.; M. Summerfield, Va.; J. T. Smith, Fla.; F. P. Shelton, S. C.; G. F. Holmes, Savannah; J. S. Ferris, S. F. Brooks, Abbeville; L. M. Williams, Darlington; T. S. Williams, Society Hill; N. B. Vanlandingham, Lancaster; J. E. Payne, N. O.; A. B. Irby, Fairfield. Mansion House—M. W. Felder, Barnwell; Wm. Ed. Young, E. Dickinson, S. F. McGregor, Andrew Crawford, J. O. Sims, city; J. E. Rodgers, J. O. Ocala, Prosperity; J. B. Bomar, Spartanburg; T. B. Jeter, Union; T. B. Ferguson, Greenville; Arthur Harris, Oklawaha; B. F. Mauldin, Williamston.