

City Finances.

The communication of Mr. W. B. Gulick, under the heading "Finances of the City," was unavoidably crowded out of yesterday's issue, by Mr. Davidson's indictment of Gen. Sherman for the burning of Columbia. We invite a careful perusal of the article, this morning, as it contains astounding predictions of financial disaster and heavy taxation. The concluding portion of Mr. Gulick's article will be a subject for serious consideration by the taxpayers of the city, and prompt and vigorous action is requisite to meet the exigencies of the case.

The Food Question.

It is maintained in some well-informed quarters that owing to the derangement of manufacturing and other industries in this country, and reduction of available means from these causes, the consumption of food per capita will be less during the coming year than it has been in the past twelve months. If this be so, prices for agricultural products must fall in a material degree. The crops of 1875 will be fully equal to those of 1874, if not somewhat above in this country. Those of Europe will be fair. When both are joined as to food supply and placed in opposition to a weakened demand, it can readily be seen that prices must come down. In relation to this question in the United States, another fact must be taken into consideration. Some years ago the Southern States did not add much to the food crops of the country. They raised cotton, rice, sugar and other products to the exclusion of the cereals. Since the war, however, corn and other cereals have been cultivated to a greater extent, and at the present time it is calculated that some of the Southern States will feed their own people, and even have a surplus.

In the light of such facts as these, the people of this country, both raisers and consumers of food, should look at the future. The former must not expect too much from the crop of 1875, and the latter should so economize as to repair some of the rents in their financial robes made by the high price of food for the past five years. It has been truthfully and pointedly said that glutted markets and moderate demand for agricultural products do not generally portend a season of remarkable individual or national activity. This is true as a separate proposition, but with it must be associated the fact that the cheaper the laborers of a country can be fed the cheaper articles can be produced, and that will command foreign markets to the exclusion of rivals. Unite these ideas and then a point can be gained from which to look at this crop question in a broad, intelligent, practical manner.

THE DEAD DESPERADO.—Several persons have been led to suspect that Henry Daniels, the negro who was killed at the Augusta jail, last Saturday night, was a member of the celebrated Lowery gang of brigands who caused so much excitement about Lumberton, N. C., several years ago. There is much to confirm such a suspicion. By reference to the history of the outlaws, we find that one of the gang, George Applewhite, answers exactly to the description of Daniels. The report before us says: "George Applewhite is a regular negro, of a surly, determined look, with thick features, woolly hair, large protuberances above the eyebrows, big jaws and cheek bones, and a black eye. He is a picture of a slave at bay. He is supposed to be either dead, hidden away, wounded, or to have abandoned the country, as he has not been seen or heard of for several months. When last heard from, he was faint from loss of blood, and had received wounds in the breast from some soldiery. He married into the Oxendine family, and was present at the murder of Sheriff King and elsewhere, and is, therefore, included in the list of outlaws, and a reward put upon his head." After Daniels' death, a number of old scars were discovered on his body. There was also the mark of a bullet wound on his forehead, evidently received several years ago. Daniels' wife said that she married Henry in Guilford County, N. C., about four years ago. She had only known him a short time. He told her before they were married, that he came from the turpentine region. The wound on his forehead, he said, he received during the war, and the scars on his arms and body in slavery times. She didn't know whether he ever had another name or not.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—An engine and part of a train went through a bridge on the Carolina Central Railroad, nine miles from Charlotte, on Saturday morning, killing John McGehee and Prince Woods, colored, and severely wounding the conductor and six colored train hands.

William C. Reames' barn in Clarendon County was burned on the 24th, between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock A. M. Incendiary.

The Finances of the City.

The interest felt in the financial condition of the city of Columbia by its property-owners and tax-payers will excuse me for again participating in this discussion by calling attention to some things Hon. L. Cass Carpenter has to say concerning it. Before taking up any of his figures, I take the liberty of placing in one group several admissions made by Mr. Carpenter, as follows:

"It is true that the city debt has been increased by a large amount since 1870." "I am quite well aware that the rate of taxation has been increased nearly double what it was in 1870." "There has been waste, extravagance, mismanagement and other kindred evils accompanying the administration of city affairs."

These admissions embrace much that has been charged by the Citizens' Committee, and ought to close the controversy. The set of men who have brought so many evils on the city, should make way for others, who might manage matters better. A new set, of whatever political party they might be composed, could do no worse. It is probable that they could at least work a reform of "other kindred evils," by which must be meant bills for "sundries," water pipe contracts, taken by the Mayor at six cents per pound, that could have been furnished for less than four cents, and other jobs gotten up at the expense of the tax-payers for the benefit of the City Council. Honesty, economy and good management are wanted—nothing else.

The amount of the debt at the beginning of the administration of Mayor Alexander, seems to trouble Mr. Carpenter very much, and every new statement varies from all the preceding ones. Three statements present the following contrast:

Debt obtained from city records.....	\$399,324 10
Gen. Stolbrand's statement.....	499,000 00
Mr. Carpenter's statement.....	506,453 35

The coupons supposed to be unpaid at the beginning of the administration are thus variously given:

Gen. Stolbrand's statement.....	\$70,000 00
Mr. Carpenter, at Parker's Hall.....	45,175 00
Mr. Carpenter, in Phoenix.....	89,476 00

As neither of these gentlemen take into account the large amount of coupons funded into bonds and paid in that way prior to 1870, it is certain that the figures of both are gross exaggerations, and that the actual amount of coupons unpaid was very much less than the smaller of these three estimates.

Referring to Mr. Carpenter's Parker Hall speech and his statements relating to payments of coupons generally, I invite the public to the following statement he then made. He calculates the interest unpaid at the beginning of Mayor Alexander's administration to be \$45,175. He then estimates that during the next four years there were over-payments of interest to the amount of \$71,117 over the amounts falling due in those years; that is, during these four years, coupons to the amount of \$25,942 were paid beyond the total amount due, including all arrearages. This could have happened only by paying this amount of coupons twice. I make no charges, but simply deduce from Mr. Carpenter's own figures their logical conclusions. If, then, to this over-payment be added the \$60,000 of unpaid coupons admitted to be outstanding at this time, the tax-payers have good reason to wish a change and reform in the financial management of the city.

The account for special interest was kept separately from and after the 1st of January, 1873. Mr. Carpenter asserts "not only was all the money realized from the special tax paid for the purposes for which it was levied, but hundreds of dollars in addition, so that not a dollar of special interest was ever used for any other purpose." For the two years, embracing the period from January 1, 1873, to December 31, 1874, the account stands as follows, taken from the records of the City Treasurer:

Special tax collected.....	\$61,478 15
Coupons paid.....	55,609 75
Balance Dec. 31, 1874.....	\$5,868 40

The balance on April 30, 1874, which may be regarded as the financial close of Mayor Alexander's second term, was \$5,914.39, diverted to other uses during the period when Mr. Carpenter was Chairman of the Finance Committee, and had the whole management of the finances of the city under his official charge.

The report of the Citizens' Committee makes the balance of city currency outstanding May 31, 1870, at \$16,204.10. Mr. Carpenter asserts that the true balance was \$31,877.55, and that "during the first year of Mayor Alexander's administration \$11,593.75 more of this currency was redeemed and destroyed" than was outstanding according to that report. I will thank Mr. Carpenter to submit the proof of this statement, giving dates and amounts redeemed and destroyed. But, as he has no ledger to rely upon, I will here produce the account:

May 31, 1870, currency outstanding.....	\$16,204 10
June 30, 1870, issued by Mr. Etter.....	1,000 00
July 30, 1870, issued by Mr. Etter.....	927 50
August 31, 1870, issued by Mr. Etter.....	150 00
September 30, 1870, issued by Mr. Etter.....	380 00
November 30, 1870, issued by Mr. Etter.....	450 00
	\$19,111 60

Redeemed and Destroyed.	
June 30, 1870.....	\$ 111 90
March 31, 1871.....	16,059 80
May 10, 1871.....	2,960 20—\$19,131 90

Balance over-issued..... \$ 20 30
That is the whole account of city currency during the first year's administration

of Mayor Alexander. Mr. Carpenter's figures are pure fictions.

While on this subject of city currency, I will ask Mr. Carpenter to give to the public what he knows concerning the issue of city currency while Mr. Barnum was Treasurer. It is understood that the Chairman of the Finance Committee was the custodian of the unsigned notes, and that he delivered them to Mr. Barnum for signature and use as the funds were required. The whole amount printed was \$37,000. To settle the account of Mr. Barnum correctly, it is necessary to have Mr. Carpenter's account of bills delivered to the Treasurer.

There are other points in Mr. Carpenter's speech and communication which I might notice, but an intelligent public will understand them well enough without further discussion. I could go on rectifying his mistakes and involving him in arithmetical blunders, but he would probably imagine a new set of accounts as soon as the old mistakes were cleared up, and I should have a new work before me. The fact is, Mr. Carpenter displays so little accurate knowledge of the finances of the city, and so much skill in getting the accounts confused and himself in a muddle, that the present embarrassments of the city are really not surprising, considering that its finances were under his management for two years. As he cannot be expected to know anything of the present financial status of the city, I take the liberty here of producing about what the expected statement of the Mayor and City Clerk will show as to the city debt:

Bonds of all kinds.....	\$58,669 00
Due to banks.....	25,062 09
T. J. Jeter.....	1,000 00
Judgments.....	42,090 65
Coupons past due.....	60,000 00
Unpaid bills, &c.....	10,000 00

Total debt..... \$696,752 74
Showing an increase of \$190,000 over the largest statement yet made by Mr. Carpenter. I make this contrast in order that his admission already quoted, "that the city debt has been increased by a large amount since 1870," may be fully sustained by direct evidence. Having accepted his largest statement, embracing all the supposed liabilities of the city at the beginning of Alexander's administration, this increase is directly chargeable to the "waste, extravagance, mismanagement and other kindred evils" that have prevailed since that date.

As I hope not to be compelled to continue the discussion of city matters any further through the press, I desire to call the attention of the public now to the certain approach of a disaster to our city and its finances, if they are not taken hold of promptly, with a determination to set them in better order. The special tax for interest next year cannot be less than ten mills; the tax to support the city government, pay interest on floating debt and meet deficiency in the water contract will require ten mills more, and ten mills more will be required to pay \$12,000 in judgments already rendered against the city in our Circuit Court. The City Council may not levy the tax to pay the judgments, but the Court will be compelled to do it, and the citizens will have to pay. The work of approving bills that cannot be paid until the next tax is collected, is already going on in the City Council, and nothing will remain to pay even a judgment for the cost of a steam fire engine in use to protect the city from fire. A three per cent. tax will absorb one-third of the rental value of all the property of the city, reducing its selling price and its taxable valuation to the extent certainly of twenty-five per cent. The owners of property find it dwindling away in their hands, while the poor man, the laborer, will be driven to other places to find employment. These are some of the considerations which should stir our citizens to act at once, to take the necessary measures to stop the increase of the debt in all forms, and to see that the taxes are applied to its reduction. Very respectfully,
W. B. GULICK.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN LAURELBERG.—We learn by a telegram received in this city, yesterday, that a fire broke out yesterday morning about 2 o'clock, in a store at Laurinburg, Richmond County. So rapid was the progress of the fire, and so imperfect the facilities for extinguishing it, that ere the flames were arrested they had totally destroyed the hotel, five stores and the warehouse of the Carolina Central Railway Company, together with ten old cars, three new ones, and five flats. The telegram states that there is little doubt that the fire was the devilish work of an incendiary. We did not learn the names of the owners of the burnt property, nor the probable amount of the loss.—Charlotte Observer.

It is truly wonderful, the variety and ingenuity of the conveniences for the desk and office—pens of varied patterns, inlstands possessing numberless advantages, letter files, each one the best, envelopes of size and qualities infinite. It is almost bewildering to enter the large Broad street store of Walker, Evans & Cogswell, in Charleston, and see the number of these attractions. Here you find the largest stationery stock South of Baltimore, and you only have two troubles—first, sufficient cash; and, second, the difficulty in deciding among the many things offered, each equally suitable to your wants. M7†

Miss Hester, daughter of Wm. M. Pippin, and Miss Dora, daughter of John Stator, both about seventeen years of age, were accidentally drowned at Tarboro, N. C., while bathing in a pond on the plantation of the latter gentleman.

Henry Oetriehs, of the firm of Oetriehs & Co., agents of the German Lloyds, is dead; aged 66.

Samuel Chubbuck, of Utica, N. Y., pioneer telegraph apparatus manufacturer, is dead; aged 76.

CITY TREAS.—Don't date your letters the 31st to-morrow.

The exhibition at the School of Nazareth takes place this afternoon.

The best pocket companion—A full purse.

Advertising is the oil which tradesmen put in their lamps. They that are unwise put no oil in.

The Vigilant Fire Engine Company of this city will visit Chester on Monday, the 5th instant.

The water will be shut off, at the intersection of Main and Laurel streets, at 9 o'clock, this morning.

The number of solid drunks has been greatly decreased of late, owing to the warm weather, no doubt.

Why is a newspaper like a tooth-brush? Do you give it up? Because every person should have one of his own, and not be borrowing his neighbor's.

Perry & Slawson's new cigars are attracting all smokers. Just think, Havana Tips at 5 cents—equal in quality to 15-cent cigars.

Attention is invited to the programme of exercises at Ursuline Institute, Valle Crucis, which will be carried out to-morrow afternoon, commencing at 5 o'clock.

Charleston is organizing a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. There is a splendid field in Columbia for the exercise of the powers that belong to such a society, and the example of Charleston may be well followed.

Andrew Bonds had a preliminary examination before Trial Justice Sill, Monday morning, and was ordered to give bond in the sum of \$1,500, or be committed to jail for appearance at the October term of Court.

At the anniversary meeting of Phoenix Hook and Ladder Company, held Monday evening, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing term: Foreman, Captain J. L. Little; Assistant Foreman, J. P. Meehan; Secretary, M. B. McSweeney; Treasurer, J. Jeans.

The honorary degree which he received from Union College, the other day, appears to have turned the head of "Old Probs." Certainly no man in his senses would get up such weather as this, unless it be that, as a doctor of philosophy, he thinks it proper to try the philosophy of his patients.

We have received the annual catalogue of Roanoke College, Salem, Va. We see that at the commencement exercises, Mr. P. D. Hyler, of Lexington, sustained the reputation of the Palmetto State as a land of orators. He pointed out the "Way to Excellence." Mr. Julius D. Dreher, A. M., of Lexington, was elected Professor of English Language and Literature, and also appointed Financial Secretary of the College. J. T. Crabtree, A. B., was elected assistant Professor of Languages.

These commencement days should be festivals in our modern life. They celebrate the new generation going out to do battle in the great strife that lies before them. It is the new generation treading in the foot-steps of the one who goes before—even of our own. And as we read these speeches and take part in these ceremonies, and hear the voices of these light, cheery multitudes, we feel as though they were the echoes of the future. May God's blessing rest with them, and may all their years be as sunny as these commencement days, with their endeavors, their achievements and their high-mountain hopes.

DEATH OF AN AGED CITIZEN.—An old and prominent citizen has been called to his final resting place. Col. Hart Maxey departed this life, yesterday, after a severe illness of little less than a week's duration. He was about sixty years of age. Col. Maxey served with distinction in the Florida war, and was commander of a regiment of South Carolina troops under the old regime. He was the son of Hon. Jonathan Maxey, one of the first Presidents of the South Carolina College, and was himself a graduate of that venerated institution. The funeral ceremonies will be performed at the Presbyterian Church, this afternoon, at 5 o'clock.

The following special despatch was received by the Phoenix, last night, from Spartanburg, signed by Secretary A. C. Kaufman:

A meeting of the Directors of the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad was held this evening, President Memminger in the chair. A resolution, warmly endorsed by Mr. Geo. W. Williams, of Charleston, was offered, authorizing the President to let the mountain section to contract at once. Messrs. Kennedy and Ripley, of North Carolina, spoke earnestly in favor of the enterprise. They said that their people meant to do their share of the work and give their trade to Charleston. This was emphatically a business meeting. Charleston and the great West will soon join hands.

THE FOURTH IN AUGUSTA.—Lieutenants W. C. Swaffield and W. R. Cathcart, of the Richland Rifle Club, visited Augusta Saturday, for the purpose of making arrangements for accommodating the club on its visit there next Monday. They succeeded in securing quarters at the Central Hotel. They speak highly of the hospitable reception they met on all sides while engaged in the discharge of their mission, and were highly pleased with the evident generosity with which Augusta will greet her visitors on the 5th. The Club will number sixty active members in full uniform, and will be accompanied by the United States Post Band, of the 18th Infantry. Col. Black and other officers of this post have been invited to accompany the Club. The Club will reach Augusta at 10 o'clock on the night of the 4th, and will be received by a committee and escorted to the hall of Oglethorpe Infantry, Company A, where a collation will be served.

The Charleston clubs will reach the city at 5 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, via the South Carolina Railroad. They will be received by the commanding officers of the battalion in citizens' dress, and escorted to the hall of Oglethorpe Infantry, Company A, where they will partake of a collation. They will afterwards be escorted to their quarters at the hotels. The Charleston clubs will take with them the United States Post Band. They will have fully 200 men in uniform. There will be in all about 600 men in line, fully equipped and armed.

COLUMBIA FEMALE COLLEGE.—The exercises of the commencement occasion of this prosperous institution of learning were held yesterday morning. The chapel was filled with the relatives of the young ladies and friends of the institution. It is matter of regret that the chapel of the College is so small, and it is hoped that ere long it will be enlarged. The chapel was decorated by the young ladies—of course, it is unnecessary to say it was neatly done.

At the hour appointed, 10 A. M., the exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. John T. Wightman, D. D.; after which, the young lady graduates, seventeen in number, read their essays, as follows:

- Salutatory address, in Latin—Miss Fannie S. Smith, of Sumter.
- The Desire to be Remembered—Miss Lizzie Duncan, of Spartanburg.
- Our Lives are What we Make Them: Human Will is Human Destiny—Miss M. N. Duncan, of Spartanburg.
- The Power of United Effort—Miss Sallie W. DuPre, of Charleston.
- Pleasure of Anticipation—Miss Sallie E. Fry, of Richland.
- Excelsior, in French—Miss S. Alice Hall, of Chester.
- The Resources and Pleasures of a Cultivated Mind—Miss Jennie L. Jeter, of Union.
- Simplicity—Miss Alice Kinard, of Newberry.

- Example Better than Precept—Miss Mary A. LaMotte, of Richland.
- Nature and her Teachings—Miss Hattie S. Mason, of Fairfield.
- Frailty, thy Name is Woman—Miss Helen G. McMaster, of Richland.
- Beauties of Nature—Miss S. Banna McGhee, of Abbeville.
- Hope—Miss Sue M. Price, of Marion.
- True and False Ambition—Miss J. Isabelle Salley, of Orangeburg.
- The Age in which we Live: Its Prominent Characteristics—Miss Lizzie Z. Sullivan, of Laurens.
- Tonches of Time—Miss Mary A. Tarant, of Abbeville.

Valedictory Addresses—Miss Kate Kinard, of Newberry.

The essays were rather above the average on such occasions; but several of the young ladies were indistinct to those who occupied seats in the front part of the hall—added to which was the almost incessant talking of some who were there by invitation. The readings were interspersed with some excellent vocal and instrumental music.

After the delivery of diplomas to the graduating class, and wholesome words of counsel from President Jones, the audience was dismissed.

The concert, in the evening, under the direction of Prof. Orchard, was quite an enjoyable affair.

HOTEL ARRIVALS, June 29.—Mansion House—J. P. Ligon, J. C. F. Sims, F. E. Sims, city; W. W. Fairchild, Charleston; M. A. Cason, Hodges; E. B. Gary, Cokesbury; F. E. Smith, Yorkville; Philip L. Alexandre, Newberry; S. E. Coughman, Lexington; H. D. Hamiter, Richland.

Wedding House—Mrs. W. A. Meroney, E. L. Dibble, Orangeburg; W. J. Miller, R. H. Muckenfuss, Charleston; G. W. Lee, lady and two children, Fla.; F. E. Smith, J. M. Hucklin, Chester; T. B. Louis, N. Y.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
Meeting Schuetzen Club.
J. H. Sawyer—Notice.
Richard Jones—Water Notice.
C. J. Laurey—Bacon, Butter, &c.
Meeting Richland Lodge.

Henry M. Hyams, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of Louisiana, is dead; aged 70 years.