

The Watchman was founded in 1850 and the True Southern in 1866. The Watchman and Southern now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The News and Courier of the 19th published a strong endorsement of Attorney General Miles, and a vigorous plea for his renomination, and closes with the following: "We do not advocate the renomination because he is a Charlestonian. The whole State has benefited by his ability and industry, and the whole State will derive an advantage from his continuance in office. There is no shadow of reason for not renominating Mr. Miles, except the feverish desire for a change. This desire, we think, will not be allowed to prevail, when the circumstances are known, and the record of the present Attorney General, with his brilliant array of victories for the people, is familiar to those whom he has served, in office and out of office, so faithfully and so well."

The latter clause furnishes a text upon which we might preach a sermon if time permitted but as it does not we will ask a few questions. Has Mr. Miles been prominent in any work of patriotic effort for the State, in which he was not paid to work? Where was he during the War? (His opponent in the present canvass went into the ranks a mere boy, though scarcely able to walk without a crutch.) What did Mr. Miles do in bringing his State from political death in 1876? (Jos. H. Earle was in the front rank of the fight then as always.) Where was he when the U. S. prisoners were being filled by Democrats on trumped up charges of election frauds? (The records of the U. S. courts will tell where Earle was.) Where has Mr. Miles been at any time when it was all work and no pay?

We admit that Mr. Miles' record as Attorney General has been good, but it might have been better. For instance: The State paid \$5,700 during Mr. Miles' first term, for legal services rendered by others, but which should have been performed by Mr. Miles; and the Legislature at its next session, in view of this neglect of duty passed an act, requiring him to take charge of these cases. The reason given by the Register for this neglect was that he "declined to act as counsel in the case, holding that it was no proper duty of his office, and that so important a suit, to be fought through all the courts, would necessarily involve much labor, time and expense not contemplated in the specific duties of his office."

In other words the Attorney General was willing to work for the State when paid to do so, and when there was not "much labor time and expense" contemplated therefor; otherwise he waits for the Legislature to pass compelling acts. Mr. Miles made other lapses at which we must confess some surprise. It is generally whispered around that the titles to the Agricultural building in Columbia, in so far as they give the State any legal right to the property, are worthless. Now it is most certainly the duty of the Attorney General to see after such things, even without the passing of a special act by the Legislature.

We say these things not to injure Mr. Miles, but to show that even he is not perfect, and can make an occasional mistake; and that his friends can not boast him into office because of an assumed, perfect administration of his duties when such an assumption is not sustained by facts.

Charleston and its Fictitious Delegation to the State Convention.

In our issue of the 13th instant, we showed that by Article VII of the Constitution of the Democratic Party each County in the State is entitled to representation in the Convention "in the numerical proportion in which that County is entitled in both branches of the General Assembly." By the Constitution of South Carolina, Article I, section 24, it is provided that "Representation shall be apportioned according to population." By the United States Census of 1880, Volume I, pages 77 and 827, the present County of Charleston, according to her population, is entitled to about seven Representatives in the Legislature, whereas that County actually has twelve, or five more than is proper. Thus she will have ten delegates in the State Convention more than her population will warrant.

Inasmuch therefore, as the Constitution of the Democratic Party, in the matter of representation, is modelled upon the Constitution of the State, in the matter of representation, is based upon population; and the population of Charleston by the census of 1880 only entitled her to seven members in the House of Representatives, we fail to perceive why that County should enjoy ten fictitious delegates to the State Convention, in excess of her lawful number.

Upon the same reasoning we fail to perceive why the counties of Sumter, Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, Edgefield, Marlboro and Beaufort and should each be deprived of two of their delegates to the State Convention. Therefore it was that we advised these counties to elect their proper number of delegates to the Convention and contest the illegal portion of the Charleston delegation to their seats in that body.

The News and Courier of yesterday characterises our proposition as one "that will not go down." We see free

to confess at the outset that we had no hope that the proposition would "go down" our contemporary, for with the utmost appreciation of its swallowing capacity we have never yet known it to take kindly to anything unless it inured to the benefit of itself and of its immediate surroundings; and as the loss of the illegal ten delegates in the State Convention might seriously interfere with Charleston's "Slate" for the State ticket we were not unprepared to have it reject the dose, however beneficial it might prove, or however much it "ought to go down."

But our contention is that although the State Senate by a bare majority of four, in which majority were the two Senators from Charleston and two colored Republican Senators, refused to obey the letter of the State Constitution and provide for a census and reapportionment, yet that such a glaring violation of law is neither a worthy or proper precedent for the State Convention and as the real intent and true spirit of both the State and the Democratic Conventions is "that representation shall be apportioned according to population," we thought and still think that every consideration of honesty and fair dealing between Democrat and Democrat should exclude Charleston's ten illegal delegates and admit those from Sumter, Greenville, Edgefield and the other counties named above.

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It is matter of little consequence to us what course the Convention may pursue, we only contend for honesty and fair dealing in the ranks of the Democracy. The lawful delegates from Sumter and the other Counties named above may be denied their seats, and unlawful delegates from Charleston may be allowed to retain theirs, but despite the labored article in the News and Courier to the contrary, we do not believe that those ten gentlemen from Charleston, whoever they may be, will obtain their own consent to occupy seats on the floor of the Convention, which in view of the law and the facts of the case, they must know they have no right to retain.

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of confess at the outset that we had no hope that the proposition would "go down" our contemporary, for with the utmost appreciation of its swallowing capacity we have never yet known it to take kindly to anything unless it inured to the benefit of itself and of its immediate surroundings; and as the loss of the illegal ten delegates in the State Convention might seriously interfere with Charleston's "Slate" for the State ticket we were not unprepared to have it reject the dose, however beneficial it might prove, or however much it "ought to go down."

But our contention is that although the State Senate by a bare majority of four, in which majority were the two Senators from Charleston and two colored Republican Senators, refused to obey the letter of the State Constitution and provide for a census and reapportionment, yet that such a glaring violation of law is neither a worthy or proper precedent for the State Convention and as the real intent and true spirit of both the State and the Democratic Conventions is "that representation shall be apportioned according to population," we thought and still think that every consideration of honesty and fair dealing between Democrat and Democrat should exclude Charleston's ten illegal delegates and admit those from Sumter, Greenville, Edgefield and the other counties named above.

It cannot be pretended that the Convention will not have reliable data upon which to base its action, for the census of 1880 has been verified and probed to the quick by special agents and detectives who were sent into the State after it was taken, for the purpose of proving its correctness. Nor does the claim of our contemporary that a new census will show that Charleston "would have a much larger representation" amounts to much when we remember that it requires a change of nearly 10,000 in population to effect a change in the representation and that Charleston's population must therefore, have increased nearly 50,000 in the past few years to entitle that county to its present excessive representation of five members of the House or ten delegates in the State Convention. Again, if Charleston has nothing to lose by a new census why did its two Senators so persistently oppose the taking of the new census as required by the Constitution?

It is matter of little consequence to us what course the Convention may pursue, we only contend for honesty and fair dealing in the ranks of the Democracy. The lawful delegates from Sumter and the other Counties named above may be denied their seats, and unlawful delegates from Charleston may be allowed to retain theirs