THE CLARION.

Official Journal of the State of Mississippi.

JAS. HOWERS, ... Proprietor.
OLIVER CLIFTON, ... Editor.
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Wednesday, January 6, 1886.

The Executive Committee of the National Bi-Metallic Coinage Association will meet at Washington on the 14th inst., for a thorough organization. The editor of THE CLARION is one of the members from Mississippi, but not being able to attend in consequence of other duties, he has appointed the Hon. VAN H. MANNING to serve as proxy.

SILVER itself is worth much less than it was in 1870, as Mr. Beck well knows. —*New York Tribune.*

Mr. Beck knows nothing of the kind, nor does the writer in the *Tribune*. Measured by wheat, cotton, tallow, iron, lead, copper, and other great staples, silver, as bullion, is worth all it was in 1870, and a little more. *N. Y. Sun.*

The best wishes of THE CLARION attend Auditor GWIN, Secretary of State MYERS, Attorney-General FORD and Superintendent of Education SMITH. All these gentlemen have been faithful to the State and the party that elected them, and we hope wherever they may go and whatever they may do, the fullest measure of success shall crown their efforts.

Gladstone.

The day before yesterday Mr. GLADSTONE was seventy-six years old. He reaches this hoary dignity with eye undimmed—unless to the foreign situation—with vigor unimpaired, with pluck impetuous as ever. He wears, at seventy-six, the honors of honorable statesmanship, the dignity of a life of noble purity, the crown of the people's love. —*Ex.*

WE note with pleasure that WILLIS MANNERY, an intelligent and deserving Democrat of Rankin county, has been appointed Messenger in the Treasury Department at Washington, *vice* WALTER WELBORNE (colored) of Clinton, dropped. MANNERY comes of a good Democratic stock of colored people who have been true to the faith under all circumstances, and our immediate Representative has done well in securing this recognition by the powers that be.

Faithful Servants of the Public.

We have been permitted to publish the joint letter of Senators GEORGE and WALTHALL to Gov. LOWRY, in which they state that public duty requiring their attention at Washington will prevent their presence here at the meeting of the Legislature. We cordially endorse the course which these distinguished servants of the State have decided to pursue, and can safely assure them that in subordinating personal interests to public duty, they have strengthened their claims upon the people of the State whom they have been chosen to serve.

The State Bar Association.

At a meeting of the members of the Bar of Mississippi held in the United States court room in this city on Monday last, Judge T. J. WHARTON was elected chairman and Mr. D. P. PORTER, Secretary, after which the State Bar Association of Mississippi was organized by the election of Judge A. M. CLAYTON, of Benton, as President, Mr. T. A. MCWILLIE, of Hinds, as Secretary, and Mr. WALTER TROTTER, of Montgomery, as Treasurer. The following executive committee was appointed: Hon. R. O. REYNOLDS (Chairman), C. B. HOWRY, W. G. GEDDES, R. G. HUDSON, W. H. FITZGERALD and JNO. W. FEWELL.

The Association has a large membership, many lawyers being at a distance and not being able to attend, having sent in their applications for membership, by others. It is proposed to have a reunion of the Association during the coming summer on our Southern coast.

The Best Remedy.

We regret to observe the unworthy spirit in which several of our contemporaries discuss the affair of Mr. Keiley's rejection by the court of Vienna. It is true Mr. Bayard might have handled the case more moderately in his report, and that Mr. Keiley hurt his own cause by accepting the Italian mission when he must have known how unsuitable a selection that was. But after all allowances have been made, it remains true that Mr. Keiley's [illegible] Vienna was an indignity [illegible] Department was right [illegible] reputable American [illegible] enough for their [illegible] shall be obliged to [illegible] for an assort[illegible]es, whose pedi[illegible]ners are such [illegible] for objection. [illegible]uch the worse [illegible] said that Mr. [illegible] Berlin has [illegible] by the disdain[illegible] has received [illegible] madams of [illegible]rican minister to [illegible]omewhat similar [illegible]ned the mission in [illegible]haps the best way [illegible] abolish our missions at every [illegible] our ministers are treated [illegible] of courtesy.—*Phila.* [illegible]

[illegible]rs George and Walthall at Their Posts.

UNITED STATES SENATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 24, 1885.

Hon. Robt. Lowry, Jackson:

DEAR SIR—When we left Mississippi, it was our purpose to be in Jackson at the meeting of the Legislature, but now that we must forego that pleasure or absent ourselves from the Senate at a time when it is considered very desirable that all the Democratic members of that body should be in their seats.

Congress is to re-assemble on the day the Mississippi Legislature meets, and it seems probable that important business, including the confirmation of the President's appointments, may be considered at an early day.

As two Senators are to be elected by this Legislature, and both our names will be presented, we equally desire to be in Jackson in January; but after consulting with our friends here, we think it [illegible] liberty to leave Mississippi [illegible] representation in the Senate [illegible] to further our personal [illegible] Senatorial election at [illegible]

[illegible]t that we must deny [illegible] of meeting our [illegible] do when the [illegible]bt not [illegible]

Pen Picture of Carlisle and Morrison.

N. Y. Sun.]

Mr. Carlisle is modest almost to diffidence, and naturally seeks somebody to lean upon. There must be something in the law of opposites, or he would not have taken to Morrison.

Mr. Carlisle is patient, courteous, and conservative; Morrison is impatient, brusque, and radical. Carlisle entertains no hostile thought towards men whose views clash with his own; Morrison treats his opponents as Apaches, and would exterminate them on sight. Carlisle takes broad views of public questions; Morrison sees but the one idea that has lodgment in his own mind. Carlisle often hesitates between two opinions; Morrison never has but one. Yet the positive, confident, dogmatic Illinois man exerts wonderful influence over the accomplished Speaker. Morrison is in his sixty-first year, but looks easily ten years younger. His dark locks and close-cropped beard have only begun to show a silver tinge, and his frame is tough, wiry and elastic. Carlisle is ten years Morrison's junior, but no one would ever think it. He is tall, slender, and smooth-shaven. His straggling brown hair is very thin, and he is [illegible]ously bald.

[illegible] Legisl[illegible]

The lawmaking department of the State Government, in whose keeping, to a great extent, is the weal or woe of the people, is now in session, having perfected its organization in both branches speedily and harmoniously.

The honors of the Senate—the privilege of presiding over the deliberations of that body in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, were conferred upon that well tried and faithful servant of the public, the Hon. R. O. REYNOLDS, of Monroe, whose familiarity with legislative proceedings, and ability and fairness as a presiding officer fully merited the distinguished compliment.

For its Speaker the House selected Gen. J. H. SHARP, of Lowndes, a gentleman better known in the military than in the political history of the State, whose courage and courtesy and fidelity to trusts, leave no doubt that he will wield the gavel with impartiality and with an eye single to the dispatch of business in an orderly manner.

His competitor, the HON. H. C. WILLIAMSON, of Carroll, a gentleman well qualified for the position to which he aspired, took his defeat gracefully. He will be a leader on the floor.

There are many matters of importance to come before the present Legislature, most of which have been discussed in the columns of THE CLARION and other State papers. The financial condition of the State needs earnest consideration. The condition of the Treasury calls for remedial legislation of some sort, and the message of the Governor puts the Legislature in possession of valuable information on the subject.

As the session progresses it shall be the pleasure of THE CLARION to make such suggestions and comments concerning leading questions as a lively interest in the prosperity of the people of the State shall prompt.

A well known citizen of the State, in a private letter to the editor of THE CLARION, recently received, says: "I do hope the present Legislature will do good to our people. The people of Mississippi deserve good treatment and honest service from all their servants." In all which we heartily concur, and pledge our earnest and untiring efforts at all times to secure those blessings.

The Supervision Cases.

The press dispatches from Washington contain a synopsis of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Railroad Supervision cases, from which it appears that the decision of the Supreme Court of Mississippi has been fully sustained.

There were two grounds of objection to the Act creating the Commission mainly urged when the cases were on trial in this State. One was that the Act impaired the obligation of the contract between the State and the Railroad companies, and the other, that it provided for a regulation of commerce between the States, a subject over which Congress alone had jurisdiction. As to the first point, it is decided that the charters of the several companies contain no contract obligations which are in any way impaired; and as to the second, it finds that the Commission is in express terms prohibited by the Act of the Legislature from interfering with the charges of the companies, for transportation of persons or property through Mississippi from one State to another. This, we take it, is equivalent to a declaration that the provision contained in the Act under consideration authorizing the Commission to regulate tariff from points without this State to points within the State is constitutional, and that the court adheres to the views announced in the case of *Peck v. Chicago and Northwestern Railway*, published in 4th Otto, which Judge HILL overruled.

Now that the power of the State to regulate railroad companies has been recognized by the highest legal tribunal in the land, we shall look for that degree of conservatism and fairness in all future legislation on the subject, which the material interest of the people and the companies seem to require. Indeed we regard the decisions as a fortunate one for the companies, though it is wholly adverse to their claims.

The following is the synopsis referred to—the opinion being rendered in the case of *John M. Stone et al v. The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company*:

The Supreme Court finds that the charter of the Company contains no contract obligations which are in any way impaired by the statute under which the Commissioners are acting. It finds that the Commission is in express terms prohibited by the act of the State Legislature from interfering with the charges of the Company for transportation of persons or property through Mississippi from one State to another. The Commissioners have, as yet, undertaken nothing in conflict with the constitution of the United States. The great purpose of the statute in question is to fix a maximum of charges and to regulate, in some matters of a police nature, the use of railroads in the State. In its general scope it is Constitutional and applies to all persons or companies owning or operating railroads in the State. The Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi has already declared that the statute is not repugnant to the State Constitution, and in this opinion the Supreme Court of the United States concurs. "It is difficult to understand," the opinion says in concurring, "precisely on what ground we are expected to decide that this statute is so inconsistent and uncertain as to render it absolutely void on its face. Argument on this branch of the controversy contained much which might have been useful if addressed to the Legislature while considering the bill before its final enactment; but we find that it fails to show that the statute as it now stands is altogether void and inoperative. When the Commission has acted and proceedings are had to explain what they have done, questions may arise as to the validity of some various provisions, which will be worthy of consideration; but we are unable to say that as a whole the statute is invalid. The decree of the Circuit Court was reversed, and the cause remanded with instructions to dismiss it. The opinion was delivered by the Chief Justice. Justices Field and Harlan dissented from certain parts of the opinion expressed, but concurred in the judgment. Justice Blachford did not sit in this case, or take any part in its decision. In two other cases, those of *John M. Stone et als. v. the Illinois Central Railroad Company*; and *John M. Stone et als. vs. the New Orleans & Northwestern Railroad Company*, decisions were rendered in accordance with the case of *Stone vs. the Farmers' Loan & Trust Company.*

The State Printing.

We have no fault to find with the report of the Commission appointed by the Legislature of 1884 to adjust the matters of difference between the State and the Public Printer. The conclusion that there was due to the State the sum of $1125 00 has been acquiesced in, and that amount has been paid into the State Treasury.

The Commission found that the Acts of 1882 did not conform to the requirements of the Code of 1880 in that the printed portions of the pages were not of sufficient length or width, and did not contain a sufficient number of words; and, since the Public Printer had received compensation upon the supposition that the Acts had been printed according to law, it was rightly decided that he should be charged with the money he had received and credited with what the book would have cost had it been printed according to law. Adopting this method of compensation the balance was against the Public Printer, and the amount of it, as stated, was $1125 00.

It will doubtless excite surprise that in the publication of the Acts of one session of the Legislature, a mistake resulting so seriously could be made, and, therefore, in the interests of justice, we propose to make an explanation. In doing so, for the sake of brevity, we shall allude to only such portions of the laws of the State regulating the public printing, as seem, to us, to be applicable.

In 1848 it was enacted that "each page of the printed pamphlet acts of the Legislature shall contain an average of fifty printed lines to the page and each line an average of ten words to the line." Acts of 1848, p. 135. Prior to that time, only the size of the page had been prescribed. This provision, first found in the Acts of 1848, continued in force until the adoption of the Code of 1857, when it was re-enacted (Code of 1847, p. 115, Art. 78) and continued in force till 1870; so that from 1848 till 1880 there was a law in force requiring that the printed laws should contain an average of fifty printed lines to the page and each line an average of ten words to the line.

In 1870, the Legislature changed the requirements of the Code of 1857, referred to, and enacted that the laws should be printed "in small pica type, solid, each page twenty-three ems pica in width, including five ems pica for marginal notes, and forty-two ems in length, including the running title and white line under it and foot line" (Acts of 1870 p. 621); and this change was carried into the Code of 1871. See § 176.

In 1872 the Act of 1879 which had been incorporated in the Code of 1871, was re-enacted, the same phraseology being used, except that the requirement that the pages should be "forty-two ems in length' was changed to "forty-two ems *pica* in length." Acts of 1872, page 114. The law of 1872 remained in force until the adoption of the Code of 1880, when the provision of the Code of 1859 was re-enacted and is still in force. Code § 302.

Thus it will be seen that prior to the year 1848 the size of the page, only, was fixed by law, and that from 1848 to the present time not only the size of the page but the quantity of matter has been regulated. But note, that the mode of ascertaining the quantity of matter on a page from 1848 to 1870 and from 1880 to the present time has been by counting the words in a line and the number of lines in a page, and that from 1870 to 1880 the mode of ascertaining the quantity of matter has been by measurement, or what is known as the printer's rule.

A book printed according to the requirements of the Act of 1848 need not be different in size from one printed according to the requirements of the Act of 1870 and the Code of 1871, because the Act of 1848 did not require marginal notes or prescribe the size of the type, but a book printed according to the requirements of the Code of 1857, which did require marginal notes and did prescribe the size of the type, would be as large as the Code of 1880.

We suppose that the object of the Legislature, when it adopted the mode of measurement found in the Act of 1848 was to protect the public against an existing or a threatened evil in the shape of pages conforming in size to the law with less printed matter on them than honest service called for, and that the additional requirements found in the Code of 1857 were intended to secure uniformity in the size of the books.

We have casually examined the pamphlet Acts published between the years 1848, and 1857 and we find that none of them conform to the requirements of the statutes under which they were published, taking the conclusions of the Commission as our guide, except the Acts published between the years 1870 and 1882, and these were all published while the printer's rule of measurement prevailed.

From 1848 to 1870, covering a period during which as many as eighteen volumes were published, by several different printers, not one can be found that will stand the test applied by the Commission to the Acts of 1882. As stated, we have carefully examined the Acts published between the years 1857 and 1870, and we find that, counting the words and lines, they are all deficient in printed matter, being short at least four printed lines to the page and from one to three words to a line. The Commission charged the present Public Printer with a shortage of four printed lines to the page and about one word and a half words to the line.

It will reasonably be asked Why has the State not been able to secure a faithful performance of its contracts with its printers? One reason is, that printers measure by a printer's rule, and a line to them is a line, whether it be a blank line or a printed line; and the other reason is that the rule for averaging words on a page is altogether impracticable. Indeed, the evidence, it seems to us, is abundant, that the Legislature never expected more than a substantial compliance with it.

We have said that the Acts printed between the years 1870 and 1882 conformed to the requirements of the laws in force during that period. These are the Acts printed while the printer's rule of measurement was the guide. The draughtsman of the Act of 1870, incorporated in the Code of 1871, took the printed acts as he found them without reference to the law under which they were printed, and, having measured the pages, made a technical description of them, and this description he embodied in the law. It did not change the size of the page then in use, or the style of the type or the quantity of matter. It was simply, as he seems to have thought, a change in phraseology. The Act of 1870 preserved all the details of the Act of 1857 as manifested by the books printed while the Acts of 1857 was in force, though under a different form of expression.

We do not believe that the Legislature of 1880, when it adopted the Code, chapter on public printing which contained the identical provision concerning the size and style and quantity of matter required by the Code of 1857, intended to increase the size of the page of the Acts to be printed thereafter; nor do we believe that the distinguished codifier, in choosing to recommend to the Legislature the provision contained in the Code of 1857 rather than that contained in the Code of 1871, intended to destroy uniformity in the size of the printed Acts and to substitute for a book of the present size, one the size of the Code of 1880. Rather is it to be believed that the codifier and the Legislature made choice between what they believed to be two different modes of expression meaning the same thing. It is difficult to imagine that it was expected or intended that other consequences would flow from the use of the words in the Code of 1880 than had flowed from the use of the same words in the Code of 1857. It would be more logical to conclude that knowing what had been the result under the Code of 1857 the Legislature intended by the adoption of the requirements of that Code, in 1880, to secure the same results.

There is a familiar canon of construction applicable to statutes and Constitutions, to the effect that when certain words have been given a fixed or definite meaning by judicial ascertainment, though not their most obvious meaning, their use under certain circumstances will carry with them the meaning that has been so given to them; and akin to this canon is that rule of decision which looks to the consequences which which have flown from the use of certain words in a statute, rather than to the words themselves to find their meaning. In this view, it is, at least, not unreasonable to say that the usage of the State Printers from 1857 to 1870 (during which period twelve volumes of the laws were printed,) acquiesced in by the legislative and executive departments of the government was sufficient to establish a meaning for the words in the statute different from that which they seem to bear. In other words, that the construction given to the Act of 1857 by persons contemporaneous with its passage, disputed by none and acquiesced in by all, and adopted by their successors, is what was intended by the law makers.

The present Public Printer printed the laws of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1880, of those not obnoxious to the objection sustained by the Commission. After the Acts of 1880 were printed, and before the printing of the Acts of 1882, the law of the Code of 1871 was changed by the incorporation of the provisions of the Code of 1857 into the Code of 1880. How natural it was that looking at the Acts printed while the Code of 1857 was in force (from 1857 to 1870) a period of thirteen years, he should print the Acts of 1882 as they had been printed under the Code of 1857. To the practical printer in 1882, asking how the Acts should be printed, the proper answer, it seems to us, would have been, "Look at the Acts printed between 1857 and 1870. The same law is now in force. What that law means, has been settled years ago, and different results are not expected to flow from it now. It has stood the test. It has been approved and re-enacted." Who would have dreamed of saying, "Though this law was in force for thirteen years and has been repeated and re-enacted, and twelve volumes were printed under it, and there has been no objection to the work, yet you had better examine carefully to see whether the old books conform to the law before you adopt them as models."

Col. POWER has not criticised the report of the Commission. He acquiesced in it just as promptly as he declined to take a balance found to be in his favor by the Committee of experts. He applauds the motive which prompts the Legislature to exact faithful compliance with the obligations of the servants of the State; but since, in some quarters, an attempt has been made to cast a doubt upon his fidelity to public trusts, we have discussed the matters involved, at some length, which he has not asked even from THE CLARION.

He printed the Acts of 1876-'77-'78 and '80. All these are in strict conformity to the law. He printed the Acts of 1884. Into this volume he put 109 pages more than he was required. He printed the Acts of 1882, as at least five of his predecessors had printed the Acts of other sessions, under the same law, with this difference, that when it was made applicable to his work, it had been once cast aside and taken up again by the Legislature, along with many provisions of the Revised Code of 1857, because they had all been tried and approved, and because the practice under them, especially the practice of the department of public printing, had been satisfactory. Though the result reached by the Commission be warranted by law, we dare assert that there is not a member of the Legislature of 1884 who imagined for a moment that he was creating such a change in the size of the printed Acts as would make a page of them the size of the Code of 1880, or that he was changing the established order of things so materially.

The whole matter can be easily understood by any one enough interested to give it thought, and Col. POWER, we know, is willing to abide by such conclusion as fair-minded men may reach after the fullest investigation of all the law and facts and circumstances.

Small Farms Near Jackson.

It affords us pleasure to publish the following, not merely because it shows the benefit of advertising, but because of the purpose expressed by so substantial a citizen as the writer to pay this vicinity a visit with a view to investment in real estate:

COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE, WARREN, O., Dec., 26, 1885.

EDITOR CLARION: I see advertised in THE CLARION of 23d inst., a beautiful suburban residence, one mile from city, to exchange for well located city property, containing therewith 168 acres of land for which reference is made to you. I would like to ask of you the lowest price on this property, the improvements thereon, and a general description of same. I expect to visit your vicinity early in March, and if pleased with your country I shall invest in real estate. If you know of other small farms for sale, lying close to the city of Jackson, would be glad to have you give me owners' names.

Yours truly, C. O. HART.

THE Meridian *Daily News* is a welcome visitor. It reaches this city by mail in time to give its readers the benefit of the latest news at an hour considerably in advance of the great New Orleans dailies. The first number contains an admirable salutatory from its editor-in-chief, Mr. E. H. DIAL, who seems to be the right man in the right place.

The Republican Way.

N. Y. Globe.]

Senator Sherman when elected President of the Senate reformed the few offices in his patronage by turning out the appointees of the dead Vice President and putting his own men in their places.

It is said by the knowing ones in Washington that the Administration will be beaten by ten votes majority in the Senate on its silver policy.

Congress and the Silver Question.

Washington reports are to the effect that a careful canvass has been made of the Senate as to the views of its members on the proposition to suspend the coinage of the silver dollar. Of the thirty-four Democratic Senators, twenty-six are opposed to suspension and two are doubtful. Of the forty-two Republican members of the body, nineteen are squarely opposed to suspension, with one or two doubtful. Those opposed are two from California, two from Oregon, one from Nevada, two from Colorado, two from Kansas, two from Nebraska, two from Iowa, one from Minnesota, Sabin; one from Wisconsin, Sawyer; one from Illinois, Cullom; one from New York, Evarts; one from New Hampshire, Blair; and Riddleberger, of Virginia. This makes a very formidable showing for the silver men. The refusal of Senator EVARTS, of New York, to join the anti-silver crusade has been a surprise to the gold bugs. As to Mr. EVARTS, Senator BECK is alleged to have said that the "first man to tender him congratulations in the Senate was WM. M. EVARTS, and that the New York Senator had assured him that it was exactly in the line of a speech which he himself intended to make to the Senate at an early day."

So much for the Senate.

We note that the Washington *Republican* of a recent date, estimates that 143 Democrats and 52 Republicans in the House oppose the suspension of silver coinage, while 39 Democrats and 91 Republicans favor it. The West and South, it says, are represented as being practically a unit for silver coinage, while the Eastern and Middle States appear to be almost as solidly in favor of its suspension.

Approos of this subject, is the following report of a conference between the President and a Senator. The President had desired an interchange of opinions with the Senator, and the Senator manfully told him that he could not support his recommendation for expelling silver from the monetary system of the country. He said:

"Mr. President, I represent a State containing an area of over thirty thousand square miles, which will produce as much, if not more, acre for acre, than any State in the Union. It has an intelligent population, engaged in manufactures, commerce, banking and agriculture. I flatter myself that I am known well in the State, and that I know its people. I have yet to hear from any quarter a hint or suggestion in favor of again demonetizing silver. I have not received a single letter favoring the suspension of coinage. On the other hand, when the bill to remonetize silver was pending before Congress my mail in favor of the bill was so large that it would have required a wheelbarrow to take it to the Capitol. The sentiment of the people in my State is in favor of the silver dollar, and I would grossly misrepresent them were I to vote to interfere with the law as it is."

THE STATE.

The Coast has too many lawyers.

Handsboro is constantly improving.

The editor of the Forest Register is quite ill.

The prohibition campaign was opened at Vicksburg Monday evening.

Aberdeen has shipped nearly 25,000 bales of cotton this past season.

Pickens is to have a new brick depot, and is anxious for more residences.

Eggs brought 7½ cents per dozen in Water Valley during the holidays.

The West Point Rifles claim the handsomest uniforms in the whole South.

Mrs. R. F. Holloway entertained the Winona Rifles at her elegant home on Xmas day.

Watch Night was observed in many churches in the State with religious services.

Little Lambert Berdon, son of Mr. A. Berdon, of Natchez, died of typhoid fever last week.

Mrs. Fred Beal of West Point, who has been so seriously ill, is we are glad to learn, quite out of danger.

A Meridian man ate 150 raw oysters at one sitting the other day and it was a poor day for eating oysters too.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Coleman, of West Point, entertained the Rifles very handsomely on New Year's day.

Mr. Paul Pegues and Miss Mamie Hill, of Winona, were married December 23d. We tender congratulations.

The new uniforms for the Yazoo City Rifles have arrived, and are said to be as handsome as any in the State.

The I. C. R. R. shops at Aberdeen turned out their first locomotive last week, and it is said to be a success in all respects.

The total valuation of the new buildings erected in Vicksburg during 1885, is $126,000. Besides this, a large number are now under contract.

The decrease in drunkenness on Xmas day in Yazoo City was so great as to be generally remarked upon. This is a step in the right direction.

An engine blew up her boiler at Durant one day last week. The engineer and fireman were considerably bruised but are able to be on duty again.

Capt. G. W. Floyd, of the steamer Will S. Hays, was forced to kill one of his deck hands on his boat on December 28th, while coasting up near Natchez.

Col. Alfred E. Lewis, of Moss Point, accidentally shot himself, while sitting on his gallery on the morning of the 1st. Death was instantaneous.

The young men of Canton gave a most delightful German to that popular belle, Miss Blanche Fonche, who leaves in a few days to reside in Arkansas.

Mr. Thos. Reid, of Houston, a promising young man of 23, was killed Christmas eve by a pistol shot received in an altercation at a party near Sarepta.

The telegraph facilities of Natchez have been increased recently by the bringing of the Wilson road telegraph line into the Western Union office in that city.

The steamer Sallie Carney, together with two hundred and sixty bales of cotton, was burned to the waters edge six miles above Greenwood, on December 23.

Columbus, usually so gay, is said to be sadly lacking in social enjoyment this winter. New Year was scarcely observed by the customary receptions in that city.

Mr. Bruff Carin, a citizen of Wilkinson county, went out hunting on Xmas day, and has not been heard of since. It is supposed that some serious accident has befallen him.

The Greenville Oil Mill, together with about 2500 bales of cotton and 8 or 10 residences were burned on the morning of the 20th. The loss is about $200,000 with about $85,000 worth of insurance.

A young white boy was killed near Utica a few days ago, by a negro. The reason for the deed being that the boy possessed two dollars, which the negro desired. The murderer is now in jail at Raymond.

Meridian observed New Year's day very pleasantly and generally but the boys say that there is a limit to one's capacity for putting away water and dry cake. From this we presume that the Meridian ladies are Prohibitionists.

A terrible accident occurred at the compress in West Point on the 2nd. All hands were quietly at work when the machinery fell with a sudden crash which was heard for miles around. Frank Brame was killed and several others wounded.

The residence of Col. C. E. Hooker, at Bovina, was totally destroyed by fire on the night of the 31st. Messrs. Matt and Charley Hooker, who were in the house at the time, barely escaped with their lives. It is thought that incendiaries had been at work.

Aberdeen enjoyed many elegant entertainments during the holidays, conspicuous among which was a reception given by Mrs. Gen. Davis, an opera party in connection with the "Mikado," a game supper by the "Rod and Gun Club" and a lunch given to lady friends exclusively by Mrs. B. C. Sims.

In the T-D's notes from Vicksburg, Sunday, we find the following:

"The "Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds" a charming operetta, was presented at Magnolia hall on the 30th by the children of Christ Sunday School and under the auspices of Miss Fannie Sansom. The musical rendering of this famous nursery rhyme was received with much applause, and the little prima donna glowed with pride and innocent pleasure.

Report of Commission to Adjust Accounts With Public Printer.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi:

The Commission designated by Joint Resolution of the Legislature of 1884, to adjust the account of the Public Printer, respectfully submit the following report:

From the report of a committee of the Senate made at the last session, and to be found on page 618 of the Senate Journal, it was supposed that the balance, upon a final settlement of the item of account in controversy, was against the State. For this reason no haste was made to begin the investigation.

It is the opinion of the Commission that it was the intention of the Legislature, in the adoption of said resolution, that the Commission should determine:

1st. What was the amount of the overcharge said to have been made by the State Printer in printing the Acts of 1882; and

2d. To ascertain what was the amount equitably due the State Printer over and above the sum actually paid for publishing the Acts of 1876 to 1880 inclusive, and to adjust these accounts according to the law.

The task of investigating the correctness of all the transactions between the Public Printer and the State, could not have been performed without employing experts for many weeks, at an expense for which no appropriation was made, and therefore this Commission have undertaken only to investigate what was the amount received by the Public Printer in excess of the amount allowed by law for publishing the Acts of 1882, and whether he was equitably entitled to an off-set for printing more matter on the page in the Acts of 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1880, than he was required under the law then in force.

Having no technical knowledge of printing, the Commission requested Messrs. J. J. Shannon, S. B. Brown and S. D. Harper, all of whom are practical printers, and gentlemen of established character, to make an examination of the matter in controversy and render in their opinion which they kindly consented to do.

Their report to the Commission was as follows:

JACKSON, MISS., December 17, 1885.

To the Honorable Commission to Adjust Accounts of Public Printer:

The undersigned having been requested by you to investigate "an unadjusted settlement between the State of Mississippi, and the State Printer, extending from the year 1876 to the 15th day of March, 1884" as per Joint Resolution approved on said last named date, beg leave to report as follows:

At the last session of the Legislature the matter of public printing was referred to a Joint Special Committee, the report of which appears on pages 618 and 619 of Senate Journal. The Committee state that "after a thorough and careful investigation, it appears that from 1876 to 1880 inclusive, the Public Printer failed to demand as much as he was entitled to under the law by a difference at least equal to the deficiency that occurred in the publication of the Acts of 1882, which was the result of an inadvertence, and a desire on the part the Printer to conform to the uniform style of printing the Laws, and we therefore exonerate the Printer from any intentional wrong." The Committee recommended that, "as a full equivalent for any damage that the State may have sustained by said inadvertance," that the Printer should pay to the State the sum of five hundred dollars. Also that the Acts of 1884 might be printed in the style of 1882 and that there should be a reduction of 20 per cent. on all the work done from the 1st January, 1884, to the close of the session.

Pending the consideration of this Report, Senator Hyer offered "a resolution stating at some length the equities of the matter on the side of the State Printer," and Senator Marshall offered a "Resolution providing for a commission to adjust accounts with the State Printer," which passed both Houses.

In a published statement by Hon J. W. C. Watson, Chairman of the Joint Special Committee, dated March 15, 1884, he says "*the only instance of an overcharge was in the Acts of 1882.*"

Your committee have, therefore, limited their investigation to the Acts purchased from 1876 to 1882, inclusive, and thereupon submit the following:

The Code of 1880 (Sec. 302) requires that the Laws shall be printed in small pica type, and shall contain an average of fifty printed lines to the page, and an average of ten words to the line. We find by actual count, and measurement, that the Acts of 1882 contain only 46 printed lines to the page, and an average of 8 words to the line. The volume as published, exclusive of the index, made 1070 pages. Had the pages been widened and extended as required by the Code of 1880, the volume, exclusive of index, would not have exceeded 820 pages. Thus making a difference of 250 pages. The price allowed (before the reduction of 20 per cent.) being $4.50 per page, for 3000 copies, the excess charged is therefore $1125.00.

We find, however, that the Acts of 1882 were printed in the style of preceding volumes, notwithstanding that the Code of 1871 required only 42 lines on the page, and an average of eight words to the line. The present State Printer printed the Acts of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1880, and they contain the number of pages and excess of matter, as follows:

Acts of 1876	446	pages
" " 1877	379	"
" " 1878	794	"
" " 1889	771	"
Total	2390	pages.

We find that in all these pages, the Printer added six lines to the page more than was required by the Code of 1871, (Sec. 175), or an average of 153 ems to the page—the aggregate being 355,670 ems, or 341 pages, which at $4.50 per page, amounts to $1534.50.

An equitable adjustment, therefore, would make the account stand thus:

Acts of 1882, deficit 250 pages @ 4.50	$1125.00
Acts of 1876, 1877, 1878, 1880, excess of matter equal to 341 pages @ 4.50	$1534.50
Difference in favor of State Printer	$ 409.50

We are informed, however, by the State Printer that he declines to take advantage of the excess in his favor. He claims that he was not aware that it was his privilege to print the Acts of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1880 with only 42 lines to the page, and that had he known such was the law, he would have added the additional lines so as to make the Acts uniform in size with all preceding volumes. The Chapter on Printing in the Code of 1880 appears to be an almost literal copy of the Chapter in the Code of 1857, and yet the Acts of 1858 and all subsequent sessions to 1871 do not contain the number of lines to the page, or words to the line, required by the Code of 1857. In the Code of 1871 the number of lines was reduced from 50 to 42 per page, but we find that the Printer of the Acts of 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, and 1875, did not take advantage of this reduction, but observed the uniform size of preceding volumes.

The Act making a reduction of 20 per cent. in the public printing took effect from the date of its passage, March 15, 1884, (page 92, 1884) but it is due to the State Printer to say that he made it applicable to all work done from the beginning of the session of the Legislature—the aggregate of the reduction for the Legislative period being $605.95.

J. J. SHANNON, Meridian Mercury.
S. B. BROWN, Water Valley Progress.
SAM D. HARPER, Raymond Gazette.

These gentlemen made their investigation and report, without being aware of the fact that the Acts, from 1876 to 1880 inclusive were printed in accordance with a law approved in 1872.

Upon an examination of their report by the Commission their mistake was discovered.

With their assistance, and that of other experts, the whole subject was examined by the Commission and we have reached the following results: 1st. That the Acts of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1880 were in all material points printed in conformity to Section 5, of an Act entitled "an act amendatory of the act to provide for the election of State Printer and to reduce the compensation for executing the duties of said office," approved April 5, 1872. 2d, That the Public Printer received payment in full for printing said Acts, and is not entitled to claim any further compensation therefor. 3d, That for printing the Acts of 1882 the Public Printer received in excess of the compensation allowed by the Code of 1880 the sum of eleven hundred and twenty-five dollars, which he should pay into the State Treasury.

The Commission think it just to Col. Power to say they fully exonerate him of any corrupt motive or dishonesty in the premises, and attribute his action in making the overcharge for the Acts of 1882 to an oversight.

The Commission, in this connection desire to say that by the Acts of 1884, p. 112, the Public Printer was authorized to print the Acts of 1884 in uniform style with the Acts of 1882. We find that in so doing, he has printed the Acts of 1884 in such manner that they exceed in length the Acts of 1882 [illegible] lines and are wider than those of 1882 [illegible] said of experts were required by one expert [illegible] in the whole volume [illegible] find that this [illegible]ges, for which we think he is entitled [illegible] to payment from the Legislature [illegible] valuable assistance rendered in the course of our labors, we are indebted to Messrs. J. J. Shannon, S. B. Brown, S. D. Harper and Charles Winchester.

The Commission further report that Col. Power has accepted the proceedings of the Commission and assented to the adjustment on the basis proposed, and will at once pay into the State Treasury the sum of $1125.

Respectfully submitted,
ROBERT LOWRY,
T. S. FORD,
WIRT ADAMS, JR.

STATE TREASURER'S RECEIPT.

$1125.00 STATE TREASURY, JACKSON, MISS., January 4, 1886.

Received of J. L. Power, Public Printer, the sum of eleven hundred and twenty-five dollars in full of Auditor's Receipt Warrant No. 1467, in his favor on account of adjustment by Commission for Act of 1882, as per Act approved March 5, 1884.

WM. L. HEMINGWAY,
State Treasurer.

MISSISIPPI LEGISLATURE.

SENATE—FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, January 5, 1886.

At a regular session of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, convened at the City of Jackson, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, being the 5th day of January, A. D., 1886, in compliance with the Constitution and Laws of the State of Mississippi,

Be it remembered, That on the day and year aforesaid, the Senate was called to order by Lieut-Gov. G. D. Shands, at 12 o'clock, M.

Upon a call of the roll the following Senators holding over appeared in their seats, and answered to their names, to-wit:

1st District—Benton, Union, Tippah—W. A. Boyd.
2d—DeSoto—Samuel Powel.
3d—Tate and Tunica—R. W. Owen.
4th—Bolivar, Calhoun, Sunflower—G. W. Gayles.
5th—Itawamba, Lee, Monroe—R. O. Reynolds, J. M. Simonton.
12th—Lowndes—E. T. Sykes.
13th—Clay, Oktibbeha, Choctaw, Webster—H. L. Burkitt, J. W. Barron.
17th—Attala and Leake—D. T. Guyton.
19th—Noxubee—G. G. Dillard.
20th—Lauderdale—Joel P. Walker.
23d—Madison—Geo Harvey.
27th—Hinds—Jones S. Hamilton.
29th—Simpson, Lawrence, Covington—T. A. Dickson.
30th—Clarke and Jasper—John F. Smith.
32d—Lincoln, Pike, Marion—S. E. Packwood.
33d—Adams—A. H. Brenham.
34th—Jefferson and Franklin—J. J. Whitney.
36th—Grenada, Quitman, Tallahatchie—J. J. Gage.

Absent—J. G. Hamilton, 16th District.

The following newly elected Senators appeared, presented their credentials and each and severally took the oath prescribed by the constitution, the same being administered by Lieut. Gov. Shands to-wit:

1st District—Alcorn Prentiss, Tishomingo—F. M. Boone.
3d—Marshall—T. M. Kemp.
6th—Panola—J. B. Booth.
7th—Lafayette—Robert A. Dean.
8th—Calhoun and Yalobusha—S. M. Ross.
10th—Chickasaw and Pontotoc—W. T. Houston.
14th—Carroll, Ledlore, Montgomery—J. R. Binford.
15th—Washington—W. G. Yerger.
18th—Winston and Kemper—H. J. Gully.
21st—Scott, Newton, Neshoba—R. P. Austin.
22d—Rankin and Smith—Wm. Buchanan.
24th—Yazoo—Wm. H. Luse.
25th—Warren—Geo. M. Batchelor.
26th—Issaquena and Sharkey—D. C. Casey.
28th—Claiborne—J. D. Vertner.
31st—Jackson, Hancock, Harrison—Rodrick