

**Reduction of Salaries.**  
The House of Representatives is engaged in considering a bill to fix and reduce the salaries of certain public officers. It is intended to go into effect upon the expiration of the incumbency of the present officers. It is good as far as it goes, and in some directions, perhaps, goes far enough. But we see no diminution of offices in it, and it ought to be supplemented by another bill, which would largely reduce legislative expenses and the cost to the State of the members themselves. This might be effected by reducing the number of days of the session; say to forty and making the per diem compensation liberal, say from \$6 to \$10 a day. This would save the State the sum of \$200 for each member, or an aggregate of \$99,000, and the time allowed for the session would be ample for whatever good and necessary legislation may be required. This arrangement would tend to exclude jobs. The field would be narrowed and the time limited within which legislative rings could be formed and operate. We were pleased to notice that, upon a motion to strike out the enacting clause of the bill on Monday, Col. J. W. Livingston, of Oconee, came to the front to defend the objects of the bill. It was his first speech of the session, but being timely, needed and to the point, had a desired effect, and the motion to strike out was withdrawn. He characterized the multiplication of offices and the unnecessary increase in salaries as one of the greatest errors in modern legislation, tending lamentably to the injury of the public service. It was the teaching of political economy, and an axiom in representative governments, that as you increase the fees of office, you create an undue desire to secure office; and that as you thereby lessen the probabilities of securing honest and competent officials, you open wider the doors of fraud and corruption. To pay these numerous officials, taxes had to be largely increased. This was one of the prime causes of the depopulation of the older States, and unless checked, would eventually end in their bankruptcy and ruin. This general principle, applicable to so many other States, had a peculiar application to South Carolina, owing to its extravagance and corruption in the recent past. The excess of over \$170,000 expenditure above the receipts from taxes, could only be met by the proposed reduction of salaries and all other expenses of the State Government. He concluded with a commendatory reference to the reform views of the Governor, and hoped that the Legislature would not be backward to second them, but would, like him, seek to fulfill their pledges of reformation and reform. As we have said, opposition to the bill was headed off by this sound and earnest presentation of the necessity of action. It was a word in season. Yesterday, the discussion, which excites a lively interest, was continued to the hour of adjournment.

**Witchcraft in the Air.**  
In response to the resolution of the Senate, asking for information relative to affairs in Arkansas, the President goes out of the way to express his opinion, that Brooks was elected Governor in 1872, and to characterize the new Constitution as the result of violence, intimidation and revolutionary proceedings. He goes still further and makes the dangerous and uncalled-for suggestion, that all this action must be overturned. In his desire to make out a case against Arkansas, he disregards his own previous declarations and policy, and prates about the "rights of minorities." The President and his party, which, fortunately, is no longer the same as the Republican party, mean to hold power at all hazards, and at every opportunity invent or make occasion for violent proceedings towards the Southern States. The purpose to rule or ruin, or rather to rule and ruin, is hardly veiled any longer. The cloven foot is peeping out. Another onslaught on the South, in order to perpetuate party rule and secure as many Presidential terms as may be desired, and all in the name of "stability of government" and "rights of minorities," is plainly the programme of the administration of President Grant.

**Mr. Astor's Tax.**—Mr. Astor, whose husband pays \$100,000 in taxes, owns \$1,000,000 worth of diamonds. She wants a reduction of her taxes at \$100,000. Mrs. Frazee's Khedive got its answer.

Civil rights—Obliging answers.

**Strike Out.**  
As we remember the matter, and as shown by Mr. Josephus Woodruff, yesterday, in his letter to Senator Nash, the General Assembly entered into a contract with the Republican Printing Company, on the 10th day of the present session, to do certain specified public printing, for two years, to \$50,000 a year. The proceeds of the tax levied to pay it may not amount to more than \$40,000, but the sum will be the no less due, and have to be provided for. It will come again, in the shape of a deficiency or claim. There is another point where we see that a reduction can be more justly made. The \$12,800 which it is proposed to appropriate for beneficiary students in the University gives very little satisfaction, and can well be dispensed with. The principle upon which it is based is wrong, the sum out of all reason, the good to be accomplished by it next to nothing. The clause should by all means be struck out.

**A Good Bill.**—A bill, introduced by Chancellor Johnson, of Marion, to declare and protect the rights of married women and children under policies of insurance taken out for their benefit, passed its second reading in the House of Representatives, last Saturday, and will very likely become a law. It provides:  
"That if a policy of insurance upon the life of any person which has already or may hereafter be taken out, in which it is expressed to be for the benefit of any married woman, or for the benefit of herself and her children, or for the benefit of herself and the children of her husband, whether procured by herself or her husband, shall ensure to the use and benefit of the person or persons for whose use and benefit it is expressed to be taken out, and the sum or net amount of the insurance becoming due and payable, by the terms of the policy, shall be payable to the person or persons, for whose use and benefit it shall be expressed to be taken, free and discharged from the claims of the representatives of the husband, or any of his creditors, or any party or parties claiming by, through or under him or them, or either of them: *Provided, however,* That if the premium paid in any one year out of the property or funds of the husband shall exceed the sum of \$500, the exemption from the claims of the creditors of the husband shall not apply to so much of said premium paid as shall be in excess of \$500; but such excess, with the interest thereon, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall ensure to the benefit of such creditors, if any: *Provided,* The same be necessary for their payment."

**Mr. Editor:** In your issue of the 4th inst., we notice a futile effort on the part of Rambler (a whiskey drummer) to ridicule "Lexington City," by describing "his advent &c." Arriving at 4 in the morning, he seems struck with the deserted appearance of the place, and at once makes it a happy illustration of the "poem of the Deserted Village"—a suitable time for a simoleon to make a simile; a time, too, when his own native city (Frog Level) would have answered as well. After an ineffectual attempt of a half hour to find a house to suit his fancy, as we suppose, he stops at the hotel, where he finds the old man, who answers his calls, to be the host, and where his mouth is made to "water" upon seeing the old man take his usual glass of sarsaparilla. At this stage, he becomes impatient, and failing to hear his host invite him "to join," or to say, "here goes," he concludes that the innocent old man is d-d unsocial, thus betraying the vile proclivities of his uncouth nature. Had he felt an interest in the business he (mis)represents, it seems he should have seized this opportunity to exhibit his samples; but, lo! they had been already appropriated to his own thirty cravings. We would suggest to his employer to increase the quantity of his samples. Instead of vials, give him bottles, that he may have some the whole trip round, and not be annoyed at the mere sight or gurgling of a sarsaparilla bottle; and should he make his second "advent" into our "city," we hope he may arrive by day, that our boys might meet him, and with their usual civility, show him the egg-battery and other little simple Lexington innovations, and if he never returns to receive such courtesy, we hope he may still continue to indulge in his poetic similes, until he learns that

**Among the celebrations of Tom Paine's birth-day, last Friday, that at Boston was a notable one, for Paine has more followers in that city than anywhere else. They erected a building as a memorial to the great infidel, last year, and dedicated it on Friday to his memory. A regular service was held before the bust and picture of Paine, which looked very much as if worship was being offered to him. Miss Boston Nixon delivered the address of the occasion, in which she extolled Paine, and said that she "gloried in the name 'free thinker.'" The religious services would not have a ball and a hoop.**

**Labor Omnia Vincit—No, 1.**  
BY JUNIUS.  
The acquisition of any and everything under the sun requires labor—either labor of the mind or body. This is a command imposed upon man. Says the Good Book, "Thou shalt earn thy bread in the sweat of thy face." The people of South Carolina to-day are in an emergency; that emergency is "bread and meat." There is no use in trying to deny it. It is upon you, and we emphatically say, "The people must go to work, and go to work to make it this year." Fathers must teach their children, by precept and example, that the great virtue, the power and the necessity of the times, is only to be found of that which heads this article, "labor omnia vincit." The people of South Carolina must and should learn to be independent, not to be dependent upon any other State for their meat and bread, their hay and the fertilizers upon their farms. It matters not where a people may live, whether on the rich alluvial bottoms of the Mississippi or on the fertile soil of the grain-growing prairies of the great North-west, a line of policy pursued by them as is pursued in this State, will, would and must bankrupt, ruin and starve them eventually out. Show me a people whose smoke-houses are stuffed with bacon, and whose barns are filled with grain, and I will show you a people who cannot and will not be affected by low-priced cotton, or high-priced grain and bacon. On the other hand, show me a people with lean, meatless smoke-houses and empty corn-cribs, and I will show you a miserable, discontented, poor, grumbling, good-for-nothing set of wretches, whose dependent, poverty-stricken, destitute condition can and never will be reached or benefited by high-priced cotton or reduced prices of the most favorable items. The truth is, the people have been coppering too much on three cards—"credit, cotton and guano." To such an extent have they ventured their last bottom dollar, that they have nothing left but Gothic structures of moles and horses, together with their lands, and in nine cases out of ten, these are pledged to some man or firm, who have furnished them with supplies to make their crop with. Yet, in the face of all this lowly poverty, embarrassment and perplexity, we read and observe in newspapers—yes, newspapers, who pretend to give information—"that the acreage of cotton is less and less, and that the people are turning their attention to the planting of grain."

**To His Excellency Gov. Chamberlain—DEAR SIR:** It is really refreshing to see that you really mean honesty and reform in the government of South Carolina. You have done much; you can do more—much more. I will remember your remark in the Tax-Payers' Convention: "One honest man can put a host of thieves to flight." Now the people of South Carolina ask you to be that honest man. Your suggestions to curtail the appropriations are admirable, and for fear you may forget it, allow me to suggest how you can save, perhaps, \$100,000 or \$200,000 more. The outstanding claims against the State in the shape of pay certificates, issued to John D. and Richard Roe is, perhaps, \$500,000. More than one-half of them ought never to be paid, and why? Because the individuals in whose favor they are drawn many of them were never in the State capitol more than once; and many have drawn pay as committee clerks who can't read; some for services rendered House of Representatives; some for labor; some as porters, and various other ways, most of them at five dollars per day. Think of it, committee clerks who can't read nor sign their names, nor tell what committee they served on, and yet the honest people have to pay a special tax to feed such rascality; and now if your Excellency wishes to save the State a handsome sum, let there be a committee appointed—not of members of the Legislature—who can get information as to the services of the original parties to these papers, and not allow one dollar, unless it can be clearly established that the services were performed. This work can be done and without any expense to the State. In many of the Counties, too, there is a deficiency. Why? Because claims are put in, without number, for services rendered and prisoners fed and cared for, and money advanced by certain officials, without regard to time, number or place. All this fraud could be overhauled and many thousands saved to the State, if your Excellency will take the bull by the horns, now that you have commenced, and clean out the Augean stables. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
**TRUE REFORM.**

**TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHOENIX:** In the *Union-Herald*, of the 9th, we notice an article, over the signature of "Conservator," in which we observe that the name of Hon. J. B. Kershaw has been presented to the consideration of his Excellency the Governor as a suitable person to wear the mantle of the "departed Green." In J. B. Kershaw, the General Assembly will find a man, Republican to the core; a man altogether non-partisan; a man who will see that justice is fairly administered; a man who will perform his duty under any and all circumstances under the law, and a man in every way capable of sustaining the high prestige which the judiciary of South Carolina has ever maintained.

Mr. Cain introduced bill to provide for appointment of Commissioner of Forfeited Lands.  
Mr. Whittemore—Bill to amend Section 5 of "An Act to regulate number and pay of officers and attendants, clerks and laborers of General Assembly, and to provide the manner of electing, appointing and paying same."  
Mr. Jervey introduced a resolution, that the Treasurer of Orangeburg be requested within five days to inform Senate whether he has in his employ as clerk any person or persons connected with that office during the unfortunate period in its affairs, when a large amount was fraudulently extracted from the treasury.

Joint resolution to allow John B. Goodwin, Frank Goodwin, Joseph Hawkins and Edward R. Arthur to redeem certain forfeited lands in Richland County was engrossed.  
A large number of bills and joint resolutions received third reading and passed.  
The bill to charter Columbia City Railroad was amended so as to read that work on said City Railway be commenced within two years from passage of this Act, and be completed within five years thereafter.

Joint resolution to provide payment of certain claims of Thomas W. Price & Co., by making an appropriation for same, was ratified.  
Mr. Myers—Joint resolution authorizing County Commissioners of Colleton to levy and collect special tax, to be used for completion of the new road.  
Bill to incorporate Union Building and Loan Association, of Union, received its third reading, the title changed to an Act and enrolled for ratification.

General and special orders considered until adjournment.  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**  
The Chair called the attention of the House to the fact that, on account of the refusal of the employees in the engrossing and enrolling department to labor, unless provision is made for their compensation, it was necessary that some action should be taken. A resolution was adopted, that the Chairmen of the Committees on Engrossed Bills and Enrolled Acts be authorized to have the engrossing and enrolling performed under their supervision, and that they summon the Committee Clerks of the House to perform said duty.

Mr. Spencer, from Committee on Engrossed Bills, reported a joint resolution to amend Section 3, Chapter 11, General Statutes. Passed.  
Mr. Myers introduced a resolution, which was adopted, that the rule requiring this House to adjourn each day at 3 P. M., be suspended for the remainder of the session.  
Mr. Casgrove—Bill to amend an Act to regulate election of Mayor and Aldermen of city of Charleston.  
Mr. Barnwell—Bill to amend charter of Home Insurance Company, of Charleston.

Mr. Davis—Joint resolution to compel County Treasurers to retain in their offices a sufficient amount of money for the purpose of paying warrants of jurors, witnesses, Trial Justices and constables as they may fall due.  
Mr. Nesbitt—Bill to establish and maintain a high school in each County.  
Bill to require Trial Justices to exhibit all original papers to the County Commissioners before or at the time said Commissioners audit their accounts, and for other purposes, was engrossed.

Joint resolutions to require all persons holding claims against Treasurer of Charleston County to present same within sixty days from passage of this resolution; to compel County Treasurers to retain in their offices a sufficient amount of money for the purpose of paying warrants of jurors, witnesses, Trial Justices and Constables as they may fall due; to appoint a committee to investigate and report upon financial affairs of Colleton County, were rejected.

Bills to extend time for County School Commissioners of Charleston to qualify; to regulate appointment and salary of Trial Justices in city of Columbia, were read third time and ordered to be returned to the Senate, with amendments.  
After consideration of general and special orders adjourned.

Gold, says the *Nashville Union*, is now higher in New York than it has been for nearly two years, and much attention and comment are elicited by the symptoms it exhibits of still further strength. While there is one class of observers who contend that the process of resumption under the Act of Congress will diminish the premium, a much larger number of financiers—and among them are not a few German bankers—argue that the recent heavy shipments of coin, the suspension of the weekly sales by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the daily absorption by this department of the customs receipts, have reduced the stock of gold at command, and thus caused an actual scarcity that is making itself felt upon the price, and, with similar favorable conditions, may carry the latter even to 120. Such is the talk of Wall street. For several years past, at this season of the year, the average amount of specie held by the banks has been \$25,000,000. The last report shows that the amount on hand is only \$17,000,000, the loss during the past week having been nearly \$4,000,000.

5000 dozen fresh eggs just received and for sale at reduced price, at Hardy Solomon's.

**CITY MATTERS.**—Subscribe for the PHOENIX—don't borrow.  
Reading matter on every page.  
Jokes are like nuts—the drier they are the better they crack.  
Transient advertisements and notices must be paid for in advance.  
Enclose the postage with your subscription—Daily, six months, 25 cents; Tri-Weekly, 15; Weekly, 10 cents.  
A lad, yesterday, killed seventy-six robbers with a sling-shot. The other damage done has not been estimated.  
An energetic, industrious lad, who has some knowledge of printing, can obtain a situation by applying at once at PHOENIX office.

"Economy is wealth, therefore smoke the '1/2 Dime,' 'New Sensation' and 'Monopoly' Cigars, that judges of the weed brag about.  
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.  
It's all very well to talk of the "sunny South," but the "freezy North" would be more applicable to the weather for the past few days.

Messrs. D. Crawford & Sons inform planters of the different kinds of guano for which they are agents. The "Eureka" is something new in this latitude.  
While on the way to the fire, last night, the long arms of Congaree struck against the door-way of the Pollock House, smashed the glass, tore the door from its hinges, broke off the arms and came near demolishing Mike.

The burning of a small building, belonging to Mr. Frazee, located in the neighborhood of the garrison grounds, caused an alarm of fire to be sounded, last night, about half-past 9 o'clock. The firemen with their machines were out promptly.  
The revised edition of the "History of the South Carolina College," by the late Dr. Maximilian LaBorde, has been received at Mr. R. L. Bryan's book store, and is ready for delivery to subscribers. They are requested to call and get their copies. We are informed also that there are some copies printed off in excess of the number ordered, and for sale at the same moderate price as to subscribers. This is a good opportunity to procure a volume of much interest, both from the subject it treats and the sketches it gives, as from the lively and flowing style in which it is written.

**DEATH OF MRS. JAMES CASEY.**—This aged lady, who has resided in the old revolutionary house at Granby for many years, departed this life on Sunday last, at the ripe age of seventy-eight. She was highly respected and venerated by all who knew her. She had been in feeble health for many months, and her death was not unlooked for.  
**THE RURAL CAROLINIAN.**—This valuable monthly for February has come promptly to hand. It contains valuable contributions from the pens of Rev. C. W. Howard, Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, Gen. Johnson Hagood, Dr. A. B. Rose, Mr. Robert Chisolm, Mr. H. W. Ravenel and other well known writers. The science and practice of agriculture may be profitably studied in its pages. It is fully up to the requirements of this noble pursuit, being in form and substance, its fullness and variety of matter, taste and arrangement, the peer of any agricultural magazine in this country.

**STEREOPTION OR SOLAR VIEWS AROUND THE WORLD.**—One of the most pleasing entertainments ever witnessed in this city will be given at Parker's Hall, this evening. Professor W. A. Smith, of New York, comes highly recommended by the press and pulpit of the North where he has traveled. This is not a demoralizing exhibition or gift enterprise humbug, but an intensely interesting entertainment that will leave an impression on the mind that will be of lasting benefit.

The price of admission has been fixed go suit the times: 40 cents for adults, 25 cents for children, and 50 cents for reserved seats. The views for to-night are in Venice, Switzerland and Rome. Reserved seats can be secured at Lybrand & Son's Music Store.

**COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS, COLUMBIA, February 9.**—Hon. R. B. Carpenter, presiding.  
John Raleigh—on application of W. D. Starling, defendant was held to bail in the sum of \$4,000 to keep the peace. Robert Johnson, charged with burglary and arson—verdict, guilty. This was the individual who fired the store of Mr. T. J. Gibson, in December last.

On account of the absence of some of the grand jurors, no bills were presented.  
Court adjourned until 10 A. M., tomorrow.

**THE HOT SUPPER.**—Our Washington Street Methodist friends had a delightful time of it; last night, and highly gratified a number of visitors. Irwin's Hall was lastly decorated with flowers and evergreens, while tables loaded with good things were here, there and everywhere. There was a very general turn-out of ladies and gentlemen—the former "mincing over an ice cream, a salad, or a bit of cake, while the latter discussed with great gusto, roast pig, turkey, chicken salad, oysters, boned turkey and other substantial, the prevailing idea being that the church must be built, and each and every one felt that his particular duty was to put eatables down, that the sacred edifice should go up. In the centre of the room, stood the veritable well, with the Rebecca, about whom we have all read. On the right, as you enter the room, is a handsome caddy pyramid, donated by the proprietor of the Wheeler House, and ballots were freely cast by the young, as well as the elderly gentlemen, to decide who should be elected to receive it. In this particular election, there was no limit as to ballots—you could "vote early and often." Mr. Jos. H. Denck, on his favorite instrument, the piano, and Mr. John Rawls, with his violin, furnished most charming music. To-night, we understand, there will be another "set-out," and all who feel an interest in the erection of the church should attend, and aid—even though it be but a mite. Prices are very reasonable, and change is promptly made. Our thanks are returned to the lady and gentlemen managers for their kindness and attention.

**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., 5 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.  
**APPOINTMENTS.**—F. A. Sandland, Jury Commissioner, Edgefield; Miles Bennett, Jury Commissioner, Barnwell; G. W. Brown, Trial Justice, Lexington, vice J. B. Morar, resigned; J. O. Seacrest, Probate Judge, Lancaster, resignation accepted.

**LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
D. C. Peixotto & Son—Collateral.  
E. H. Heinitch—Seed Potatoes.  
Crawford & Sons—Guano.  
Perry & Slawson—Cigars.  
Meeting Columbia Chapter.

**HOTEL ARRIVALS, FEBRUARY 9.**—*Handic House*—O. H. Green, N. Y.; J. K. Robertson, Va.; R. F. McOastlin, John Manly, Charleston; S. R. Chinnis, J. M. Bates, N. C.; O. B. Stone, Texas; W. H. Faber, Columbia; G. W. Stettinius, St. Louis; A. M. Newbill, Shelton; W. S. Smith, Fish Dam; B. A. Stovall, Ga.  
*Mansion House*—S. E. Caughman, B. R. Wyse, Lexington; E. L. P. Martin, Providence; H. L. Farley, Spartanburg; W. W. Russell, Pendleton; E. G. Roberts, Charleston; J. R. Winston, N. C.; W. A. Lumbecker, E. S. Hall, Ninety-Six; A. C. Kennedy, Newberry; J. S. Oranton, Lancaster; J. D. Ridchiff, N. C.; H. D. Hamiter, Richland; Miss Hiller, Mrs. Derriok, S. C.

**FURCHGOTT, BENEDET & Co., CHARLESTON, S. C.**—EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS.—Best Standard Prints, 6c. up. Long Cloth, from 6c. up. Sheetting, 30c. up. Wool Flannel, 25c. up. Fine Dress Goods and Alpaccas, 25c. up. Wool Blankets, \$1.85 per pair up. Full lines of Jeany Cassimeres, Cloths, Ribbons and every variety of Dress Goods, Cloaks, Shawls, Furs, House-keeping Goods, Carpets, Oil Cloth, Rugs, etc. Keeping the largest and best selected stock South, we can, with confidence, assure our friends and the public, that by purchasing of us, by order, or personally, they will save from 20 to 25 per cent. Samples sent on application. All retail orders over \$10 sent free of charge. Goods sent C. O. D. Make remittances by P. O. Order, Draft, or per Express. Branches at Atlanta, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla., where goods can be obtained at same prices. J1†

**A SURE THING.**—In less than four weeks the great agency will be over. The ticket-holders in the last gift concert of the Public Library of Kentucky will know each one his own fate. Everybody now knows that there can be no further postponement. On the 27th of the present month, at 6 o'clock A. M., the great Gilmore band will open the drawing with a burst of melody, and at night, when the drawing is over, the band will give their grand jubilee concert to the ticket-holders.  
The Nevada Legislature has redeemed itself from the charge of stupidity by refusing to abolish capital punishment. It was found that, of a large number of desperadoes and murderers sentenced to ten or twenty years' imprisonment, only two or three are now in jail, the rest having either escaped, or having been pardoned by that tender-hearted thing, "Executive clemency."