

THE BANNER

SUMMERSVILLE, S. C.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1847.

AGENTS FOR THE BANNER. Messrs. DeLONK & WHITE, Summersville, S. C. T. W. PECKS, Esq., Camden, S. C.

ERRATA.

In our last, the article headed "The Ordinances of 1847" should have read thus: "The Ordinances of 1787."

COTTON.

A reduction in the price of this staple prevailed in the Charleston market, during the week ending on Friday the 13th, and the sales varied from 10 1/2 to 12 1/4 cents per pound.

PUBLICATIONS.

The February No. of the "American Agriculturist" is received, and we find it of great interest, containing a great variety of useful information.

Some friends have sent us a copy of a Commemorative Oration delivered before the Literary Societies of Davidson College, N. C., by our Columbia Professor, the Rev. Dr. Howe, for which he will please accept our thanks.

THE RAIL ROAD.

The last Wilmington papers contain a rail road notice of which we previously made mention. According to this latest notice, the subscription books will be opened on the "first Monday in March" in the State of North Carolina; the thirty days required notice having been given in a newspaper in that State.

As it is believed, according to the Charter granted by this State, that a majority of the South Carolina Commissioners must appoint the necessary times, places and commissioners and advertise the same in some newspaper in this State for thirty days previous to the opening of the books; and, as this has not yet been done by our commissioners, it is evident that the advertisement of the Wilmington papers cannot be complied with in this State. We much regret this circumstance; but hope that the majority required will meet, act, and give the advertised notice previous to the first Monday in March, so that the books may be opened on the first Monday in April. Should the suggestion in our last number not be feasible at present, it can be carried out at some more suitable time.

In this number, we publish a copy of the Charter granted by this State; and we recommend to all of our readers a careful perusal of the same. We hope and believe this publication will develop the measures which we have for some time earnestly urged; and that the iron will be struck while it is hot. The favorable moment must be seized or it may pass by. Our people are now almost unanimously in favor of this measure and are willing to do their utmost. Wilmington, at one extremity of the route, is doing her part; let Sumter, at the other, do hers; and it is incumbent on this place, as our District capital, to take the necessary measures and on the people of the District here to concentrate their efforts.

Since writing the above, we have been desired by Maj. Wm. HAYSWORTH, the chief commissioner at Summersville, through our columns, to request that the commissioners in this State, or a majority of them, will meet at Sumter Court House on the first Monday in March, being sale day, to take the measures necessary for the furtherance of this important enterprise. The names of the Commissioners will be found in the copy of the Charter published in this number.

We hope the commissioners or a majority of them will meet here according to request.

DAQUERRETYPE.

Mr. J. S. CLARKE is now in this place taking Daguerreotype Miniatures; and his presence affords an opportunity to those who are desirous of obtaining miniatures of themselves or friends of so doing. Mr. Clarke's miniatures, which we have seen him take, as well as those which he has on hand, are well executed.

Mr. Clarke has removed his rooms to Mr. China's Hotel, as his former location was found too damp for the purposes of his art.

STEAMER TUSCALOOSA.

In our last, we had room to mention the terrible disaster which befell this vessel. She left the wharf at Mobile a little after 8 o'clock on the evening of the 23rd ult., crowded with passengers and a heavy freight, and had proceeded only 10 or 12 miles up the river when one of her boilers burst, shattering the forward deck and all that part of the boat near the exploded boiler in a fearful manner. The ladies' cabin remained uninjured and received all who were alive, and those of the wounded who were carried there. The forward part of the boat was soon discovered to be on fire; and the terror of the passengers was increased by the knowledge of the fact that there were 25 kegs of powder in the hold of the fore-castle. Most of the passengers landed on a marshy shore, by means of rafts, floats of planks, ropes and whatever else could be found. Shortly after landing, the expected explosion came, and, in its deafening sound and destructive effects were hushed the moans of the wounded and the dying. During the whole of this terrible disaster, a severe storm prevailed.

The remains of Lt. INOX, which were supposed to have been destroyed in the explosion, have been recovered uninjured and sent on to the town of Tuscaloosa.

From 30 to 50 lives were lost. The passengers saved were rescued by Capt. QUANTRILL, who, on hearing of the disaster, immediately went up the river with his steamer to their succor.

Since this event, another accident has happened on the same river. The steamer, W. R. King ascending came in collision with the steamer Winona descending, with such injury to the former that she sank in a few minutes. The passengers were all saved; the boat and cargo supposed to be a total loss.

FROM THE ARMY.

The latest news inform us that Santa Anna had been shot by his soldiers; the report needs confirmation.

The Mexican Congress has authorized the government to raise fifteen millions of dollars to carry on the war by pledging, or

maliciously evade or aid, or assist, or counsel and advise, any other person or person to destroy, or in any manner to hurt, damage, injure, or obstruct, said Rail Road, or any bridge or vehicle used for or to transport thereon, such person or persons, so offending, shall be liable to be indicted therefor, and, on conviction, shall be imprisoned not more than twelve months, nor less than one month, and pay a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, nor less than one hundred dollars, at the discretion of the Court before which such conviction shall take place, and shall be further liable to pay all the expenses of repairing the same; and it shall not be competent for any person, so offending against the provision of this clause, to defend himself, by pleading or giving in evidence, that he was the owner or agent, or servant of the owner, of the land where such destruction, hurt, damage, injury or obstruction, was done or caused, at the time the same was caused or done.

XXI. Every obstruction to the safe and free passage of vehicles on the said road, shall be deemed a public nuisance, and may be abated, as such, by any officer, agent, or servant of the company, and the person causing such obstruction, may be indicted and punished for erecting a public nuisance.

XXII. Whenever, in the construction of said Rail Road, as shall be necessary to cross or intersect any established road or way, it shall be the duty of the said President and Directors, so to construct the said Rail Road across such established roads or ways, as not to impede the passage or transportation of persons or property along the same. Provided, however, that in order to prevent the frequent crossing of established roads or ways, or in case it may be necessary to occupy the same, it may be lawful for the said President and Directors, to change the said roads at points they may deem it expedient to do so; and that, for entering upon or taking any land that be necessary therefor, they shall be, and are hereby authorized to proceed under the provisions of this Act, as in the case of lands for their Rail Road. Provided further, that previous to the making of any such change, the said company shall make and prepare a road equally good with the portion of the road proposed to be substituted; but nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to make it incumbent upon the said company to keep in repair any portion of any road which they may have changed, as aforesaid. Provided also, that the commissioners of the roads in the districts or parishes, or the justices for the county in which such alteration shall be desired, shall assent to such alterations, and approve of the substitutes, when completed.

XXIII. All machines, wagons, vehicles and carriages, purchased as aforesaid, with the funds of the company, or engaged in the business of transportation on said Rail Road, and all the works of said company, constructed or properly acquired, under authority of this Act, and all profits which shall accrue from the same, shall be vested in the respective stockholders forever, in proportion to their respective shares, and the said shares shall be deemed personal estate.

XXIV. Upon the road hereby authorized, the company shall have the exclusive right of transportation. When it is completed, they shall at all times furnish and keep in good repair, the necessary carriages and other requisites for the safe and convenient transportation of persons and property; and it shall be their duty at all times, upon the payment or tender of the tolls hereby allowed, to transfer to any depot on the road, which the owner of the goods may indicate, and there to deliver all articles which may be delivered to them for transportation, or offered to them in proper condition to be transported.

XXV. They shall give no undue preference to the property of one person over that of another, but as far as practicable, shall carry each in the order of time in which it shall be delivered or offered for transportation, with the tolls paid or tendered. If the Company, or any of its officers or agents, shall fail to receive, transport, or deliver, in due time, any property so delivered and offered to them, for transportation, or shall fail to take up or set down any passenger or passengers, at such convenient station as he or they may desire, upon the payment or tender of the passage money hereby allowed, they shall forfeit and pay to the party, so injured, double the amount of the lawful toll paid or tendered, and shall moreover be liable to an action in the case, in which full damage and double costs shall be recovered.

XXVI. So soon as any portion of the Rail Road hereby authorized, may be in readiness for transportation, it shall be lawful for the said President and Directors, to transport by their officers or agents, or by contracts under them, persons and property on the same, and they shall have power to charge for such transportation of persons, goods, produce, merchandise, and other articles, and for the transportation of the mail, any sum not exceeding the following rates, to wit: on persons, not exceeding six cents per mile for each person, unless the distance which any person may be transported, be less than ten miles, in which case the President and Directors may be entitled to make an extra charge of fifty cents for taking up and putting down each person so transported; for the transportation of goods, produce, merchandise, and other articles, not exceeding fifty cents per hundred pounds, for each hundred miles, on heavy articles; and fifteen cents per cubic foot, on articles of measurement,

for every hundred miles; and for the transportation of the mails, such sums as they may agree for with the agent of the United States.

XXVII. As soon as thirty miles of the Rail Road hereby authorized, shall be completed, the President and Directors shall, annually or semi-annually, declare and make such dividends as they may deem proper, of the net profits arising from the resources of the said company, after deducting the necessary current and contingent expenses of the said company, and shall divide the same among the proprietors of the stock of said company, in proportion to their respective shares.

XXVIII. The President and Directors shall render distinct accounts of their proceedings and disbursements of money, to the annual meetings of the stockholders.

XXIX. The President and Directors shall cause to be written, or printed, certificates of the shares of the stock in the said company, and shall deliver one such certificate, signed by the President and countersigned by the Treasurer, to each person, for the number of shares subscribed by him; which certificates shall be irrevocable, subject, however, to all payments due or to become due thereon; and such assignee, having first caused the transfer or assignment to be entered in a book of the company, to be kept for that purpose, shall thenceforth become a member of the company aforesaid, and shall be liable to pay all sums due or to become due upon the stock assigned him.

XXX. Be it further enacted, That this Act shall be in force from and after the ratification thereof, and shall be regarded as a public Act, and may be given in evidence, as such, in all cases, without special pleading.

XXXI. Be it further enacted, That this Charter shall in no wise be subject to the provisions of the forty-first section of the Act of the Assembly of South Carolina, passed on the seventeenth day of December, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-one.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.—On Monday last, about 6 o'clock, P. M. J. P. Langford residing in Rome township, in this county, says the Bradford Pa. Argus, of the 16th inst., murdered his wife by shooting her through the body with a pistol! Langford had been in the habit of threatening to take the life of his wife, until she had become so accustomed to it, that she paid little attention to what he said. On Monday evening about dark, he told his wife that he was going to shoot her, and drew a pistol from his pocket and deliberately loaded it in her presence, for the purpose of putting his diabolical threat into execution. After having charged the weapon very heavily, he stepped out of the house and told his little son a lad of seven years of age, that he was going to kill his (the boy's) mother. He instantly returned into the house, and disregarding the entreaties of his wife, held her with one hand, while with the other discharged the contents of the pistol through her body, the ball entering her abdomen and coming out just above the hip, near the back bone. She lingered in great agony, until Thursday night 10 o'clock, when she expired. The remains of the deceased were brought to this place yesterday, accompanied by a number of the citizens of Rome. Three infant children are left to mourn the loss of a fond and doting mother, and deplore the errors of an unnatural father. Langford made no attempt to escape, and is now in jail awaiting his trial.

NEWSPAPER BILLS.—Postmasters will perceive by the following article from the Boston Trumpet, that bills may, without cost, be enclosed in newspapers by publishers to their subscribers:

Can Printers Send Bills?—Some doubt has been entertained by publishers of newspapers, since the late Circular of the Postmaster General was issued, whether bills can be lawfully sent enclosed in a paper and with no additional postage. We made application for information at the Boston Office, but the postmaster there was in doubt. We then addressed a letter to the Department at Washington, to which we have received the following answer. It seems that publishers will continue to have the privilege they have enjoyed, of sending bills enveloped in papers:

App't. Office, P. O. Department, } December 29th, 1846. } SIR, Yours of the 24th has been received. Now as before the passage of the Post Office law of 1845, publishers of newspapers may transmit their bills for subscriptions due, free of postage, according to the provisions of Sec. 156 of the Post Office regulations.

Respectfully yours, W. BROWN, Sec. Ass't. P. M. Gen. Thos. Whitmore, 37 Cornhill, Boston.

Murder.—A most revolting murder was committed in the lower part of this District, on Friday last, by Wm. Gaffney, on the body of one of his male slaves. Gaffney, we learn, has since absconded. This is his second offence, and we trust he may be arrested and made to suffer the penalty of the law.—Columbia Chronicle, Feb. 10.

The Newberry Volunteers arrived at Montgomery, Ala., on Thursday last, and left the same evening for Mobile. Char. Cour.

"Jane, you must not learn Arithmetic." Why mamma! "Because, my dear, in looking through yours yesterday, I saw that the fractions were vulgar."

if found necessary, selling church property. By this measure, Santa Anna obtains money for his troops and throws on Congress the enormity created by such a deed. His opposition to the measures adopted by Congress to raise the money exasperated his soldiers that they shot him. The greatest excitement was caused in Mexico by this law, and the churches were closed. The supporters of the church seemed determined to resist.

Gen. Worth had arrived at Brazos with his command. Gens. Worth and Scott are to have command of the regular army. It is the general belief that Vera Cruz is to be next attacked, and that the Palmetto Regiment is to be employed in that service. Gen. Taylor has returned to Monterey, and is to command the volunteers. Gen. Wool was in command at Saltillo with a force of 3000 men.

The proceedings of the Mexican Congress show the ascendancy of the war spirit. The castle of San Juan de Ullon is at present garrisoned by 1000 men, and there are 1800 regular soldiers in Vera Cruz besides the militia guard of 1000 more.

The Mexicans are well acquainted with every movement of our troops. "To be, or not to be," is the prevailing sentiment of the government and people of Mexico. The Governors of the States of Zacatecas and Durango are hostile to Santa Anna. This singular man says that he has resources from his private means sufficient to carry on the war for six months. It will soon be seen, if it can be done.

The country between Tampico and Monterey is unoccupied by the American forces; and the Mexicans, who favored the Americans on the road, are now suffering severely for their conduct.

The above items are from news up to the 24th and 29th ult.

A GOOD JOKE.

A friend informs us of an amusing occurrence which happened a few days since, in a neighboring town. A person, who had forged a note on a lawyer of our acquaintance of extensive practice and passed the same, on being arrested and lodged in jail, wrote to the lawyer whose signature he had forged requesting him to defend him at the ensuing trial. Such originality, impudence, or nonchalance, which ever it may be called, must provoke a smile from every one.

Correspondence of the Sumter Banner. Extract of a letter from an officer of the Sumter Volunteers.

SHIP ALHAMBRA, OFF MOBILE BAR, } Jan. 20, 1847. } Mr. Editor:—The ship is rolling; and I have time to address you only a few lines, as the Pilot Boat, will be off in a few minutes.

Major Gladden went off to sea, yesterday, in the ship Ellerslie, with the Chesler, Barwell and Fairfield companies. Col. Dickinson is just off to sea with the Abbeville and Lancaster Volunteers and our Sumter boys. Col. Butler, in command of the Charleston, Richard, Kershaw and Edgefield Boys, will be off this evening by 4 o'clock. We had fine barracks, in a large Cotton Press warehouse, in Mobile. Orders to keep in camp were strictly obeyed, and the men were well satisfied there. Our boys were unfortunate in one respect; we had the mumps in Charleston, and twenty-five were in the city Hospital, while we were in the city; they have all got better and are abroad. We have sealed orders, not to be opened until we get fairly to sea in other words, we will be ordered to land at some place south of Tampico, to be prepared for the attack on Vera Cruz. Strict order and discipline are maintained on board, and, in consequence, the men are satisfied; and except when a poor volunteer, made sick by the rolling, lies with a woful long face, complaining of his incapacity to cascade, his companions laughing at him, and he made angry declares that he will throw himself overboard, as soon as he is able to get on deck.

We had a storm in the Bay yesterday; two or three small craft were wrecked; a large steamer, the Tuscaloosa, blew up during the gale, and some 25 or 50 persons were killed and many more wounded.

We are very anxious to be off, though we are all fearful of the sea voyage. Yours, &c. B.

OREGON.—By the Toulon, fourteen days from Columbia, we have a file of the Oregon Spectator to August 20. This paper grows apace, with the country it so favorably represents.

The wheat crop of the present season is represented as remarkably fine. Attention is being turned to hemp and tobacco, and many valleys unknown to the white man a few years since, are said now to be occupied by an industrious population.

Oregon City, so we gather from the Spectator, contains 500 souls and eighty houses, two churches, two taverns, two blacksmith's shops, two cooper's shops, two cabinet shops, four tailor shops, one

hatters, one tannery, three shoe shops, two silversmiths, and a number of other mechanics; four stores, two flour and two saw mills, and a lath machine. Three years ago it was a dense forest of fir and underbrush, and was laid out by Dr. McLaughlin on the west side of the Willamette. Opposite the city and falls is Linn City, which contains one tavern, one chair manufactory, one cabinet shop, and one wagon shop.

Mullinnohah City immediately adjacent Linn City, and boasts as yet of nothing but a "beautiful site."

CALIFORNIA.—Previous to the reduction of the tariff by the American authorities, the inhabitants were obliged to pay the following enormous rates for the necessities of life:—American prints 75 cents per yard; common cotton, 50 do.; ticking, 61 per yard; cheapest broad cloth, 612 per yard; coffee, 37 1/2 cents per lb.; sugar, 25 cents per lb.; flour, 618; shot, 27 1/2 cents per lb.; powder, 63. The reduction of the duties to the American standard will have the effect greatly to increase the consumption, and ultimately to bring the price of foreign goods to the average of this place.

The country is rich in mineral resources—mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, sulphur and quicksilver, are rapidly discovered. Two of rich quicksilver ore, yielding 30 per cent of pure metal, are now in operation—one in the North and the other on the South side on San Francisco Bay. 2000 lbs. have already been extracted from the latter. The neighborhood of the quicksilver mines to those of the precious metals will greatly enhance the profits of working them, and if very productive, reduce the value of the Raitchild monopoly in Europe. The facilities of exportation from their vicinity to a noble harbor are unrivalled. No less than seventy announcements of mines were made to the alcalde of San Jose within the five months previous to June last. In the rear of Pueblo de los Angeles, there exists a gold "placer" or washing, said to be eighteen leagues square.

By the laws of Mexico this cannot be held as a mine, but free to the industry of any one. The most indolent Indian, it is said, by washing the sands, can get his 12 reals worth of gold per day. Many thousand dollars have already been exported to the United States.

Postscript from a letter from our correspondent at San Francisco, August 10th:—"The Mormons have all landed here; for the present about thirty go to Bodoga to load the Brooklyn, where she takes in a cargo of sawed lumber for Sandwich Islands. She sails for Bodoga about 15th. There are 20,000 feet of lumber now there saved."

THE RAIL ROADS.—We hope ere long to see these roads extending through every quarter of the State, increasing all the facilities of travel and transportation, and affording to every branch of industry, the easiest, cheapest and speediest means of conveyance to a remunerating market.

Rail Roads may well be considered the high ways of Agricultural, Manufacturing and Commercial prosperity, opening passages to regions of country, and bringing them within reach of the benefits of trade, which otherwise must have remained buried in obscurity and almost entirely separated from the business of the world.

The immense augmentation in the carrying of the Charleston Road, and the increased amount of produce which consequently finds its way to our market, show very advantageously both to town and country, all such avenues must operate, and believing that facts such as these will prove a stimulant to all enterprises of a similar character, we shall always take great pleasure in recording them.—Char. Mer.

The New York Express says: The receipts of produce by the Erie Railroad are rapidly increasing. The advance in prices induces farmers to send everything to market they can possibly spare. About one hundred thousand quarts of milk are brought to this market every week. It is believed that a special train will soon be required to bring this article exclusively.

Since the increase of ship building, there has been an active demand for Timber, at increased prices. A large quantity of this description of timber has been brought to this market by this road, and as the line is extended, the supply will increase.

Burglary.—On Tuesday night last, the Grocery Store of Mr. James Robb, in Market-street, was forcibly entered by some villain or villains. Money, no doubt, was their object, as they took with them a box containing two dollars in copper and a silver half crown piece, being all the money they could find. The goods in the store appeared to be undisturbed. Before leaving, however, they regaled their appetites with a jar of sweetmeats. The store was entered by forcing the lock of the back door.—Char. Cour.

CAN A BLIND MAN WRITE A WILL.—A petition has been presented to the Judge of the Second District Court of New-Orleans, to set aside the Will of the late Judge Martin, of Louisiana, on the ground that being blind he was physically incapacitated from making an olographic will. It will be recollected that Judge Martin bequeathed the whole of his estate, some half a million, to his brother, and that the Will was stated to have been comprised in four or five lines.—Char. Cour.

PAY OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.—According to the last State Register, the pay of a Colonel is \$166 per month; Lieutenant, \$145; Major, \$120; Captain, \$70; First Lieutenant, \$60; Second Lieutenant, \$64.

Boston Traveler.