

# The Abbeville Messenger.

VOL. 3.

ABBEVILLE, S. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1887.

NO. 14

## Prominent Negro Politicians.

When the Fiftieth Congress is called to order for the first time since the adoption of the fourteenth amendment no negro will have a seat in the National Legislature.

There are two negroes in the present House of Representatives, O'Hara, of North Carolina, and Smalls, of South Carolina. Both were defeated in the recent election. In O'Hara's district there was a contest between the pure blacks and the mulattoes. O'Hara is about the color of a ripe pumpkin and rather airy. He is king of the half breeds in his section but the pure blood darkeys grew tired of his dictation. The Republican Convention, composed almost entirely of negroes, broke up in a row, dividing on yellow and black lines. The buff statesmen nominated O'Hara and the black put up a candidate of their own color, who is said to be the blackest negro in North Carolina. The Democrats, appreciating the situation, nominated a candidate and elected him. The "brother in black" beat the "brother in buff," but both were defeated by the Democrat, who will take his seat without a contest.

In Smalls' district there was considerable dissatisfaction among the colored voters, but Smalls scooped the nomination of his party without much difficulty. It had been considered useless for a Democrat to run in this district, which was gerrymandered so as to include a great majority of blacks and leave the other districts of the State safe to the Democrats, but the nomination was tendered to Colonel Elliott, of Beaufort, and he accepted it. He had every advantage that a white man could possess in such a district. All the negroes knew him. He had been conspicuous as their friend in the courts where he had appeared as defending and prosecuting counsel for colored clients when race prejudice ran high. He had done many substantial favors for his negro neighbors, and was known throughout the district as one who was ready to stand by a man in the right regardless of his color. He made an active canvass of the district; met the negroes face to face; showed how he had been their friend, and asked them to support him; thousands of them did so, and the result was that he beat Smalls about 800 votes. The result was a great surprise to Smalls, who had counted on the solid support of the negroes in his district. He is going to contest Colonel Elliott's seat on the ground that the polls were not opened in some of the precincts at the proper hour.

Smalls owes his prominence in South Carolina to a daring act which he performed during the siege of Charleston in the late war. He was pilot and knew the harbor perfectly. Though in the service of the Confederate government, he naturally sympathized with the Federal cause and watched for an opportunity to do it a service. One night he succeeded in stealing the steamer "Planter," having won the crew over to his plot, ran it past the Confederate gunboat and Fort Sumter, and delivered it to the yankee fleet at daybreak next morning. It was converted into a gunboat, and under the pilotage of Smalls did efficient service against Charleston.

For this bold act he was kept on the pay-roll of the Union navy during the war, and Congress passed an act appropriating to him half the assessed value of the steamer, about \$20,000, I think. The other half went to the crew who came out with Smalls.

Hiram P. Revels, of Mississippi, was the first negro to occupy a seat in the United States Senate. He served from 1869 to 1875. When he went out another negro, Blanche K. Bruce, came in from the same State. He retired from the Senate in 1881, and was at once appointed by President Garfield Register of the Treasury. He held that position until President Cleveland put General Rosecrans in his place about eighteen months ago. Bruce owns two large plantations in Mississippi, and is worth \$200,000. He lives in Washington in a house of his own and in considerable style. His wife is so light that she is generally mistaken for a white woman.

Revels is farming in Mississippi and is well off. He and Bruce are the only two negroes who ever reached the Senate. There have been thirteen negroes in the House of Representatives. South Carolina has sent six of these, viz., Robert B. Elliott, Joseph H. Rainey, Richard H. Cain, Robert C. De Large, Alonzo J. Ransier, and Robert Smalls.

Alabama sent these three, Benjamin F. Turner, Jere Harlison, and James T. Rapier. Mississippi elected John R. Lynch. Josiah T. Walls came from Florida, James E. O'Hara has had three terms from North Carolina and Jeff Long, of Macon, is Georgia's solitary contribution of African blood to Congress. The forty-third Congress had the heaviest colored representation ever known. Revels, of Mississippi, was in the Senate, and in the House there were the following six members: Walls, of Florida; Rapier, of Alabama; Elliott, Cain, Rainey and Ransier, of South Carolina. It was in that Congress that Elliott made his famous speech in support of the civil rights bill. It was one of the most eloquent efforts of the season and created decidedly a greater sensation than any other speech of the year, because it came from a colored man. Elliott had graduated at Harvard and was really an accomplished man, besides being one of rare natural abilities. He was not of pure blood, but the African strain largely predominated. Elliott practiced law successfully for several years after leaving Congress, and died in South Carolina.

Elliott and Lynch were the two most intellectual negroes of all that ever held seats in Congress. Lynch was almost as good a speaker as Elliott, and was his superior in many respects. He had a better address, was more liberal in his views, and had more friendships among his white colleagues than any colored man could ever claim in Congress. Secretary Lamar always thought highly of him, and when Lynch was in the House and Lamar in the Senate they consulted about Legislation directly affecting Mississippi as often as any two members from that State. Lynch was the temporary chairman of the last national republican convention, defeating Powell Clayton, of Arkansas, for that office. He is now farming in Mississippi, and has forsworn politics.

The roughest negro of all that have been in Congress was Turner, of Alabama. He had been a hostler all his life and had become the proprietor of a peripatetic breeding stable. His acquaintance with the negroes of his district and his natural boldness pushing him ahead of the smarter negro politicians, secured him a seat in Congress. He was a heavy set, rough fellow who was queerly out of place while here, and since his retirement has sunk into obscurity. Rainey, of South Carolina, a sensible man, after leaving Congress, entered the wood and coal business in Washington, and is doing well at it.

It may be said of all the negroes who have yet been sent to Congress that they have departed themselves while in public life remarkably well. Not one of them was ever mixed up in a congressional scandal, though they were thick here when the lobby was boldest and Congress most corrupt. They have uniformly been decent in their conduct, and regular in their attention to public duty. Only one or two of them have been of that class of professional negroes of which Fred Douglass is the type and several of them have been among the most advanced leaders of their race in the direction of intelligent industry and good citizenship.

Considering their circumstances, the natural prejudice against them, and their opportunities to fit themselves for public life, they have done remarkably well and have merited the respect and kind regard which they have generally received at the hands of their white colleagues in Congress.—*Atlanta Constitution.*

## A Sure Sign.

Every established local newspaper receives subscriptions from large cities, which puzzle the publishers, but which the New York Times explained as follows: "A wholesale merchant in this city who had become rich at the business, says his rule is, that when he sells a bill of goods on credit, to immediately subscribe for the local paper of his debtor. So long as his customer advertised liberally and vigorously, he rested, but as soon as he began to contract his advertising space, he took the fact as evidence that there was trouble ahead, and invariably went for the debtor." Said he: "The man who is too poor to make his business known, is too poor to do business." The withdrawal of an advertisement is evidence of weakness that the business men are not slow to act upon.—*Ex.*

## A Horror of the Rail.

TIFFIN, OHIO, January 4.—The fast train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which left New York about 9 o'clock yesterday for Chicago, with five coaches and four sleepers, all well filled with passengers, collided with an eastern bound freight train, seven miles east of this city, about 4 o'clock this morning.

The fast train was about fifty minutes late and was running at the rate of sixty miles an hour. Passing Republic, a small station, like a flash, it rushed along to a curve one mile west of that town, when suddenly the engineer saw the freight train under full headway within one hundred yards of him. He at once applied the brakes and reversed the engine, but it did no good, and the next instant the crash came, telescoping the coaches and piling them up on each other. To add consternation to the horrible scene fire broke out in the smoking car and soon spread to the other cars. Many were killed outright, while others, wedged in among the broken cars, were slowly consumed by the flames.

The screams of the wounded and dying were heartrending, but no assistance could be given until the farmers, awaked by the crash, came, and with other neighbors worked like heroes to save the perishing. At this writing nineteen dead bodies have been recovered, and they lie burned and disfigured in the snow beside the track. Help was sent from Republic and this city as soon as the news was received. It is a fearful sight and recalls the Ashtabula horror of the winter of 1877.

The engines were run into each other as one stove pipe fits into its mate, and all that could be seen was a chaotic mass of brass, iron and steel. At an early hour there were hundreds of people coming to the scene of the disaster, ready and anxious to know what to do and how they could help any of the unfortunate sufferers who might need help, but it appears that just as soon as the Baltimore and Ohio agents could get to the work they carried out of the county the wounded, dying and dead. It is believed that there were at least twenty two bodies. From the report of a survivor it would appear that a number of the unfortunates were so thoroughly burned that their remains could be gathered from the debris. Only three survivors remain at Republic. These are Mrs. Mary Postlethwaite and two young children. Her husband and two sons, aged eleven and eighteen, were killed. They were emigrating from Belton, Wetsell County, Va., to Chillicothe, Missouri. In some way, even the mother was unable to relate how she got out of the car in which she had been traveling, and, wandering away from the burning train, carrying her two youngest children in her arms, she entered the first house in which she found a light. She was almost crazed, and with difficulty her name was ascertained.

BALTIMORE, January 4.—The officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad state that the freight train collision was caused by a misunderstanding of orders for the regulation of one or other of the trains.

## Lincoln's Reverence for Woman.

In the January *Century* Nicolay and Hay introduce as follows their account of Lincoln's love affairs: "Upon a temperament thus predisposed to look at things in their darker aspect, it might naturally be expected that a love-affair which was not perfectly happy would be productive of great misery. But Lincoln seemed especially chosen to the keenest suffering in such a conjuncture. The pioneer, as a rule, was comparatively free from any troubles of the imagination. To quote Mr. McConnell again: 'There was no romance in his [the pioneer's] composition. He had no dreaminess; meditation was no part of his mental habit; a poetical fancy would, in him, have been an indication of insanity. If he reclined at the foot of a tree, on a still summer day, it was to sleep; if he gazed out over the waving prairie, it was to search for the column of smoke which told of his enemies' approach; if he turned his eyes towards the blue heaven, it was to prognosticate to-morrow's rain or sunshine. If he bent his gaze towards the green earth it was to look for "Indian sign" or buffalo trail. His wife was only a helpmate; he never thought of making a divinity of her. But Lincoln could never have

claimed this happy immunity from ideal trials. His published speeches show how much the poet in him was constantly kept in check; and at this time of his life his imagination was sufficiently alert to inflict upon him the sharpest anguish. His reverence for women was so deep and tender that he thought an injury to one of them was a sin too heinous to be expiated. No Hamlet, dreaming amid the turrets of Elsinore, no Sidney creating a chivalrous Arcadia, was fuller of mystic and shadowy fancies of the worth and dignity of women than this back woods politician. Few men ever lived more sensitively and delicately tender towards the sex."

## That Baby Wedding.

The Charlotte *Chronicle* of Saturday says: "Yesterday's *Chronicle* contained an account of the runaway marriage of two youthful persons at Spartanburg and of the arrival here of the young girl, in charge of her father, Col. Joseph Walker. As stated in yesterday's paper, Col. Walker placed his daughter on the North-bound train to send her to a place of refuge in the North, and, this done, the distressed father felt relieved. But his troubles were not yet at an end. An hour after the train went out he received a telegram that the girl's husband was on board the very train which carried her out of Charlotte. Col. Walker telegraphed to have the couple stopped at Greensboro, and this was successfully done. Col. Walker left here on the next train for that point, where he found his daughter, and to make everything safe, he went on with the young lady as her special escort to her destination. The old folks are mighty hard to get away with, sometimes. We learn, in addition to the above, that when the runaway couple stopped at Greensboro the bride registered at the Benbow, while the groom went to the McAdoo House. The groom was accompanied by his mother, Mrs. Harris, and yesterday they passed through Charlotte on the return to their home at Spartanburg. Mr. Harris, the youthful groom stated that the marriage was not upon the impulse of the moment, but on the contrary it was fully considered and all the plaid laid some time ago. He said he and Miss Walker had been engaged for three years, and that their early marriage was frequently contemplated. He further stated that he would now return home and institute proceedings against the parties for abduction.

## Loring and Stonewall Jackson.

In the death of General Loring ex-Confederates find a theme of recollection and anecdote of his quarrel with Stonewall Jackson, whose services were nearly lost to the Confederate government by the disagreement between himself and Loring during what is known in Confederate memories as the "Romney Campaign." Jackson earned his designation of "Stonewall" at the first Manassas, where General Arnold Elzey illustrated Maryland soldiery. Jackson's brigade of Virginians from the valley and southwest Virginia thereafter lived in the legends of Lee's army as the "Stonewall brigade." The Confederate authorities early recognized the Shenandoah valley as an important military artery. Late in 1861 Jackson was sent with his old brigade to that region, and Loring, who had been Gen. Lee's successor in command of the troops west of Staunton, reinforced him in the neighborhood of Winchester. The "Romney campaign" was directed against Gen. B. F. Kelley on the Union side. It was fruitful of nothing save suffering to the Confederate soldiers. Jackson and Loring did not agree from the outset. Jackson's taciturnity annoyed Loring, who was second in command. Confederate soldiers of that time told with relish how "Old Jack" told his inquisitive lieutenant, who wished to know his plan of campaign, that if his coat-tail contained that information he would burn it." Loring was a favorite with Mr. Davis, who has always had a natural partiality for the veterans of the Mexican war, in which Loring lost an arm. Governor Letcher, to whom Jackson sent his resignation in consequence of Loring's disobedience of orders and the failure of the Confederate government to sustain him in resisting that disobedience, had great difficulty in reconciling the differences between Gen. Jackson and the Confederate government. The failure to gain the territory traversed by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was a bit

ter disappointment and severe disaster to the Richmond authorities. Loring was recalled to Richmond and there freely expressed his disgust with the results of the campaign, placing all the blame on Jackson. To Gen. John B. Clark, of Missouri, father of the present clerk of the House, and to General Read, of Kentucky, near whom Loring had fallen in the assault upon the City of Mexico. Loring expressed his contempt in the Spotswood hotel, at Richmond, for Jackson as a "hypocrite in religion and a pretender in soldiery." And this characterization of Jackson preceded by only six months Jackson's exploits in the Valley which gave him worldwide fame.

At a later period Loring had a splendid command in the Kanawha Valley, and Gen. J. D. Cox, Grant's first secretary of the interior, enticed him to follow the Union forces so far from all railroad connections as to make it impossible for Loring to get to Lee's help in the desperate struggle at Antietam where Cox got to McClellan's help, one of his wounded colonels there being Rutherford B. Hayes, of the twenty-third Ohio regiment. At the time Loring was freely charged in the South with disobedience of orders, growing out of his unwillingness to be put under Stonewall Jackson's orders. Gen. Loring, while having little success in his operations in Virginia, retained the confidence of Mr. Davis, and a division in the army of Pemberton at Vicksburg. He escaped the surrender at that post with his division, losing his artillery.

## Burdette's Advice to Young Men.

To young men Bob Burdette says: "You take a basin of water, place your finger in it for twenty-five or thirty seconds, take it out and look at the hole that is left. The size of the hole represents about the impression that advice makes on a young man's mind. Don't depend too much on your family—the dead part I mean. The world wants live men; it has no use for dead ones; Queen Victoria can trace her ancestors back in a direct line to William the Conqueror. If you cannot get further back than your father, you are better off. He was better off than old William. He had better clothes to wear, better food to eat, and was better housed.

If you are a diamond, be sure that you will be found. Check, brass or gall never gets ahead of merit. I love a man who is straightforward. If you want to marry a rich man's daughter or borrow \$500 from him, ask him for it; it amounts to the same thing in the end. It is always better to astonish a man than to bore him.

Remember that in the morning of life come the hard-working days. Hard work never kills a man. It's fun, recreation, relaxation, holidays, that kill. The fun that results in a head the next morning so big that a hat could hardly cover it, is what kills. Hard work never does.

Those who come after us have to work just as hard as we do. When I shovel the snow off my sidewalk, if perchance I take a three-quarter piece of my neighbor's walk, I put it back, because if I didn't I should be doing him an injustice. You can't afford to do anything but what is good. You are on a dress parade all the time. Don't be afraid of being called a crank. If you have one idea you have more than most men have. It takes a smart man to be a crank.

## After Many Years.

MACON, GA., January 5.—Secretary Lamar was married this morning at 10 o'clock, at the residence of the bride, by Rev. W. M. Park, of Sandersville, to Mrs. William S. Holt, of Macon. Those present at the marriage were Captain R. E. Park, W. P. Virgin, Colonel J. E. Jones and their wives (daughters of the bride), Dr. R. M. Patterson and wife, and Major W. H. Ross and wife. At 10 o'clock the Secretary and the bride entered the parlor with joined hands. The ceremony was brief and original, lasting only two minutes. Congratulations followed. The bride was dressed in steel gray silk, with ornaments of diamonds. The Secretary and his bride left at 5.20 this afternoon to spend the evening with Governor Gordon, and to-morrow morning they will leave for Oxford, Miss., to visit relatives of the Secretary, and then go to Washington.

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## A Final Effort.

Mr. William B. Cluverius, who has worked so hard and with commendable devotion for his brother, the condemned murderer of Miss Fannie Lillian Madison, has sent the following circular to the various members of the Legislature:

"RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 28, 1886.  
"DEAR SIR: I address you in behalf of my brother, T. J. Cluverius, whose circumstances are well known to every one in the State. It has been suggested to me that his life might be saved through action by the Legislature in some way, as a co-ordinate department of the government, since many members of that body have expressed their conviction that his life should not be taken. I have heard that the Legislature will certainly be called together about the first of February next. My object in addressing you is to make the request that you send me an application, addressed to the Governor from yourself, requesting him to grant a reprieve to my brother until some day after the Legislature shall meet, in order that they may have an opportunity of taking action, if deemed right and judicious. The day fixed for the execution is the 14th of January, and I should like a response before the 5th.

"I will not undertake to urge the reasons in favor of this request or to make suggestions as to what action can be taken. I leave both to your intelligent appreciation of facts known to all.

"This request I will make of all the members of the Legislature, or so many, at least, as I can reach, and will leave their action to their own sense of justice, and fairness, and to their desire that the laws of the State shall be equally and properly executed, and a fair trial had by an impartial jury—a right guaranteed to every man.

"My address is Ford's Hotel, in this city.

"Very respectfully,  
"W. B. CLUVERIUS."

This final effort of Mr. Cluverius to save his brother's life is natural, but it must be abortive under any circumstances. Ever should the Governor respect the condemned man, and call an extra session of the Legislature, nothing could be done for him. The Legislative, executive and judicial departments of the State Government are separate, distinct and independent. The Legislature, therefore, could not interfere with the action of the courts, nor could it pass a law to pardon Cluverius, since the pardoning power belongs exclusively to the Executive. It could not even pass a law making it illegal to hang a man who had not testified in his own behalf, that would not apply to the case of Cluverius, since such a law would be *ex post facto*, and so, unconstitutional, null and void.

There is nothing, then, in this idea of Legislative interference in behalf of the doomed man. From present appearances, nothing short of miraculous interposition can save him from the gallows two weeks from to-morrow.—*Richmond Whig, Dec. 31.*

## Preachers in Politics.

We are not in favor of calling a constitutional convention at this time, but if such a convention is called we have one suggestion to make, and it is that the section of our old constitution which prohibits ministers of the gospel engaging in politics, be re-enacted.

We yield to no one in reverence for the office of ministers of the gospel. Indeed, their work is far too sacred and highly exalted above other vocations to be dragged into the dubious paths of politics. Although history tells of States and Kingdoms that have failed to survive a union between Church and State, we see even in free America; and stranger still, in South Carolina ministers who forsake the work of the Master to enjoy the honor of their fellowmen—such honor as comes from holding a public office. Quite a number of ministers are members of the present legislature of South Carolina. From a close observation of the proceedings of the late session, we say emphatically that they are out of place.—The Legislature is not the place for sermons although each of the clerical legislators have taken occasion to deliver sermons at a cost to the State of from \$300 to \$400 each. These mouthy members are responsible for the hurried legislation that always results when time is wasted in high-flown, irrelevant oratory.

The work of a minister is of greater importance even than that of a legislator yet it is different, and we think should be performed separate and apart from legislative work.—*Laurens Advertiser.*