

The Abbeville Press.

BY W. A. LEE AND HUGH WILSON.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., SEPTEMBER 28, 1865.

VOLUME XIII. NO. 24.

THE ABBEVILLE PRESS.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR.

The Press will be furnished weekly to subscribers for Two Dollars a year, in advance. Provisions of any kind will be taken at the market price. Single copies, ten cents.

EVERYBODY PLEASED.—Yes, reader, it is fact that all purchasers are pleased when they examine the new and elegant stock of Goods now being received and on exhibition at the Dry Goods Store of Wier & Cunningham. These gentlemen have just returned from New York and Philadelphia, where they have purchased a large and well assorted stock of the latest and most fashionable Goods. They have Dry Goods, Ready-Made Clothing, Hats, Boots and Shoes, Hardware, Crockery, Fancy Articles, and Yankee Notions of every description; all of which are now being sold at low figures. The people are bound to find out how cheap Wier & Cunningham are selling Goods, and those who delay may fail to get the best. For further particulars see "small bills."

We have this week received quite an addition to our subscription list at Cokerbury and Due West. We are much gratified at the liberal support given us. Our list in the District is now larger than ever before, and we offer inducements to advertisers. No paper has one tenth the circulation in Abbeville District that the Press has. Our circulation is daily increasing. We have received encouragement beyond our most sanguine expectations, for which we shall ever be grateful.

New Firm.—We would direct the attention of purchasers to the advertisement of Messrs. White, Smith & Co. They have purchased a varied and well selected stock of Fancy and Dry Goods, Hats, Shoes, Hardware, Groceries, Crockery, &c., which they are selling at reasonable prices for Cash. These gentlemen are well known in the District for their integrity and fair dealing, and we would ask for them a liberal patronage. Their store is at the old stand of John White, in the New Block.

THANKS.—The proprietors would most respectfully return their thanks to the many subscribers of the Press who have paid their subscriptions. In some sections nearly all have paid, and, judging from the past two months' receipts, we believe that in the next two months all will have paid their dues to this office. The majority appear fully to understand the importance of paying promptly. They have our thanks.

WATCH REPAIRING.—Mr. John T. Owen, who is ever attentive to his business, offers his services to the community in repairing Watches, Jewelry, &c. He may always be found at his shop. By close attention to business, reasonable charges, and good work, he hopes to receive a share of public patronage. Give him a call.

Last week we stated that Mr. A. R. Calloun was in business with Messrs. Jones & Norrell, Augusta, Ga. It was a mistake. We should have said "Mr. A. R. Houston," &c. We make the amendment honorable, and recommend Mr. Houston to our citizens as one every way worthy of public trust and confidence. See advertisement.

We would call the attention of our citizens to the advertisement of the Due West Female College. Rev. J. I. Bonner, President, assisted by an able corps of Professors. The exercises of the Male College will be resumed on the same day. Due West is a healthy location, and in point of morals is superior to no town in the State.

Proposals will be received at the Contract Office of the Post Office Department at Washington until 3 p. m. of October 31, 1865, for conveying the mails of the United States from January 1, 1866, to June 30, 1867, in the State of South Carolina. Decisions announced by November 15, 1865.

THE KEEPER COURIER.—We are pleased to welcome the neatly printed and ably edited paper in our sanctum. It is published at Pickens Court House, S. C., by Messrs. R. A. Thomson & Co., at \$1.25 for six months. We wish the Courier good success.

BORROW BURNER.—We regret to learn that an outhouse on the farm of Capt. Wm. Smith was burned one night recently by parties unknown, destroying twenty-five bales of cotton belonging to Capt. Smith and Mrs. Thomas Smith.

We take pleasure in recommending Messrs. Lumsden & McGee, Auctioneers and Commission and Forwarding Agents, Columbia, S. C. Perfect satisfaction is guaranteed to all who may do business with them.

Capt. Geo. B. McCall, offers a liberal reward for the recovery of his stolen Mare, and also a liberal reward for the apprehension of the thief with proof to convict. See advertisement.

TAY WINSBORO NEWS is the title of a spirited tri-weekly paper published at Winsboro, S. C., by F. E. Wright, Esq., at \$1.00 per month. It is a welcome visitor to our office.

Gov. ORR.—We learn that the Hon. J. L. Orr has been nominated for Governor of South Carolina. The term of office is four years.

Recently in Washington the sympathy of Mrs. Davis made up a purse of six thousand five hundred dollars for the benefit of Mrs. Davis and family.

Mr. J. M. Partlow announces that he has Mr. John M. Partlow has been appointed an attorney and agent to transact all business for him during his absence.

Provisional Governor, B. F. Perry is, we hope, to be nominated by the friends of the United States Senate.

The Provisional Governor appoints Special Agents.

Read the Proclamation by the Provisional Governor, to be found in another. It will be seen that he has ordered that there shall be organized in each Judicial District one or more companies of militia for home police. We would suggest that next Monday, (Sale Day) would be a proper time to take the preliminary steps towards organizing the company ordered for this District. Let our people act promptly, and give all the assistance in their power towards restoring law and order in our country. It is only a few reckless or irresponsible persons who are disposed to create disturbances, and it is the duty of every good citizen to aid in bringing criminals and outlaws to justice.

Generals Marmaduke and Beauregard have availed themselves of the privilege of leaving the country, to remain during the pleasure of the Government, and have received passports accordingly.

Our friend Mr. James W. Fowler will please accept our thanks for late Northern and Western papers. In connection we would state for information, that Mr. Fowler will furnish late papers to any who may desire them.

SEVERED HIM BOUND.—Isaac Williams, a Virginian, has been sentenced to three years imprisonment and a fine of one thousand dollars for disregarding his oath of allegiance.

The exercises of the South Carolina College will be resumed on the 1st Monday in January next. See advertisement.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.
COLUMBIA, Sept. 18th, 1865.

Dear Wilson.—My last letter was closed very hastily in order to be in time for the Saturday morning's hack, but having another opportunity of sending a letter by Monday's train, I add a few lines. And first, let me supply omissions in my last.

In the organization of the Convention a very interesting debate occurred upon a contested election case from St. Luke's Parish, between Messrs. Youmans and McGreggor. Separate polls were held and separate returns were made. At 3 precincts in the parish, the election was held by the regular appointed managers, in the prescribed forms and these return Mr. Youmans as the member elect. The precinct of Hilton Head returned to Mr. McGreggor another gentleman by a vote exceeding that from the other three precincts, yet without regularly constituted managers. An interesting debate sprang up as to the mode of proceeding, in which Messrs. Orr, Aldrich, Ingles and Dawkins participated, and the matter was finally referred to a committee, which presented a very conclusive report on the subject sustaining Mr. Youmans' claim.

In the debate upon Mr. Aldrich's resolutions which were given in my last letter, and which were well calculated to produce ill feeling and misrepresentation, our colleague Gen. McGowan made one of his happiest efforts. His remarks were so well timed, and accorded so well with the feeling of the Convention that they elicited an outburst of applause. The speech was a glowing eulogium upon the fair fame of the State and present appeal to the members to sustain its high character for honor, integrity and truth. The resolutions were voted down almost unanimously.

An Act repealing the Ordinance of Secession was passed on Friday, it receiving but three dissentient votes. This is one of the most important measures yet acted upon, and its early consideration and almost unanimous passage is an evidence of the conservative feeling and sound judgment which characterize the body.

The supply of resolutions and constitutional amendments which are daily offered seems yet inexhaustible. They are referred to the appropriate Standing Committees, who are at present hard at work endeavoring to bring order out of confusion.

In a few days we shall have the report of the Committees, and then probably a long discussion. There seems no prospect of an early adjournment.

It is sad to behold the ruins of our fair Capital, bereft of her beauty and sitting in sackcloth and ashes. Business is however reviving, new stores spring up, and the prospect is once more hopeful and encouraging.

The Convention well represents the intellect, patriotism and conservatism of the State, and numbers among its members, the most prominent Judges, Statesmen and Lawyers of the country. Whatever reforms may be adopted, we may rest assured that wisdom will control in the deliberations. The Convention is fortunate in the selection of its presiding officer, the Hon. D. L. Wardlaw who brings to the discharge of the duties of his office, that rare facility and dispatch, which is the fruit of his enlarged legislative experience.

We are indebted to Mr. Selby, the enterprising proprietor of the Phoenix for various acts of courtesy. The Phoenix is now much enlarged, is edited with marked ability, and well reflects the spirit and enterprise of the capital of the State.

W. A. L.

COLUMBIA, Sept. 25th, 1865.
Dear Wilson.—My last letter which, by the way, I failed to get off in time for your issue of the past week, contained a brief review of the proceedings of the Convention to Saturday inclusive.

On Saturday we had the pleasure of hearing a very excellent sermon from Dr. Palmer. I am not mind most noble Pastor, but speak forth the words of truth and soberness, setting forth the truth of the doctrines of Christianity, and the nobility of its claims—showing that whilst

it is founded upon the great principles of our nature, it is so opposed to all extravagance and enthusiasm, that it may well retort the charge of madness upon those who reject its claims. The sermon exhibited all the peculiar excellencies of Dr. Palmer's pulpit oratory,—impassioned logic as the staple of the discourse, with fervent appeals to the heart and the conscience.

On Monday another election case came up for discussion upon the report of a committee recommending Mr. James G. Thomson, of St. Helena, as entitled to take his seat in the Convention. The case differed from that mentioned in my last, in the fact that here there were no other legally constituted managers in the pari-h, and that proper efforts seem to have been made but without success to comply with the strict forms of law, and that the election was altogether fair and honest. The vote stood 60 for admission, and 53 against it.

A long discussion took place on Monday, on a resolution authorizing the Provisional Governor to appoint an agent to Washington to look after the abandoned lands, and to aid the citizens of the State in obtaining pardon. The resolution was finally adopted, with an amendment that the term of office of the agent should not be continued beyond the next session of the legislature.

A resolution fixing the pay of members of the Convention at \$5 per diem, and 20 cents a mile, passed the body after some discussion. A similar provision in relation to the pay of members of the legislature has been introduced into the new constitution.

Mr. B. F. Dunkin from the committee to whom was referred the resolution directing an inquiry as to "what number of Representatives it will be proper," according to the present laws of the United States, that this State shall send to the approaching Congress of the United States" and which Committee was also authorized "to construct the Congressional Districts accordingly," reported that in obedience to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, a census was taken in 1860, and by the Act of Congress, passed March 4, 1862, the number of Representatives of the Congress of the United States was fixed at two hundred and forty one—the ratio of representation was one for one hundred and twenty-seven thousand.

The population of South Carolina was 542,274, which entitled this State to four Representatives, with a fraction of 34,274. Including this fraction in the apportionment of four Representatives, each Congressional District shall consist of about 135,568. In constructing the Districts as required by the resolution, other considerations besides equality of population influenced the action of the Committee. They recommended that the first Congressional District be composed of the following Judicial Districts, viz: Lancaster, Chesterfield, Marlborough, Darlington, Marion, Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Sumter, Charleston and Kershaw.

Second Congressional District.—Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort and Barnwell.

Third Congressional District.—Orangeburg, Edgefield, Abbeville, Lexington, Newberry, Richland and Fairfield.

Fourth Congressional District.—Anderson, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Union, York and Chester.

On Tuesday a spirited debate arose upon the report of the Committee on an ordinance to declare slavery abolished, in which Messrs. Orr, McGowan, Dawkins, Dudley, Rion, Duvonnat, Conner, Frost, Lesseus, Boyce and others participated. The following amendment was finally adopted: "The slaves in South Carolina, having been emancipated by the United States authorities, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall ever be re-established in this State." Yeas 98; nays 8.

The committee on the Judiciary made a favorable report upon the resolutions to allow colored persons to testify in cases where their rights of person and property are invoked.

The Parish system received its death-blow on Wednesday by a vote of 97 to 8, on the proposition to substitute the old Section of the Constitution of 1861, instead of the Section reported by the Legislative Committee, which gives to each Judicial District one Senator except Charleston, which is entitled to two. There was a long debate in which Messrs. Andrews, Orr, Tillman, Youmans, Aldrich and Ball were engaged.

The following proviso was introduced by Mr. McGowan: "Provided, however, That in case suit shall be brought upon any such contracts or obligations, not by their terms payable in gold or in other specific manner, and entered into between the first day of January, A. D. 1863; and the tenth day of May, A. D. 1865, the measure of security shall be the true value at the time of trial of property contracted for; but in ascertaining this value, reference shall be had to the condition of property at the time of contract; and in all such cases, the defendant may show such value with out specially pleading the same."

On Thursday a resolution by Mr. Andrews, relating to the report of the Committee on the Legislative Department of the new Constitution. Among the important changes adopted we may mention the following: "The abolition of the Parish system; the fixing of taxes hereafter upon the actual value of property,—the taking away the property qualification of both Senators and Representatives;—the change of the day of election to the Legislature to the 3rd Wednesday of October;—that all elections by the Legislature, the same shall be void save a provision that the number of representatives from any one

election District shall not exceed 12, there being no change in the apportionment however, until after the next census in 1869;—the extension of the electoral franchise to foreigners after two years residence, and a declaration of intention to become citizen.

A very interesting and exciting debate occurred upon the question of determining whether free negroes should enter into the calculation in determining the basis of representation. In this discussion our colleagues Messrs. Thomson and McGowan participated with their usual vigor and ability. The question was finally determined in the negative, as being the best course for the present. Yeas 24; nays 75.

The Convention has adopted a clause of the constitution, giving the election of Governor to the people, and fixing the term at four years, without his being re-eligible—election on the 3rd Wednesday of October.

The Committee on the Executive Department had reported a clause giving to the Governor, the right to appoint, with the consent of the Senate, the Secretary of State; the Comptroller-General, the Treasurer, all Sheriffs, Masters and Commissioners and Registers in Equity, &c; but the clause was rejected and the mode of election remains as before.

The subject called forth a very warm debate in which Messrs. Orr, Thomson, Pickens, Youmans, Black, Dawkins and others participated.

The Lt. Governor is made *ex officio*, President of the Senate.

Mr. Farrow from the committee on amendments, reported the following oath of office: All persons who shall be elected or appointed to any office of profit or trust, before entering upon the discharge of his duties thereof, shall take the following oath: "I do swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified according to the Constitution of this State, to exercise the office to which I have been appointed, and will, to the best of my abilities, discharge the duties thereof, and preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of this State, and of the United States. So help me God."

An ordinance has been introduced providing for the election of members of the General Assembly, on the 31st Wednesday of October, and the assembly of the Legislature on the 31st of October, for the purpose of providing for the election of members to Congress.

The Convention has been working diligently for the past week; sitting from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., then taking a recess to 7 P. M., and afterwards a night session. Nearly all the important measures of the session have been acted upon, and only awaits the action of the Committee of revision to receive their due order and symmetry.

A motion was introduced on Saturday to adjourn on Tuesday next, which was laid on the table, but we suppose the Session will not be protracted beyond Wednesday.

A very important provision has been adopted for the establishment of a Court in each District, by the General Assembly, for the trial of all cases in which freedmen shall be parties.

The Session of the Convention has been a very harmonious one, and we trust that the action of the body will inaugurate a new era in the State.

The election for Governor as well as for members of the Legislature comes off on the 3d Wednesday in next month. Col. Orr's name we have heard mentioned as being the most likely to be brought forward for that high office. The Colonel has taken a very prominent part in the deliberations of the Convention, and has added no little to the successful accomplishment of its work of reconstruction, and reconciliation.

The Legislature will appoint an early day for the Congressional election. Ours is the 3d Congressional District, comprising Orangeburg, Edgefield, Abbeville, Lexington, Newberry, Richland and Fairfield. The friends of Gen. McGowan will likely bring his name forward. The talents, high character, and known reputation of the General would doubtless easily ensure his election. The interests of the State demand that we send our best men. Yours,

W. A. L.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.
On Monday, the 11th, a delegation of Southern men, numbering some fifty persons, representing seven States—Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Virginia and Tennessee—called on President Johnson, for the purpose of paying their respects and expressing their confidence in his Administration, and returning thanks for the lenient course he has pursued toward their respective States. In the course of his remarks, the President said: "Gentlemen, we have passed through this rebellion. I say we, for it was we who are responsible for it. Yes, the South made the issue, and I know the nature of the Southern people well enough to know that when they become convinced of an error they frankly acknowledge it, in a manly, open, direct manner, and now in the performance of that duty, or indeed, in any act they undertake to perform they do it heartily and frankly; and now that they come to me I understand them as saying that they made the issue. We set up the Union of the States against the God of God of slavery; we selected as our arbiter the God of battles; the arbitrament was for or against us, and we are prepared to accept the issue."

I read on all sides, and in every corner prevailing, that the issue was ours, and the decision having been given against us, we felt bound in honor to abide by the arbitrament. In doing this, we are doing ourselves no honor, and should not feel humiliated or degraded; but rather that we should feel ourselves free, our nation, and we should feel that the Government has treated us magnanimously and meet the God we worshiped. So far as I am concerned, personally, I am untroubled by any question, whether it affects the North or the South, the issue of the war. I stand where I stand, and I believe that the issue of the war was ours, and the decision having been given against us, we felt bound in honor to abide by the arbitrament. In doing this, we are doing ourselves no honor, and should not feel humiliated or degraded; but rather that we should feel ourselves free, our nation, and we should feel that the Government has treated us magnanimously and meet the God we worshiped. 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