

The Sumter Banner.

DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NEWS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

WILLIAM LEWIS,
JOHN S. RICHARDSON, JR., } PROPRIETORS.

"God—and our Native Land."

TERMS—\$2 IN ADVANCE.

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TERMS.

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For the Banner.

To the Citizens of Clarendon County.

A communication under the signature of "Wesley" appeared in the Banner of the 17th May, proposing a series of questions to the candidates for the next Legislature; and as I, among others occupy the position of a candidate for your suffrages and confidence, and recognize your right to know my opinions upon all matters of political or district interest, I shall proceed to reply to the questions proposed; and in a way as brief and compressed as my ability will allow me, considering their very wide range, and the great intricacies and difficulties which surround them. As a citizen myself of the county I have long felt the necessity of having one or more favorable and eligible places of transit to our markets across the Santee Swamp and river, I am aware that there is no section of the State so utterly deficient in this great convenience and necessity as our own. Except by Railroad there is no safe and convenient crossing to our markets at all seasons of the year, from the town of Camden to the mouth of the Santee river a distance I believe of not less than one hundred and thirty miles; so that a large portion of the State, as fertile and thriving, as any part of it (if not more so) is altogether dependent upon the Railroad for all communication direct or indirect with the seat of government and the metropolis. The Railroad owing to its remoteness from many of the localities, remedies only to a partial extent this great inconvenience—an inconvenience so great indeed as to amount to a positive evil; to say nothing of the impossibility of the planters availing themselves of high prices in the markets owing to the uncertainty and tardiness of the transmission of their produce to market; under circumstances so generally and briefly stated, I shall feel myself under the strongest obligations should I be honored by your confidence to use all of the exertions in my power, to remedy this oppression and burthened condition of things, by endeavoring to procure from the State assistance to construct, or if practicable re-construct, a highway which will at all times allow of travel across it; and by having renewed those charters for ferries which have expired; and if the convenience of our people requires it to obtain charters for others.

To the first distinct question, as to whether or not I am in favor of giving the election of electors for President and Vice-President to the people, and in what mode, I beg leave to answer that having the highest respect and veneration for the present political organization of the State, I am unwilling hastily to advocate any measure, which would tend to disturb the balances of government under which we are now so happily ruled, I am therefore opposed to giving the election of electors by general ticket to the people because I regard it as the first step towards a radical change in the whole system. The question of representation by population and taxation, is the chief ground upon which the people of the Southern States are compelled to contend in the Federal council; and to abandon that principle ourselves is to abandon one of our chief safeguards in the great questions now pending between the North and South, I contend therefore that to give this election to the people by a general ticket will be virtually to destroy the political influence of a large portion of the State, and place the power altogether in the hands of the upper districts. At the same time I feel the expense and inconvenience resulting to the State from holding an extra session of the Legislature once in four years for the purpose of casting the vote of the State. To obviate this objection the constitution might be changed so as to convene the Legislature earlier in the fall and thus embrace the period appointed by law for casting the vote of the State; nor would this be objectionable in other points of view. There now exists

complaints of hasty and imperfect legislation owing to a want of time to mature the bill before the house and pass them into laws in a form as perfect as they ought to be; and that much that is demanded by the country in the way of Legislation is thrown aside for the want of time to consider them. With regard to the election of electors by the district system, which preserves the relative position of the upper and lower country, in my opinion it is too complicated and cumbersome in its operation to work well; and I am therefore at present not an advocate for a change.

To the second interrogatory I would reply, that except for very special and cogent reasons in particular instances, I shall be opposed to the division of the State into small election districts as involving in a very eminent degree the destruction of the present system of checks and balances in the State which I view so happily govern us, which are referred to in the answer to a previous interrogatory.

With regard to the present financial condition of the State it would be exceedingly difficult to trace out the incidental and remote causes which have led to the present stringency in the money markets, both in this State and of the Union. Perhaps over trading in the first instance and subsequently the disturbed and uncertain condition of European affairs, in which England with whom we hold the most extensive commercial relations, is deeply involved have both contributed to produce these results. Perhaps also, we have ourselves increased the pressure as far as this State is concerned, by the establishment recently of a number of new banks which created a necessity for the Bank of the State and the long established and well conducted banks to restrict their discounts to such an extent as to cut off the usual accommodations from our own citizens and thereby prevent those indispensable facilities for trade and business at home, which are necessary in order to meet engagements entered into during a period of an abundance of money and great commercial prosperity.

For this I know no remedy by legislation. Prudence and industry are in my judgment the only remedial agents, to relieve us from present embarrassments, I shall be opposed to any further increase in the number of Banks in the State, as dangerous to a sound currency, and to the true prosperity of the people.

To the 4th interrogatory I reply that I am altogether indisposed to sacrifice the interest of the State for the benefit of Railroad corporations or any other "monopolies." I do not believe however, that the Legislative assembly is the proper tribunal to judge of the infringement of charters or of the extent of injury to life and property, but that all these are properly referable to the courts of Law to determine the nature of, and the extent of damages. But I am of opinion also that their charters should be so amended under the Act of 1841 as to create greater security to lives and property committed to their charge in order to hold them to stricter obligations, to discharge the duties which they virtually promise to the public; and which are now greatly disregarded in the manner in which they are at present conducted. Any wholesome remedy for existing evils as connected with Railroads, which shall be brought about in conformity to law and a proper regard for vested rights will receive my cordial support.

5th Question, Public Education, I hold to be of paramount importance, and no State is injured or impoverished, by affording the means of acquiring knowledge to the poor. I am in favor of the expenditure of the largest amount for the education of the citizens of the State; provided always that it is expended in a manner so judicious, as to produce results adequate to the sum disbursed I believe, however that the present system is altogether defective, that the amount of good resulting from it is by no means satisfactory, I shall feel myself called upon therefore to support any plan by which the present free school system will be improved and made to produce results which will be more satisfactory than at present to every friend of education in the State. The power of a State is in proportion to the education of all classes of her young citizens.—The rich have the power to educate themselves—the poor are dependent upon a proper system established by the State for their benefit. No system now exists which can furnish a proper education for the poor. This ought not to be.

6th. With regard to a change in the present Judiciary system I can only reply in general terms. I am conservative in all of my notions of government, and unless changes are very obvious improvements I am opposed to them. Changes in this branch of the

government which it is the intention of all wise law givers, to make independent in the discharge of their high and responsible duties should always be made with great care and a reasonable degree of hesitancy. But if in the discharge of the duties which may hereafter be imposed upon me a change can be made conducive to the convenience and more efficient administration of justice among all classes of people without impairing in any way the independence and dignity of the bench, I will afford it a cordial support.

7th. I am in favor of as low a rate of taxation as is consistent with the economical requirements of the government.

8th. I am in favor of retaining the present mode of organizing the State; but as to the mode of electing the Legislature, I will sustain any measure which tends to lessen the influence of the present military rule.

9th. No citizen is to be excused from a seat in any public assembly by a want of industry, or to the extent of the injury to be done by the mode of making elections in the Legislature. The viva voce mode of conducting elections is certainly an open and manly one; but I am not convinced without a much larger experience that the Legislature as at present organized is not a faithful honest, and many opinions of the will and views of the high minded people of the State.

I have the fellow citizens exhorted to answer cordially and honestly the question which have been proposed to me by one among you, "Wesley" puts his interrogatories with acumen and ingenuity—I have answered them with a deferential regard to your interests and not for my own advancement, such as they are my views are laid before you, I do not know whether they are popular or not; all that I know is that they are honestly entertained and I am content to unite their fate with my own.

I am, Respectfully,
Your Fellow Citizen,
W. L. REYNOLDS.

The Eclipse.

Nearly every one took a peep through smoked glasses at the eclipse of the sun on Friday. To most persons it was of interest, as a rare and wonderful phenomena of nature and a triumph of the power of science, that could calculate to a minute its coming, extent, duration, and departure. We will venture to say however, that none of our readers regarded it in the ominous light, in which it is treated in the following article copied from the Philadelphia Star, which if it does not startle will amuse:

FORWARDED, FORWARDED, LOOK TO THE STARS!—We do not refer in our caption to the stars of the police, or the stars of the dramatic world, though they want being after; but our attention is now gravely directed to the stars that rule the night, from whose palatial mansions the Child deans and old dogers of old drew auguries of danger, and forewarned nations and individuals. If the moon controls the tides, why should not the stars control the tides in the affairs of men? Who is prepared to say that astrology is—

—a philosophy, hallow, ungodly, to matter combating at a distance among Whose fit it is confined with a nature's all round.

It professes the web of sophistic persuasion.

Who dare gainsay the assertion that astral influences have not a controlling effect upon the good and evil of earth, and that you & I, and my poor fellow through their agencies are prepared almost to act in any manner, and deny in thing to the power of astral magnetism, spirit, and phantasms, able moving and resting in research. In our limited sphere how dare we cope with the intelligences of the unknown spheres communicated to us through mediums, however lofty or base? We cannot be skeptical if we would, and we would not if we could, for we are tinged with perfectionism, and look forward to a time when the stars will be alphabetically arranged, the constellations classified in a trigonometric system, and the only way sponsored by railroad with suspension bridges from planet to planet, and hallowed by thunder through the blue empyrean we look, therefore, gravely and believingly upon the portents of astrology, and have now to tell our fellow-country men that the great Solar Eclipse of May, 1854, will prove disastrous to us, if its influences are not avoided.

We find this opinion expressed and proved in a London Almanac, and from the stars and upon the broad disc of the sun, unobscured by the moon must be read the future, fate of this country. Beware of the next 25th June; beware the 1st of September; beware the spring of 1855, and the two succeeding years! Let the compromise question be definitely settled; let Slavery Agitation cease; for "Zadkiel's Almanac" for 1854 tells us they will be fatal to our domestic peace! And did not Zadkiel foretell the woes of France written upon the solar eclipse of 1847, with the death of the Emperor of Austria, and of Louis Philippe, and the Chinese insurrection. Not that the Hapsburg was old, or the Orleans giddy and drowsy or that the mutterings of dissension had been heard years previously in the flowery land of Mea, but that these events were prognosticated by the stars and foreshadowed in the eclipse. Be warned therefore by Zadkiel, who has placed his astrology to his prophetic eye, and thus reads the fate of America in the Annual Eclipse of the Sun, at Washington in America, 3 h. 20 m. G. S. May 26, 1854. *Mean Time in that City.*

This great defect of the Greater Light of Heaven will be of a most remarkable character, for the very moment of the eclipse is that of the solar conjunction with the evil planet Saturn. The Sun, Moon, and Saturn will all three be found in the 13th minute of the 6th degree of the sign Gemini, which rules America. Such a phenomenon does not occur in many centuries—perhaps has never before taken place. At the time we find Mercury ruler of the eclipse, in the third degree of the same sign, and Mars casting a hateful square thereto from the 9th degree of Virgo. At the very moment of the eclipse the conjunction Jupiter falls in the lower meridian exactly, and Venus is found descending below the western horizon, forming a hateful square to the greater fortune.

It is no idle task to read the great and momentous indications of these heavenly indices of the sovereign will of the Great Creator. Alas! for the men of the United States! they are about to be visited by the avenger.—The cup of their national iniquity is full. The cry of the crushed and toil-worn miserable slave has reached his maker! The hell born system shall cease; but not without a fearful struggle, which like the rush of the mighty waters of Niagara, shall shake to pieces the social system founded by Washington, who left the fatal taint of slavery among his country's institutions—the only failing in that immortal hero's character. Yea, before this eclipse shall end its race—before Satan leaves the sign—American blood shall flow like water—the federal system shall be rent asunder—the pride of the American people shall be humbled, and their cruelty punished. They, too, shall feel the heel of the oppressor—their vaunted liberties shall be curtailed—civil war will rage, and martial law silence the bravest defenders of the Union. The whole world's attention will be drawn to the destruction of the power of the American eagle; but from its ashes a Phoenix will arise freed from the stain of Domestic Slavery!

The 25th of June, and especially the 1st of September, will be periods when the eclipse will begin to work; but its chief effects will be felt in the spring of 1855, when about February, great and sad will be the scenes of bloodshed in "the United States," no longer meriting that title. Not till two years shall have passed away, will America know peace, or cease to feel the sting of this great celestial phenomenon. As the great solar eclipse of October 8th, 1847 was seen through France and other European countries, just before the fearful revolution of 1848, so will the one of central and annular eclipse in this case cross exactly the very heart of the United States.

Time will again reveal the reality of the powers of the heavenly bodies on nations and individuals, at the moment of these great eclipses, as recorded and established by the old Chaldeans, and in vain denied by the professed philosophers of our skeptical and infidel times. Let my readers turn back to the predictions made by me from that eclipse of 1847, for instance, the death of our great king under the dominion of Libia; and observe the speedy end of the Emperor of Austria, ruled by "Libra;" and the death of Louis Philippe, born under "Libra." And again, the following, speaking of China, ruled by "Libra" at p. 45 of my Almanac for 1848. "The people will rise in insurrection, and there will be civil war raging in the land, and death to the Emperor."

Have not our newspapers teemed with accounts of the vast insurrection in China that has been "raging" ever since 1849, in which year I said the effects would there be first felt?

But this eclipse will take effect in many other countries, though not being visible, its power will be less than in America. London will feel the sting in no trading degree, more especially during the day of Saturn in the Gemini. All persons on near the 26th of May will feel it also, in sickness, family losses, and afflictions, and many,

very many thousand, will it call to another world. I regret exceedingly to see that it is so near the birthday of a mighty monarch.

England will have cause to weep! I apprehend also some mad attempt on the inviolability of old England's coasts, during the reign of this eclipse, or other insult to the honor of England's flag; it will be avenged. Ancient authors say that an eclipse of the Sun in the face of Gemini, "causeth dissension among priests, inveterate hatred and seditions, and a contempt of both the laws of God and man."

Northern Philanthropy.

The outcry raised by people in non-slaveholding States against slavery imposes upon no one but themselves. Are Northern men better than Southern? Are they more humane, merciful and generous? Is human nature North of Mason and Dixon's line a different thing from human nature South of it? Why should people be more compassionate and more benevolent there than they are here? What makes them so? And how do they show it?

Did they ever hold slaves? What has become of those slaves? Did they give them away? Not a bit of it. Before their law abolishing slavery went into operation—which was not till slavery ceased to be profitable—they sold everything black in their possession to the Southern States.—What an illustration of disinterested philanthropy. Why did they not set us a better example.

Did their people ever have any connexion with the slave trade? Most undoubtedly. They were the principal men who carried it on. They made large fortunes by it. It is a curious fact, that until the American government passed laws against the slave trade, Northern philanthropy was never excited upon the subject of Southern slavery.

Have they ever shown their excessive compassion for the slave by contributing the money made in the slave trade, or in any other way, to his emancipation? Not at all. They have built up colossal fortunes and made their cities upon slave labor. But they keep a tight grip of every dime. They will not buy the freedom of slaves. They will not aid the fugitive negro who has escaped from slavery, to escape from starvation. They will not show mercy to their own white poor, much less to the blacks of another section.

Why, then, do they raise such a fuss about slavery? Not because they are more sympathizing or more humane than others, for true humanity and true sympathy show themselves in fruitful deeds, and not in barren words. It is easier to pick flaws in your neighbor's character than to reform your own.—Moreover, the outcry against the nominal slavery of the black laborer diverts attention from the real slavery of the Northern laborer.

Northern abolition is made up of fanaticism, envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness. It is a thing of the head and of the fancy. The heart has nothing to do with it, except in its worst passions. Antipathy to the master, not sympathy with the slaves, is its ruling principle. Again we say it these hyphorites impose upon themselves, they impose upon no one else.

GYPSUM FOR GARDENING PURPOSES.—This valuable fertilizer is not yet half appreciated by southern gardeners. As a manure for poor soils, it is invaluable; its chief benefit arises from its power of holding and fixing the ammonia which rises from manure already in the soil, and we look upon anything as manure that is food for plants, whether it comes from the stable or the swamp. From the sulphur in Gypsum, it is a great preventative of worms; gardens well dressed with it will be exempt from the cut worms. Young cabbages and turnips sprinkled with it in their germinating state will be exempt from the ravages of the green worm. Gypsum is doubly increased in value by being sowed with plaster. The past dry summer has fully developed the utility of Gypsum; whenever we applied Gypsum to the onions, English peas, potatoes, or melons, there we have had the finest crops notwithstanding the drought. We observe when there has been no dew at night, and all vegetation looks parched and dry, where the Gypsum has been fully used in the garden, there is a dampness in the morning like a dew had fallen. It is asserted by an eminent Northern Horticulturist, that Gypsum is positively injurious to strawberries; we have no doubt but it stimulates the vine into too rapid a growth, and as we of the South want fruit instead of vine, it should be used cautiously. But for garden vegetables, where those vegetables have anything to feed upon, Gypsum is a great promoter of appetite by moistening the food ready for

the roots to take up with their thousand mouths.

Sloshing About.

The Judges often tell stories on the members of the bar, albeit they are much oftener the subjects of stories themselves. We lately heard one of the former illustrating the propriety of "letting well enough alone," by the following anecdote:

An affray case was on trial in the Circuit Court of Pike county, in which some six or eight peace breakers were represented by almost as many lawyers, each of whom, in turn, put the only witness for the State through the tortures of a tedious cross examination.

Nat—, a well known Montgomery practitioner, was counsel for a big black looking fellow in the crowd, who answered to the name of Saltonstall. As to this defendant, the only proof which was elicited on the examination in the chief of the witness for the prosecution, was that—to use the peculiar phraseology of the narrator—"while the rest on 'em a cussin' and cussin' and pairin' off for a regular r'yal, *Saltonstall jest kept sloshin' about.*"

The Solicitor and Nat both consulted this to mean that Saltonstall was only movin' about, drunk among the combatants; and the former did not press for an explanation. Presently, however, it came to Nat's turn to cross examine for his client; and as he had received quite a handsome fee, considering how things stood, he felt bound to make something of a demonstration. So quoth he, with the air of the avenger of injured innocence.

"Come, witness, say over again in what it was that Mr. Saltonstall had to do with this affair?"

"Saltonstall? Why I've told you several times, the rest on 'em clinched and paired off, but *Saltonstall, jest kept sloshin' about.*"

"Ah, my good fellow," exclaimed Nat, quite testily, "we want to know what that is. It isn't exactly legal evidence in the shape you put it. Tell us what you mean by 'sloshin' about.'"

"Well," answered the witness very deliberately, "I'll try. You see, John Brewer and Sykes they clinched and fought. That's in legal form, ain't it?"

"Oh, yes!" said Nat—"so on!"

"Ah, yes!" said Nat—"so on!"

Oh, yes! and Blackman then pitched into one another, and Blackman bit off a piece of Abney's lip—that's legle too, ain't it?"

"Proceed!"

"Simpson and Bill Stone and Murray, was all together on the ground, a bitin' goug'n' and kickin' one another—that's legle, too, is it?"

"A very!—but go on!"

"And Saltonstall made it his business to walk backwards and forwards through the crowd, with a big stick in his hand, and knocked down every loose man in the crowd as fast as he came to 'em!" That's what I call 'sloshin' about.'"

Nat is of opinion, now, that unless prima facie case is made out by the prosecution, on the direct examination of their witnesses, it is quite a well for the defendant to waive his right to cross examine.

HONORS OF GUANO TRADE.—We have received full confirmation of the horrors reported to be in course of perpetration, in connection with the guano trade, at the Chincha Islands. It is picked up and wheeled to the shores, it appears, by contract. The contractor has imported Chinamen for this work, nearly six hundred of whom are now on these islands. They are hired for five years, at the rate of \$48 per annum. They commence work in the morning as soon as they can see to dig and wheel to a distance of one or two miles. It is all, or nearly all, so hard that it has to be picked up; and if they do not accomplish these five tons by 5 o'clock p. m., they are flogged with raw hide whips, some five feet long, receiving one dozen stripes, each of which starts the blood; then they are driven back to finish their work. The guano has a very bad effect upon them, swelling their legs and feet. Notwithstanding all these, however, if they can get along, they are compelled to finish their task. Our informant says:

"I have known as many as thirty flogged in one day. They have no Sunday allowed with the exception of one in a year, the same work going on on Sunday as during the rest of the week. The consequence of this ill treatment is suicide in various forms, such as leaping from the rocks one hundred feet high, cutting their throats, and burying themselves alive. This last has actually been the case, to my knowledge. One morning, three were found who had so buried themselves; two were dead and one alive. The last recovered to prolong his miserable existence for a short time."

It is time that the voice of civilization throughout the world was heard in denunciation of such horrors as these.—N. O. Picayune.

SPANISH DEGRADATION.—The little acquainted with the manners customs of the country, have an idea that all Spaniards are grave and formal like the Castilian. This, however, is far from being the case. The people of each province are almost as distinct as different nations, having manners and customs, dress and dialect, peculiar to themselves. This peculiarity is doubtless owing to the isolation of the chain of mountains which intersect the peninsula, and cut off inter-communication, as well as the fact that for ages these provinces formed separate and distinct kingdoms. The rude, boisterous Gallician; the industrious Catalan; the idle, jovial Arduasian; the sly, vindictive Valencian; and the grave, dignified sons of Castillo, differ from each other as much as the inhabitants of distinct nations. In traveling over this beautiful country, upon which nature has lavished the choicest favors, and which under the rule of Romans and Moors, was a land flowing with milk and honey, the tourist is struck with scenes of desolation that every where meet the view. He roams over wild, unpeopled wastes, treeless and arid, where the melancholy picture is often heightened by ruined castles and villages, the signs of former prosperity passed away. The towns through which he passes, are too often the abode of poverty and wretchedness, and an air of gloom and sadness pervades their silent streets. The seaports have lost their former commercial importance, and the silent quays, once thronged by a busy crowd, attest the decayed condition of the land.—And wherefore it may be asked, is this poverty, desolation and wretchedness so visible in a country which possesses advantage unsurpassed by any in Christendom; where a fertile soil and a variety of climate admit of the productions of tropical and temperate zones, where the bowels of the earth yield precious metals, coal and quarries, innumerable variety of marble; fine, with a position most favorable to commerce, and a line of coast extending in fine harbors? Yes, because this beautiful and once flourishing land so fallen! Her people so sunk in ignorance, and so far behind every other civilized nation in arts and agriculture? The answer may be found in these words,—bad government!—*See also in Spain.*

An Example for Young Men.

The Mosses, Harpers, of New York, who recently lost about \$1,000,000 in fire, but who are still in independent circumstances—able to re-commence operations on an extensive scale—menaced life poor boys. The New York Times furnishes the following brief history of the career of the persons:

"The establishment of the firm was founded by James Harper, the oldest of the four who now own the firm. He came to the city in a lad fifteen years old, and served an apprenticeship of six years under J. & Thomas, the leading printers of the day. His brother John soon followed him, and learned the trade of Mr. Seymour, a printer in John street. In 1819, with a capital James had saved, the brothers opened a small book and job office in Dover street. The first book they printed was Seneca's Moralists; the second was an edition of the Methodists Catechism. The first book they published on their own account was Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding. They toiled with unremitting industry, and maintained the highest character for enterprise and integrity. In 1820 the third brother, Joseph Wesley, joined them, and six years later Fletcher became a member of the firm. From that time till now they have carried on the publishing with a degree of well directed energy which has few parallels. They removed to Cliff street about 1820, and have added one building after another to their establishment as the demands of their business required. The amount of books they have issued is almost incalculable. For the last few years they have published, on an average, twenty-five volumes a minute, for ten hours a day—and from three to four thousand persons have obtained a livelihood from their employment."

The Hindoo idea of hell is, to say the least, sufficiently terrific to arrest the attention of sinners the most incorrigible. Some say, they are made to tread on burning sands, or sleep on red stones; others are rolled among thorns and spikes and putrid carcasses dragged along the roughest parts of the body; some are attacked by jackals, tigers and elephants; others are pierced with arrows, beaten with clubs, pricked with needles, scalded with hot iron, and tormented by wasps; some are plunged into pools of liquid fire or boiling oil.