"FOREVER FLOAT THAT STANDARD SHEET."

The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & CO.

Office----Corner of Texas and Market Streets,
IN WATSON'S BUILDING—UP STAIRS.

SHREVEPORT:

WEDNESDAY,.....JANUARY 3, 1866.

Thos. McIntyre, of New Orleans, is our only duly authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements.

Rev. A. L. Hay is the duly authorised agent for procuring subscriptions to the South-Western.

CLUB RATES.—For the benefit of *Clubs* we will furnish the SOUTH-WESTERN at the following rates for one year:
Five copies.....$20
Ten copies.....30
Here's a chance for our old subscribers to renew their subscriptions at reduced rates.

THE RIVER AND STEAMBOATS.—Since our last issue, the river has risen about six inches at this point, and is now about thirty inches above low water mark. The navigation below this point has evidently improved, as the steamer Mary Heinn made her last trip from the city to this place in five days. The following steamers have arrived from the city since our last: Alex. Speer, Caddo, Beulah, Alpha, Pioneer Era, Mary Heinn, and Jas. Powell. The Hoyle, Dillard, and Gossamer, from Jefferson. Freight on cotton to the city, $10 per bale, with but little offering. Most of the shippers are only willing to give five dollars. Passage, $40. Up freight varies from one dollar to four dollars per barrel, as per contract.

COTTON—BUSINESS.—The receipts of cotton during the past week are hardly worth noticing. Some lots, on storage, have changed hands at a slight advance on last week's quotations. We quote strictly middling as high as 27c. in specie. Business of all kinds has been extremely dull. The holidays being over, we look for a renewal of our former lively business.

The Christmas holidays passed off with more than usual quietness in this place. We have not even heard of a man being killed, which is something remarkable for these times. So great was the change for the better, that the d—l thought that Shreveport was lost to him and his heirs forever, and, in the height of indignation, he kicked the clerk of the weather off his tripod, and punished us with some of the most disagreeable weather we ever experienced. The clouds, out of sympathy, done nothing but weep all the time, and we, as in duty bound, done nothing but curse, curse—the mud, the muddy streets, the muddy sidewalks, the muddy roads, and the "muddiest" town on top of dirt.

The Louisiana State legislature adjourned on Friday, the 22d ult. We hope to be able, in our next issue, to publish a synopsis of the proceedings. The regular session convenes on the fourth Monday of this month.

ARRESTED.—We are informed that Capt. Taylor, commanding a company of the Bossier militia, has been arrested by the order of Gen. Dornblaser, and is now confined in the guard-house at this place. We are not informed of the charges preferred against him, but understand that he will be tried before a military commission.

Since the above was in type we learn that Capt. Taylor has made good his escape from the guard house.

INSURANCE COMPANY—NATIONAL BANK.—We learn that an effort is being made by some of our leading citizens to organize an insurance company in this place. It is a mystery to us why this scheme was not inaugurated four or five months ago, as past experience has exemplified the fact that it is a paying institution. The stockholders of the old Shreveport insurance company are competent witnesses of the fact. If the business of Shreveport make it to the interest of a New York company to establish an agency here, it certainly can be made profitable to a home company. In fact, it is useless for us to argue the question of its being a profitable investment, for that is beyond cavil, and none know it better than our merchants and capitalists who are cognisant of the business ramifications of this place. A well conducted institution of this kind would add materially to the character and standing of Shreveport, as well as greatly facilitating its business. We hope to be able in our next issue to state that all of the stock has been taken, and an early day fixed to commence business.

The major part of the above is applicable to a national bank, which will no doubt be established in this place in a short time. Mr. L. M. Durr, who returned from Washington city a short time since, with a charter, has not let the grass grow under his feet, and our citizens need not be surprised if they wake up some bright morning and find themselves living in a "sure enough" city.

MILITIA APPOINTMENT.—His excellency, Gov. Wells, has appointed our well known fellow-citizen, Martin Tally, brigadier general of militia for the brigade composed of the parishes of DeSoto, Caddo and Bossier. If the general is as successful in his military career as he has been in other walks of life, we shall have good reasons to congratulate ourselves on the appointment. Throughout the late war, Gen. Tally was a consistent Union man, and we presume it is to this fact that he is indebted for his appointment. We learn that his friends and admirers have presented him with a "barbed steed," which in times past was wont to smell the battle afar off, although then the property of a warlike general. When mounted upon this fiery steed, in the presence of his brigade, he can, in the language of the poet, exclaim,

"Loyalty will prevail, and justice show
Her tardy honors, sure, though slow."

We refer our readers to the advertisement of the Southern Land, Emigration and Product Company, No. 71 Broadway, New York, which will be found in another column. This company was organized for the purpose of introducing capital, mechanical skill and emigration into the south for the benefit of the planting interest. Also for the sale or lease of plantations, &c. Dr. Sam. Bard, formerly a citizen of this place, has located himself at No. 41 Union street, New Orleans, as agent for this company. Persons desiring further information in regard to the accommodations offered by this company, would do well to address the agent.

Mr. John Norton was tried before justice Allen, last week, for killing Mr. Murray, a government employee, and bound over in the sum of $5,000 for his appearance at the next term of the district court.

GENERAL WADE HAMPTON.—This gentleman passed through New Orleans a few days since, en route to his fine plantation on the coast. The Picayune learns that he brought out a large number of freedmen from South Carolina to cultivate his plantation with.

The secretary of war has accepted the resignation of Maj.-Gens. Dix and Butler, to take effect from November 30th, 1865.

EX-GOV. THOS. O. MOORE.—The Alexandria Democrat notices the arrival in that place of ex-Gov. Thos. O. Moore, in the enjoyment of excellent health. He was warmly welcomed by a host of his friends and admirers. After spending a few days at his old home he left for Texas, on a visit to his family.

THE COMMERCIAL MIRROR.—We have received the prospectus of a weekly paper of the above name to be published in New Orleans by Messrs Graham & Denson, on the first of January. It proposes to publish the price current, and to give much valuable information about the river shipping, and railroad travel, distances, &c. We wish it much success.

Another Circular from the Bureau.

Major Gen. Baird, assistant superintendent of the freedmen's bureau for this State, has issued another circular, specifying rules for the interpretation of contracts between employers and freedmen. We have as yet been unable to procure a copy of the circular, and can only judge of its import from the comments of the New Orleans press.

The Picayune thinks that the regulations set forth will be cheerfully acquiesced in by the planters generally, and only objects to the clause in relation to rations, which it says are excessive. The Star uses the circular as a cudgel to belabor the legislature with, for spending their time in passing a labor bill which the bureau does not recognize.

The Crescent, however, discusses at some length the demerits of this document, and, in all probability, gives us rather a one-sided version of it. After remarking that the State legislature had in good faith passed laws for the reorganization of labor, alike just to the employer and freedmen, the editor regrets that the freedmen's bureau should put forth an edict which, without adding in any respect to the protection given to the freedmen by the recently enacted laws, imposes upon the employer such onerous conditions that it will be, in many cases, utterly impossible to comply with them.

"Not only," says the Crescent, "is an arbitrary tax imposed upon the freedman for educational purposes, under the direction of the bureau, but an assessment of one dollar from each laborer is to be paid by the employer 'for the purpose of reimbursing to the United States some portion of the expenses of this system, and of supporting the aged, infirm and helpless.' The circular, with a minuteness of detail which is remarkable, also enters into the subject of dietetics, and prescribes that corn meal, pork and bacon 'shall be' the food of the freedmen, and that the employer, whenever the agent of the bureau shall require it, shall give security that the particular food thus required by the contract shall be furnished. We suppose that an employer who, actuated by a spirit of generosity or kindness to his former slave, should offer to furnish a more generous diet, or vary it for the benefit of the health of the laborer, would be visited with the serious displeasure of the bureau, which has promulgated the doctrine that the diet prescribed so imperatively 'shall be' the food of the freedman, whether it is practicable to procure it or not.

"The circular further requires that the quarters of the laborer and his family 'must contain accommodations for cooking; and, in addition, one-half acre of land contiguous to the houses, will be set part for each family for garden purposes.' Though an economical administration of the affairs of a plantation would necessitate a very different arrangement, the employer is required to set up a separate culinary department for each family, and also to assign to each half an acre of ground for gardening purposes: it being necessary that the land in question shall be contiguous to the respective houses.

"Under the supposition that a planter employed a hundred families—and some of the plantations will require more to cultivate them properly—we would have the novel spectacle of fifty acres of gardens, and a hundred culinary establishments in full blast to cook the ration of pork and corn meal allotted to the freedmen. When the diet is so imperiously restricted to these articles, it is not perceived why so extraordinarily large a portion of the plantation, 'contiguous to the houses,' too, should be set apart for gardening purposes. The condition of 'contiguity' cannot well be satisfied, either, unless the planters should abandon the labors of the field and set about to erect a scattered village for the accommodation of the freedmen.

"The circular is filled with impracticable requirements. An attempt to carry out the conditions which it seeks to impose will force the planter to desist from every effort to employ the freedman, and will drive the latter into idleness and vagabondage.

"Even if this new plan were not utterly chimerical, we have no assurance that the circular just issued might not be succeeded by another still more hurtful to the interests of all parties. Many contracts have been entered into under the circular promulgated by Gen. Fullerton, and subsequently continued in force by Gen. Baird. We understand that in his last circular he has repudiated the contracts which he authorized in the one first named, for he states that 'contracts made otherwise than as thus prescribed will not be regarded as binding by the bureau, nor as meriting its interference to enforce them, unless for the protection of the laborer.'"

Since the above was put in type, we have received a copy of circular No. 29, which we print in another column. It is rather a "tight paper," to make the best of it.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that Messrs. Elstner, Kinsworthy & Co. have bought out John H. Carter's branch house on the levee, for the purpose of doing a wholesale business in staple dry goods, groceries, &c., as well as receiving, storage and forwarding. The firm is composed of three gentlemen who are acknowledged experts at the business, and as clever and honorable as men get to be. The Elstner bros. are old and well known merchants of this place. Mr. B. H. Kinsworthy has for many years been a successful merchant in western Arkansas, and has the reputation of being one of the best business men in the country. Mr. John Elstner will make New Orleans his headquarters for the purpose of attending to the interests of the firm in that place. If experience, capital and close attention to business are deserving of success then we predict that this firm will do its full share of the business.

Our young friend J. H. McDermott, on Texas street, has just received and is now opening a fresh invoice of fancy and staple dry goods, ladies' bonnets, hats and millinery goods. Also clothing, gent's boots, shoes, and furnishing goods. These goods were bought from first hands and were selected with an eye to the wants of this community both in regard to quality and prices. Country merchants can have their orders filled at a slight advance on New York prices. Miss Wells has charge of the millinery department, and she always takes pleasure in waiting upon the ladies. Call soon if you want first choice.

We invite the attention of our readers to the card of G. A. Hyver, chronometer and watchmaker, No. 98 Chartres street, New Orleans. Mr. Hyver is considered one of the most skillful workmen in the city, having for the past fifteen years been an employee in the houses of Hyde & Goodrich, E. A. Tyler and H. P. Buckley. Every description of fine watches repaired and guaranteed.

Mr. C. H. Burnside, watchmaker and jeweler, No. 20, Texas street, has returned from the city with a well selected stock of fine jewelry, gold and silver watches, &c. This stock was purchased direct from the importers, and is fully guaranteed. Mr. Burnside is well known to this community as a skillful workman, and he should be liberally patronised by those who have watches that need repairing. See advertisement.

Should any of our readers be in want of fine wines, liquors, &c., we advise them to call on E. & B. Jacobs, and examine their stock, which is by far the largest in this part of the country. Their box liquors were purchased direct from the manufacturers and importers, and are guaranteed to be what they are represented. Their stock of staple dry goods, groceries, plantation supplies, iron, crockery, glassware, &c., was never larger and as well assorted, as at present. The trade will find it to their advantage to purchase from them.

Phelps & Co., forwarding and commission merchants, and wholesale and retail dealers in staple dry goods, groceries, plantation supplies, &c., on the levee, are in receipt of a fresh stock of everything in their line. The reputation of this house for fair dealing is well known to the public, and it is only necessary for us to say that they are now prepared to fill all bills that they may be favored with, as low as any other house in town.

THE PALACE.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that the Palace coffee house is again under the charge of its old proprietor, Henderson Markham, who knows so well how to invite all the "boys" in to drink his health, success and long life—but he hasn't done it yet, as all of them are sober as judges.

Messrs. Hecox & McKenny have reöpened their marble works, near the head of Texas street, where they are prepared to manufacture all descriptions of monuments, grave stones, &c. Both of these gentlemen are practical and skillful workmen, and their work loses nothing by comparison with any northern work that we have ever seen. See advertisement.

The members of the present house of representatives walk and talk upon a carpet which cost $7,000, recently imported from England.

Congressional.

The proceedings of congress on the 11th ult., were of unusual interest. We subjoin the following extracts:

In the senate, Mr. Wade introduced the following:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, That we contemplate the present condition of affairs in the republic of Mexico with the most profound solicitude.

2. That the attempt to subjugate one of the republican governments of this continent by a foreign power, and to establish upon its ruins a monarchy, sustained by European bayonets, is in opposition to the declared policy of the United States government, offensive to the people, and contrary to the spirit of our institutions.

3. That the president of the United States be requested to take steps concerning this matter as will indicate the recognised policy and protect the honor and interests of our government.

Mr. Cowan submitted the following resolution, which was objected to by Mr. Sumner:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby requested to furnish to the senate information of the state of that portion of the Union lately in rebellion, which rebellion has been suppressed and the United States put in possession of the States in which it existed; whether the United States courts are restored, post offices reëstablished and the revenues collected; and also whether the people of these States have reorganised their governments, and whether they are yielding obedience to the laws and government of the United States.

In the house, Mr. Julian introduced a bill to grant the right of suffrage to colored persons in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wentworth's bill passed. It provides that the importation of cattle shall be prohibited, owing to the plague in Europe.

Mr. Stephens introduced a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, that all national and State laws shall be equally applicable to every citizen, and no discrimination shall be made on sect, race or color.

Mr. Delone introduced a joint resolution for an amendment to the constitution, making it the duty of each State to provide a rightful pursuit of happiness for all its inhabitants, without distinction to color or race.

On motion of Mr. Stevens,

Resolved, That the president be requested, if not incompatible with the public interest, to communicate to this house any correspondence or other information in the possession of the government in relation to the condition of affairs in our sister republic of Mexico, especially any letters of the minister of said republic, or the French minister at Washington in relation thereto.

Resolutions on the subject were introduced by several other members, evincing a strong feeling in the house in regard to Mexican affairs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—In the house, after a brief debate, in which Messrs. Grider, Smith and Fink expressed their desire that Tennessee members be sworn in, on motion of Mr. Raymond their credentials were referred to the select committee on Confederate States—120 yeas against 14 nays.

The house then, by a vote of 80 against 68, laid on the table a resolution to admit the Tennessee members elect to the privilege of the floor.

Pending the question, at a subsequent stage of the proceedings, a resolution was passed that, until otherwise ordered, Mr. Maynard and other representatives from Tennessee be invited to take seats in the house of representatives. Adopted—yeas 138, nays 35.

Various resolutions of inquiry were adopted, after which the house adjourned.

ARREST OF CAPT. RAPHAEL SEMMES.—On Saturday, the 16th ult., Capt. Raphael Semmes, formerly of the C. S. steamer Alabama, was arrested, at the instance of secretary Wells. He is charged with violating the usages of war, on the following specification:

In this, that on or about the nineteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, off the entrance of the port of Cherbourg, in France, the said Raphael Semmes being then in command of the rebel steamer known as the "Alabama," and an engagement having taken place between the said steamer and the United States steamer Kearsarge, ordered or permitted a white flag to be hoisted on board the said rebel steamer, and took the opportunity of the cessation thereby caused in the engagement, and of the trust reposed in him, to make his escape from the said rebel steamer for the purpose of avoiding the actual surrender of his person as a prisoner of war and the responsibilities thereby incurred, and did subsequently, without having been exchanged as a prisoner, engage in hostilities against the United States.

GIDEON WELLS,
Secretary of the Navy.

Navy Department, Nov. 25, 1865.

Capt. Semmes entered the following protest against his arrest:

Sir—On the 25th day of April, 1865, I was at Greensboro, N. C., in command of a naval brigade, forming part of the army of Gen. Jos. E. Johnston, and participated in the capitulation between Gen. Johnston and major Gen. W. T. Sherman, commanding United States army of North Carolina. The condition of said capitulation on the part of Gen. Johnston was that the army under his command should cease all acts of war from the date of the capitulation (April 26th) aforesaid. In consideration of which condition thus entered into by Gen. Johnston, Gen. Sherman stipulated that the officers and men comprising the army of Gen. Johnston should return to their homes and there remain unmolested by the United States authorities so long as they observed the obligation they had entered into, and obeyed the laws enforced where they resided. I have this day been arrested by the order of the secretary of the navy, had a guard placed over my house, and have been informed that I am to proceed to Washington, in custody, there to answer the charge preferred against me, predicated upon facts which took place anterior to the capitulation between Gen. Johnston and Gen. Sherman. This being a violation of the capitulation on the part of Gen. Sherman, I respectfully make this my protest against said arrest. R. SEMMES.

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 16, 1865.

Capt. Semmes passed through New Orleans on the 18th ult., *en route* to Washington, under arrest.

We return our thanks to Mr. B. S. Carter, clerk of the steamer May Duke, for files of late New Orleans papers.

The president has relieved Gov. Holden, of North Carolina, from his trust at present, but acknowledges his fidelity, loyalty and discretion.

The 46th Illinois infantry, which has been on duty at this place for some time past, have left for Baton Rouge, to be mustered out of service.

THE OVERTON PARDON SETTLED.—The many friends of John Overton, of Tennessee, will be pleased to learn that the president has decided to re-issue his pardon. Our readers will recollect that, for some reason or other, his first pardon was withdrawn. Mr. Overton is the richest man in Tennessee.

INSURRECTION.—As we are going to press, a gentleman just from the scene of action, states that an insurrection took place a few days ago in Caddo parish, near the line between Caddo and Natchitoches, at the Gatlin plantation. Some fifteen negroes attempted to murder the overseer on the place. Not succeeding in their designs, they crossed the river and marched *à la militaire* to the plantation of Mr. A. W. Baird, in this parish, and awaited there for reinforcement.

In the meantime, the militia of Caddo parish received orders to organize immediately, which they did, and repaired to the scene of disturbance, and captured the party at Baird's without firing a gun. They afterwards proceeded to other plantations near by and arrested such other parties as were known to have been implicated. They succeeded in finding a large quantity of arms, accoutrements, ammunition, &c. One of the leaders, in attempting to escape by swimming the river, was drowned. The military and militia are still under arms, marching day and night.

Previously, all the negroes in the section of the insurrection had refused to work.

[Natchitoches Semi-Weekly Times, —th ult.

THE RELIGION OF THE WORLD.—A late catholic review makes the following estimate of the religious population of the world:

Europe has Roman catholics	147,194,000
Asia and Oceanica	9,666,000
Africa	4,071,000
America	46,979,000
Total	207,901,000

Taking the entire population of the globe at 840,000,000 the probable classification is as follows:

Catholic church	208,000,000
Oriental churches	70,000,000
Protestantism	60,000,000
Judaism	4,000,000
Islamism	100,000,000
Brahminism	60,000,000
Buddhism	189,000,000
Other forms	152,000,000
Total	840,000,000

BOSTON ELEVATING THE NEGRO.—The following paragraph from a "loyal" paper of Boston indicates the agencies employed by New England puritanism to elevate the negro:

The bark Thomas Pope, of New York, bound for Monrovia, Africa, cleared at our customhouse this afternoon, having on board seven missionaries as passengers, and 29,000 gallons of New England rum as part of her cargo.

Nothing short of the ingenuity of a Bostonian could have hit upon such a happy combination. If that cargo does not elevate the black race in Africa, then human ingenuity is at fault.

VIRGINIA.—Gen. Turner has notified the authorities of Richmond that the military police will be withdrawn at Christmas; also, that they must immediately take charge of the inmates of the city almshouse, who have recently been supported at the expense of the government.

The vote in Washington, on the 21st, to test the sentiments of the citizens on the question of negro suffrage, resulted thus: 35 for and 6,500 in opposition.

We are indebted to the officers of the steamer Alex. Speer for late New Orleans papers.

Important to Planters.

REGULATIONS BY THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

HEADQ'RS BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN and Abandoned Lands, State of La., New Orleans, Dec. 4, 1865.

Circular No. 29.]

The following rules for the interpretation of contracts between employers and freedmen, are announced:

1. Blank forms will be distributed from this office for the purpose of securing uniformity in contracts, and to indicate the matters concerning which the parties should contract. Beyond this the bargains must be entirely voluntary and unconstrained.

Laborers shall choose their employers, and it is their privilege, as well as their duty, to obtain the best terms they can for their services.

All contracts for labor should be made in triplicate, and should be approved by the agent of this bureau, for the parish in which the parties reside; one copy to be retained by the employer, and the other two copies sent to this office—one to be forwarded to Washington. Contracts made otherwise than thus prescribed, will not be regarded as binding by the bureau, nor as meriting its interference to enforce them, unless for the protection of the laborer.

2. As far as practicable, all the members of the same family should contract jointly for their labor, so that the number of useful hands, and the number of infirm who have to be supported, may be regarded in fixing the rate of pay. The labor of minor children may be contracted for by their parents or guardian, and, in the absence of either, by the agent of the bureau.

3. The monthly wages must be a just compensation for the labor required to be performed.

4. Twenty-six days, of ten hours each, in summer, and nine hours in winter, between the hours of daylight and dark, shall be considered a month.

5. Any work in excess of this will be considered as extra labor, and six hours will be considered as an equivalent for a day's work, and fractional parts of the six hours will be paid for at the same rate.

6. Laborers working extra time will be allowed a half ration extra for each and every six hours' labor performed.

7. In addition to the monthly wages paid to laborers, good and wholesome rations, comfortable clothing and quarters, medical attendance and just treatment, and the opportunity for instruction of children will be furnished free of charge; but the rations, clothing and quarters, fuel, and other privileges granted by the employer, are part of the consideration which he pays for the services of the laborer, and are as really and fully wages as the money contracted to be paid, and are always taken into the account in fixing the amount of money wages to be paid.

8. The Sabbath day being set apart for the worship of God, no laborer will be required to perform any work on that day, except works of necessity or mercy.

9. The ration furnished to laborers shall be as follows: One peck of corn meal and five pounds of pork or bacon per week, and the money value of this ration will be taken into the account in fixing the rate of wages to be paid.

10. The allowance of clothing will be two summer and one winter suit for each laborer or member of the family, or clothing may be commuted at the rate of three dollars per month for first class hands, two and one half dollars per month for second and third class hands, and one and one-half dollars per month for children—at the option of the laborer.

11. Quarters shall be such as to protect the laborer and his family from the inclemency of the weather, and must contain accommodations for cooking, and, in addition, one-half acre of land contiguous to the houses, will be set apart for each family for garden puposes.

12. Should the contracting parties prefer it, the laborers can engage to furnish their own food and clothing, their wages to be regulated accordingly. These supplies may be purchased from the employer, who must, if he undertake to supply his hands, in all cases keep a regular book account for each hand, and sell at usual market rates, which accounts must be open at all times to the inspection of the agents of this bureau; this mode of contract is recommended to the freedmen. Should they desire to contract for a certain portion of the crop, they can do so, and the employer, in all contracts of this kind, will be required to comply with section 17th of this circular, and also pay over to the agent of this bureau one-twentieth of the value of the laborer's share of said crop monthly, or whenever demanded, for school purposes; this estimate to be based on the average production of the land under cultivation.

13. Five per cent. of the monthly wages of the laborers will be retained in the hands of the employer, and paid over, when demanded, to the agent authorised to receive it, to be used for the purpose of sustaining schools for the education of the children of the freedmen, and for no other purpose; and if not demanded for the purpose designated, during the year, the amount so retained will be paid over to the laborer at the settlement of his account. One-half of the balance of the monthly wages will be paid to the laborer on the last day of each month, and the remaining one-half will be retained by the employer until the contract is fulfilled, when it will be paid over to the laborer.

14. Should the laborer refuse to do the work contracted for, or should he leave the plantation or place on which, or employer for whom, he has engaged to work, for the purpose of avoiding labor, without just cause or provocation, which will be determined by the agent of the bureau for the parish in which he resides, upon application—and failure to make application for redress by the laborer will be considered as *prima facie* evidence against him—he shall forfeit all wages that may be due him at the time of leaving, to his employer; and should he refuse, after having voluntarily entered into an agreement to labor, or fail to comply with, and be governed by, such ordinary and reasonable rules as may be adopted by his employer for the systematic carrying on of his business, or fail in any way to be a good and faithful laborer, according to his contract, or be wanting in due respect and obedience to his employer or his family, in the performance of his or their duties, he may be discharged, and obliged to remove his family from the premises of his employer, by application to the agent of this bureau for the parish in which he resides. For failure to be at the appointed place of labor at the usual hour of commencing work, unless in case of sickness, the employer may deduct twice the amount of money wages for the time lost, to compensate for clothing and rations, as well as lost time.

15. Planters and others employing labor will, when the nature of their business requires that work be performed at night and on Sundays, during certain periods, distinctly specify in the contract that the employees agree to do such work, at such times as it may be required—the consideration for which must be distinctly stated in the agreement.

16. No restraints or disabilities shall be imposed upon freedmen that are not imposed upon white men. They are amenable to the same laws, and can only be restrained in the free exercise of their rights and privileges, by reason of a violation of the laws of the land, as made and provided for the government of white men.

17. Should the agent deem it necessary, he will require the employer to give security that the requisite amount of provision to furnish the laborers with the specified ration, shall be on hand, on the plantation, from month to month, for issue or sale to the laborers and their families, as the terms of their contract may require. The rations and clothing specified in the order, will be the minimum that will be regarded by the bureau as sufficient food and comfortable clothing.

18. Employers can adopt rules for systematising the work on their plantation or elsewhere, which rules and regulations shall be read in presence of the laborers, previous to contracting, and which, if assented to, shall be made part of the agreement, and be binding upon both parties. And the parties may agree upon a system of fines for violation of these rules, which fines shall constitute a fund, to be distributed amongst the laborers who have not been delinquent, and in case there are none such, to be paid over to the agent of this bureau, to be applied to the support of freedmen's schools.

19. All crops and property on any plantation where laborers are employed, will be held to be covered by a lien against all other creditors to the extent of the wages due employees, and such lien will follow such crops and property in any and all hands until such labor is fully paid and satisfied.

20. For the purpose of reimbursing to the United States some portion of the expenses of this system, and of supporting the aged, infirm and helpless, the following tax will be collected:

For each planter, for every hand employed by him, between the age of eighteen and fifty, one dollar per annum.

This sum will be payable and collected on the first day of June next, and will be paid over to the superintendent of freedmen for disbursement.

By order of Brevet major Gen. A. BAIRD,
U. S. Volunteers, Assistant Commissioner Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, State of Louisiana.
D. G. FENNO, 1st Lieutenant and A. A. A. G.

RECONSTRUCTION.—The Washington correspondent of the Louisville Journal, writing under date of the 9th ult., discourses as follows on the reconstruction question:

After several days of anxious consultation on this subject, the republican senators are understood to have concluded that they cannot take the radical chute too far. They have consequently determined to give the go-by to Thaddeus Stevens' programme, and adopt a policy a little more consistent with president Johnson's views. Both negro suffrage and territorial jurisdiction over the insurrectionary States will be abandoned, but perfect protection and equality with white men in the courts for freedmen in the south, and some essential modification of the ratio of representation, will be required as the *sine qua non* of the recognition of the southern States by congress.

The ratio of representation is regarded as the most important feature to be regarded in the reconstruction of the States. The republicans intend that it shall be fixed upon as a basis of the number of actual voters so as to limit the represented classes in the south to those to whom is extended the right of suffrage. This will very much diminish the number of congressmen accorded the southern States under the last apportionment.

In reference to the suffrage question in this district, a conservative member of the house proposes an amendment to senator Sumner's bill, so that in addition to a jury composed half of negroes, to try the case of a black man, it shall also be required that the judge shall be a mulatto.

THE MISSISSIPPI MILITIA.—About ninety volunteer companies have been organised in Mississippi, with about five thousand men, rank and file. By the army regulations, these companies are liable to be called upon by the military commander of the department, in an emergency.

General Intelligence.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—A Washington special says that the adoption of Stevens' resolution in the house by a two-thirds vote, is regarded as conclusive that the southern claimants for seats in the house of representatives will not be admitted at this session.

The average number of vessels from this harbor to southern ports is fifty vessels per week, and not one hundred and fifty, as was reported.

Señor Benj. Vienna McKenna, in speaking before the Union league last night, gave details of a proposed route of telegraph between Mexico and Panama. He said that the commerce has only been monopolized by a fleet of English steamers that do not mind Spain or her old admiral. The speaker declared himself in favor of the Monroe doctrine, and hoped the United States would adopt it.

A Buenos Ayres letter says the Paraguan force is diminishing. The allies are stronger than they were when the conflict began.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The Herald's Vera Cruz correspondent says the late news from the United States caused profound sensation.

The appointment of major Gen. Logan as minister to Mexico was regarded as a fixed determination on the part of the United States to maintain the republic by force of arms.

The imperialists were greatly alarmed by the publicly expressed sympathy with the republican cause.

The rumor that Gen. Suneless's army was being reinforced, and that some United States naval vessels were taking soundings in French harbors, had produced great excitement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A Washington special says secretary Stanton has again tendered his resignation, and insists upon its acceptance.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A general convention will be held here on the 21st inst. to show congress how repugnant the passage of a negro suffrage act is to the people.

A fortress Monroe correspondent says the old pastor of St. Paul's church, in Richmond, spent an entire day with Mr. Davis in religious exercises and administered the sacrament to him.

The secretary of the treasury will not anticipate the January interest on the bonds of fifteen millions which is payable in gold.

There is a fair prospect of postal communication shortly with Colombia.

Gen. Kilpatrick leaves the city to-morrow, and departs for his Chilian mission on the first of January.

Col. Brown, of the freedman's bureau, has submitted a proposition concerning the transfer of negroes from Virginia to the unoccupied government lands in Florida.

Secretary Stanton has left for a northern trip.

Gen. Grant has issued an order to commanders of posts where powder is stored to take precautions for its preservation.

It is said that Gen. Spinner is satisfied that the plate whereupon the counterfeit $100 treasury notes were printed, was taken from the currency department.

A. Jourdon, acting consul at San Juan, Porto Rico, informs the State department that the ports of Arecivo, Aguadella and Mayaquess are to be closed as ports of entry on the 15th of February.

The Peruvian government is determined to unite with Chile against Spain.

Gen. Howard's official report concerning the operations of the freedmen's bureau in the south is still in the hands of the president. The delay on its publication is ascribed to its statements concerning the spirit and conduct of the people in the southern States, which are calculated to show that the withdrawal of all federal control would endanger the interest and safety of the freed people.

Speaker Colfax has filed an official notice of Indiana's ratification of the constitutional amendment.

The naval court martial has sentenced Com. Craven to be suspended from duty on leave pay for two years, for failure to capture or destroy the ram Stonewall. The secretary of the navy, in reviewing the decision, regards it as in contravention of law. He censures the accused, but inflicts only a nominal punishment. The proceedings of the court have been set aside, and Com. Craven is relieved from arrest.

Col. Ward Martin, of the marine corps, is to be reprimanded by the secretary of the navy, suspended for three years, and one half his entire pay is to be deducted until the eight thousand dollars misapplied by him shall be paid.

Indiana has officially notified the State department to-day of its ratification of the constitutional amendment.

The question as to whether the president's pardon restores to its recipient all his political and civil rights was argued in the supreme court of the United States to-day, and will be continued next Friday.

The secretary of the navy restores Com. Craven to-day.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The secretary of State officially declares the constitutional amendment, which has been ratified by three-fourths of the States, valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the constitution of the United State. The house went into committee on the measure.

Mr. Stevens made a speech, the point of which was to give the blacks the right claimed by the declaration of independence, and place the so th in territorial condition, with a view to their subsequent admission as free States.

Senator Wilson offered a resolution providing for the appointment of an examining board to relieve the officers of the regular army who have not rendered meritorious service in the late war, and fill their places by appointments from the regular veteran reserve and volunteer force.

A resolution was offered that congress listen on the 12th of February to the address of E. M. Stanton on the late president Lincoln, and the president, cabinet, foreign ministers, and officers of the army and navy be invited to seats on the floor of congress. In the house the credentials of Jas. W. Johnson, member elect from the third district of Alabama, were presented, and referred to the committee on reconstruction.

Mr. Price, of Iowa, offered a preamble, which says the United States, in the attempt, may come in some shape to repudiate the national and assume the Confederate debt; therefore, resolved, that no representative from a State be admitted until amendments are made to the constitution precluding such a result. Referred to committee on reconstruction.

Mr. Moulton offered a resolution calling upon the president to inform the house why Mr. Davis has not been tried for treason.

A resolution passed declaring that the test oath will not be dispensed with.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The recognition of Alabama by the president has astonished the radicals, who see that they must now also recognise that State or assume an attitude aptagonistic to that of the executive.

Lively times are at hand.

Speaker Colfax presented the credentials of the Alabama delegation in the house this morning, which were returned without debate to the committee on reconstruction.

The president has sent a message to congress, enclosing a report of Gen. Grant on the southern States, which completely overthrows the stories circulated about disorganization and misrule there.

The executive has given good reasons for reconstruction, and congress will now think it difficult to oppose them.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The house passed a resolution to cooperate with the secretary of the treasury to contract the currency to as nearly a specie basis as the interests of the country will admit.

The senate's joint resolution passed, proposing an amendment to the constitution forbidding the payment of the rebel debt, by 49 against 11.

The president, in responding to the resolution calling for information as to the condition of the States lately in rebellion, says the people of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee, have reconstructed their respective State governments, and are yielding obedience to the laws of the government of the United States with more willingness and greater promptitude than could have reasonably been anticipated. Accompanying the message were the reports of Gen. Grant and Carl Schurz.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—The loss of property by the ice on Saturday, including cargo and about $280,000 of insurance, is about $1,500,000.

MOBILE, Dec. 16.—A special telegram from Montgomery, dated the 15th inst., says the legislature adjourned to-day until the 15th of January. Gov. Patton has not yet approved the bills relating to freedmen. It is reported he will not approve them. Gen. Swayne has issued an order to the officers of the freedmen's bureau, which nullifies the laws passed by the legislature on the subject of the negro.

Judge Busteed, of the United States district court, has decided that the test oath is unconstitutional.

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., Dec. 15.—Gov. Jenkins was inaugurated to-day. In his address he declares the United States laws supreme. The oath of office was administered by the president of the senate, after which the seal of the State was handed him by provisional governor Johnson. The tone of Gov. Jenkins' address is cordially approved by the members of the legislature.

FRANKFORT, KY., Dec. 16.—The governor's message to the legislature recommends the pardon of Wm. E. Sims and others; also, that a law be passed pardoning all persons indicted in the State courts for treason.

IMPORTANT GENERAL ORDER.—On the 20th ult., major Gen. Canby issued the following important order, which will be found of considerable interest:

1. The courts of the State of Louisiana are prohibited from exercising jurisdiction over cases where officers, enlisted men, scouts, or camp followers of the United States army are charged with offences for acts done in their military capacity, or pursuant to orders from competent military authority; nor will they assert jurisdiction in cases where loyal citizens are charged with offences consisting in acts of defence, or aggression against the forces of the late so-called Confederate States.

Cases of this character belong exclusively to the federal authorities, and will, on proper complaint or representation, be investigated and determined by them.

2. A *nolle prosequi* will be entered in every case included in the foregoing paragraph by the proper prosecuting officer and the court in which the indictment may be pending, and no bench warrant, or other process, shall issue on the indictment, or if issued, will be returned unexecuted.

LADIES WILL "GOAK."—One of the "bureau" officials, while traveling in the cars in Alabama, noticed a lady with a negro girl in attendance, and he remarked: "Madam, I see that you have one of my children." "Yes, sir," replied the lady, "I perceive the resemblance. A slight tittering was observed in that portion of the car. The "bureau" was somewhat appeased when a friend informed him that it was only a new version of "how like its father," which the ladies are prone to observe on the appearance of a new baby.

List of Letters.

List of Letters remaining in the Post Office at Shreveport uncalled for on the 31st of December, 1865.

Ladies' List.

			A.
Allen, Mrs. Bettie		Anderson, Mrs. Eliza J.	
			B.
Bland, Mrs. J. W.		Braley, Mrs. Elvira	
Bateman, Mrs. Nancy		Byrd, Miss M. J.	
Bennett, Mrs. Mary		Buel, Mrs. Mary	
Brack, Mrs. S.			C.
Carnall, Miss Bettie		Canfield, Mrs. Augusta	
Carraway, Mrs. J. C.		Chipley, Mrs. Theresa	
Cain, Mrs. —		Crawford, Miss Fillie	
Cregier, Mrs. Wm.			F.
Fisher, Miss S. L.		Fessebera, Miss A.	2
Eliot, Miss Lucy		Fish, Mrs. Anna	
Foster, Mrs. J. M.			G.
Gilmer, Mrs. Rebecca		Griffin, Miss H.