6, 1878

... Coahoma, has ... Committee on Educa- ... seen by the published

[Eig]HTEENTH DISTRICT.—It will be [se]en by our telegraphic column that Gen. Stephen D. Lee has been elected to fill the Senatorial vacancy in District composed of the counties of Lowndes, Oktibbeha and Clay.

THE people of Mississippi will be gratified by the reply of Senator Lamar to the charge of repudiation against his State in the United States Senate, and his refutation of the slander. The facts are stated in the extracts from his speech published in another column.

REFERRING to the recent election in the 18th Senatorial District, the Starkville *Times* is "in favor of burying the events of the last few days in the grave of oblivion, and of turning our attention to the future, that there may be a better concert of action the next time we open a campaign."

YESTERDAY, (February 2d,) the Senate tabled with only two dissenting votes the resolution thanking Senator Bruce for his vote in favor of the resolutions remonetizing silver. The Senate had previously adopted resolutions expressive of the sense of that body in favor of the measure, and concluded that enough of a good thing was enough.

THE term of Judge Simrall on the Supreme Bench will expire before the meeting of another Legislature, and our correspondent, "A Citizen"—an eminent member of the legal fraternity—mentions a fact we had previously overlooked that by the decision of the Supreme Court, the appointment will have to be made before the adjournment of the present Legislature.

IT will be seen that the House has adopted a resolution on motion of Dr. Montgomery, of Oktibbeha, (who desired to be excused from serving on the Committee,) to appoint a Committee to investigate the charges against the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, with power to compel the attendance of witnesses, and to take testimony under oath, etc.

A CORRESPONDENT in another column thoroughly explodes the preposterous idea that it is necessary to continue the present Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum in office, on the ground of preeminent qualifications, by mentioning numerous medical gentlemen of (to say the least of it) equal ability. To the list enumerated several other names might be added without going very far in search of them.

THE Mobile and Ohio Railroad has claimed exemption from taxation to support the State Government, under chartered privileges, and is contesting the right of the State to impose taxes upon it, in the Courts. A resolution introduced by Gen. West to appoint a special committee to institute inquiry touching the liability of the said company to pay taxes has passed the Senate. The committee is composed of Mr. Carter of the 9th and Mr. Bills of the 21st District.

FIXING THE PAY OF CLERKS AND INSPECTORS OF LATE AND FUTURE ELECTIONS.—The bill introduced into the House by Mr. Henry, of Rankin, providing for payment of the Clerks and Inspectors of the late and of future elections in this State, provides for paying them such compensation as the Boards of Supervisors of the respective counties may allow, not to exceed $3 per day. The committee to whom the bill was referred, brought in a substitute reducing the pay, which was, by the House, adopted.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.—The annual report of Hon. Wm. H. Gibbs, as Auditor of Public Accounts, for 1877, will be ready for distribution to the Legislature early next week. The last of the copy was received yesterday. The heavy labors of the Auditor's office for the last few months, and the unavoidable delay in the completion of sundry settlements, are the causes of delay in the issuance of this important report. Col. Gibbs makes even a better exhibit than he did in his last report, which was considered very good reading by the Legislature and the public at large. He has discharged the duties of Auditor faithfully and efficiently, and retires from office with the good wishes of all.

SEA SHORE LUMBER MATTERS.—The *Times* of yesterday evening states that Judge Lea, United States Attorney, having received instructions from the Department of Justice to use his discretion in the premises, has dismissed ten of the eighteen suits in replevin, brought by the Government against various persons for alleged depredations on Government lands. The following is a list of defendants against whom proceedings have been stopped, and the Marshal has been instructed to surrender the property seized: Irvin McQuinn, Leo Ramsey, Wm. Stewart, Robert McIntire, A. Scarborough, Wm. Stocks, Champlin & Co., Anias M. L. Pol, McGregor & Smith and B. Leger.

MR. F. A. TYLER'S proprietary and editorial connection with the Holly Springs *South* is announced. Hon. J. W. C. Watson accompanies the announcement with a statement that he (Judge W.,) "takes leave of all editorial responsibilities" of the paper "without wholly taking leave" of it. We wish success to all concerned, except in the propagation of the heresy that a man's Republican politics should have nothing to do with his retention in office under a Democratic Administration. The *Reporter* welcomes Mr. Tyler with the statement that "he has been connected with the Memphis press for many years, and is an able writer, a polished scholar, and a gentleman of high social standing."

[The Na]tional Debt.

[Our people ha]s have so constantly the at[tention] of the Southern people since the [beg]inning of reconstruction, that they have had no time for the consideration of National issues, especially the financial situation of the country. A brief recapitulation of the bonded debt of the United States, may not be without interest to numerous readers. The amount of this debt on the 1st of December, 1877, was $1,728,832,622. It was created as follows:

By act of Congress, February 8, 1861, $18,415,000 of bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest were issued, payable December 31, 1880. The faith of the United States was pledged for the payment of the principal and interest of that amount of "dollars," but is silent as to the kind of dollars, because at that day there was no dollar, except of gold and silver. Both were legal tender, and the silver dollar was worth at that time $1.03 in gold.

March 2, 1861, $945,000 were issued for the Oregon, (Indian,) war debt. At that date the silver dollar was worth $1.03 in gold.

August 5, 1861, there was an issue of $189,321,350 of 6 per cent. bonds, payable at pleasure after June 30, 1881. The conditions of this loan are as above, and silver was then worth $1.03 in gold.

March 3, 1863, $75,000,000 of 6 per cents. were issued, payable at pleasure after June 30, 1881. United States notes at this date had been made legal tender, so the act authorizing this issue of bonds made them payable in "coin"—gold and silver being the coin, and the silver dollar being then worth $1.04 in gold.

March 3, 1865, $116,903,350 of bonds were issued known as Five-Twenties; that is they were redeemable at the option of the Government after five years, and payable absolutely after twenty years. These bonds are made payable in dollars, and that term has been construed at the Treasury to mean coin. Gold and silver were the coin, and silver worth $1.03½ in gold.

Under the same act $310,617,800 Five-Twenties were issued in 1867, and $37,465,300 ditto in 1868. In 1867, the silver dollar was worth $1.02⅔ in gold, and in 1868, $1.02 57-100 in gold.

July 1, 1862, and July 2, 1864, $64,623,512, of "Currency Sixes" were issued, so called, because the interest is payable in treasury notes or any other currency declared by the United States to be lawful money and a legal tender. These bonds are payable in thirty years after date, and mature at various dates from 1865 to 1899. In 1865 silver coin was worth $1.03½, and in 1869, $1.02½ in gold coin.

March 3, 1864, were issued $194,566,300 of "Ten-Forties," so called because redeemable at pleasure of the Government, after ten years, and payable absolutely in forty years. They are payable in coin. At date of issue the silver dollar was worth $1.04 in gold.

July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, $508,440,350 of five per cent. bonds were issued payable "in coin of the (then) present value." In 1870 silver coin was worth $1.02⅔, and in 1871, $1.02½ in gold coin.

At the same date $200,000,000 four and one-half per cent. bonds, and $70,000,000 five per cent. bonds were issued. Same conditions.

March 18, 1869, was passed what is known as "The Public Credit Act," entitled "an Act to strengthen the public credit," which it did by pledging the faith of the United States to the payment of all its obligations "in coin," except when it was expressly provided in the law creating the debt that it "may be paid in lawful money or other currency than gold and silver." At that date the value of silver coin was $1.02½ in gold coin.

And that is the record of the debt.

In 1873, silver was remonetized and became mere bullion, and, ceasing to be legal tender for debts, declined in value. Its remonetization will of course make it once more worth a premium in gold. It is the habit of opponents of remonetization to say that it cannot be made worth a dollar again, because it has been demonetized by the world. This is a mistake. In France, Italy and Japan, silver is unrestricted legal tender; and in Austria, China and British India, it is the only legal tender.

The West and South.

Senator Gordon, in voting for the silver resolutions and declaring his purpose to vote for the remonetizing bill when it is put on its passage, cautioned the people not to expect too much from it should it become a law. So far as the South is concerned, we are free to say that her expectations of benefits resulting from the measure are not extravagant. Her people know that it is not from legislation that relief is to come at once for the evils that long years of Republican misrule have inflicted upon the country, and particularly upon their own section. The agitation of the subject will accomplish good in another way. It will bury the sectional dissensions which have disunited the South and West too long, and will bring them into fraternal political embrace as they are united geographically. Their commercial interests are identical. Their soils are washed by the same waters. United politically, they are invincible. They can defy the world, the flesh and the devil of Radicalism. With a political ally as powerful as the great West, the South will be secure from the vindictive policy that has characterized the National legislation for the past ten years, and may reasonably hope to participate in the substantial benefits of the Government to which she is contributing a large share.

IT is to be hoped that the trial of the Louisiana Returning Boarders will result in sending them to the Penitentiary, but the value of the trial is not so much in their punishment as in the revelation of the secrets of the infamous conspiracy of which they were a part, and which resulted in cheating the people out of their choice of the two highest offices within [the] [gift].

State Treasurer's Report.

The annual report of Hon. W. L. Hemingway, State Treasurer, was sent into the Legislature yesterday. In a pamphlet of forty-eight pages the Treasurer gives a comprehensive and gratifying exhibit of our State finances for the year ending December 31, 1877:

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR.

Chickasaw School Fund	$ 485 88
Swamp Land Fund	3,298 00
Redemption of lands	13,836 05
Centennial appropriation unexpended	725 00
Court House tax, Clarke county	1,500 00
State tax, 1871	1 81
Revised Code, 1871	58 00
Covered into the Treasury on account of Alcorn University	9,201 89
State tax, 1872	4,416 05
State tax, 1873	178 78
State tax, 1870	251 08
State tax, 1875	13,317 05
State tax, 1874	2,803 18
Bonds, series C, 1874	143,650 00
Bonds, series D, 1874	61,350 00
Railroad tax for distribution	11,910 75
Privileges, 1877	122,286 59
Privileges, 1876	911 00
Common School Fund, distributive	147,296 72
State tax, 1876	364,151 60
State tax, 1877	185,415 42
Total receipts	$1,087,044 83

DISBURSEMENTS.

State Maps	$ 100 00
Appropriations	15,870 25
State Militia	20 00
Distributing Laws and Journals	1,056 40
Swamp Land Fund	445 20
University of Mississippi	39,500 00
Contingent Fund, Supreme Court	174 75
Deaf and Dumb Asylum	16,516 12
Auditor's Contingent Fund	3,391 47
Chickasaw School Fund, interest	86,954 59
Blind Asylum	10,999 00
Commissions for Assessing	16,676 46
Alcorn University	10,000 00
Judiciary	101,480 63
Public Printing (includes appropriation to former State Printer	24,254 80
Express and postage	2,982 65
Interest on Insurance deposits	14,101 67
Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture	66 67
Secretary State Contingent Fund	500 00
Treasurer's Contingent Fund	718 88
Capitol expenses	249 97
Railroad tax for distribution	17,884 90
Executive	36,480 16
Penitentiary	2,472 31
State Normal Schools	5 999 50
State Library	2,074 88
Common School Fund distributive	183,434 71
Attorney General's Contingent Fund	150 00
Superintendent Education Contingent Fund	1,000 00
Legislative	95,700 60
Total Disbursements on Warrants	$769,431 46
Bonds paid, cancelled and retired	105,868 00
Certificates of Indebtedness retired and cancelled	22,785 00
Total disbursements	$1,203,734 46
Balance in Treasury January 1, 1878, current funds	$636,282 30

In addition to this, the Treasurer has been carrying on his books, war-time paper to the amount of $795,936 48, which we suggest should be destroyed by a committee of the Legislature:

STATE INDEBTEDNESS, JANUARY 1, 1878.

Chickasaw School Fund	$815,229 11	
Chickasaw School Fund	15,012 44	
Common School Fund	817,646 46	
Common School Fund Distributive	127,281 56	
Warrants Outstanding	414,573 08	
Certificates of Indebtedness	4,097 09	$2,193,839 65
Bonds "B," Act March 24, 1874, due January 1, 1878	149,900 00	
Bonds "C," Act March 24, 1874, due January 1, 1879	149,250 00	
Bonds "D," Act March 24, 1874, due January 1, 1880	81,950 00	
Agricultural College Land Scrip Bonds, due January 1, 1896	227,150 00	608,257 00
Semi-annual interest due January 1, 1878, on Bonds "B"	5,996 00	
Semi-annual interest due January 1, 1878, on Bonds "C"	5,970 00	
Semi-annual interest due January 1, 1878, on Bonds "D"	3,278 00	
Annual interest on Agricultural Bonds $11,357 50, less interest due January 1, 1878, to University of Mississippi $5,678 75	5,678 75	20,922 75
Interest on Insurance deposits		18,876 45
Deposits made by Insurance Companies in U. S. Currency		85,600 00
Railroad tax for Distribution		12,034 35
Interest on Bonds paid and provided for by Treasurer, not yet audited, to wit:		
Interest due January 1, 1876	136 00	
Interest due July 1, 1876	134 00	
Interest due January 1, 1877	254 00	

The aggregate amount of deposits by insurance companies is $297,050 87, the interest due on same being $18,876 45.

The report contains also a detailed exhibit of the receipts and disbursements on account of the educational and benevolent institutions of the State.

The Chandler-Burke Affair.

Candor compels us to say that Mr. E. A. Burke of Louisiana, has not met the statements of W. E. Chandler in a manner creditable to himself, or satisfactory to the public. The gravamen of the charge is that Mr. Burke was a party to negotiations at Wormley's Hotel, Washington City, pending the Presidential imbroglio, which resulted in placing a Republican in the Presidential chair in defiance of the will of the Nation and of the vote of Louisiana, Mr. Burke's own State. Chandler had charged that Burke had in his possession an instrument of writing signed by the high contracting parties to this negotiation; and called upon Burke to deny the charge, or if he virtually admitted it by failure to deny it, then to produce the paper for public inspection. Instead of meeting the proposition in a manly way, Mr. Burke evades it by a reply enumerating the disreputable things with which Chandler stands (no doubt truthfully) charged, but none of which are pertinent to the matter in issue. The public does not doubt that Chandler is a scoundrel of the deepest dye. His agency in the Louisiana and Florida Presidential fraud, as procurer of perjury and forgery, is amply conclusive as to his character, but what does this have to do with the matter of the Wormley Hotel conference and the paper said to be in Burke's possesson setting forth the conditions whereby the people were deprived of their rightfully chosen President and Vice President in 1876?

Silver Chimes.

The lower branch of Congress passed the Matthews' resolutions which had passed the Senate for the payment of United States bonds in gold and silver, by a vote of 189 to 79.

The following resolution was adopted by the Merchants' Exchange of Nashville, Tennessee:

Resolved, That we respectfully, but earnestly, urge Congress to repeal the act prohibiting the coinage of silver dollars of the standard value, and to provide for the same freedom of coinage of silver as is now accorded to gold, and, by appropriate action, publish to the world their determination to retain silver as a legal tender and a measure of value.

The resolutions were prefaced by a lengthy memorial to Congress presenting the depressing effect upon commerce of the demonetization of silver.

IT will be seen that Governor Hendricks gives forth no uncertain sound on the silver question. He is for the dollar of the fathers.

The Insurance Laws.

None of the Radical legislation so much needs amendment, if not thorough uprooting, as the Insurance laws; and yet they have been permitted to remain untouched. The plan of requiring deposits by companies doing business in the State, was a forced loan extorted by the wreckers when they seized the State Government. The financial condition of the State did not admit of its speedy and violent abandonment when the Reformers came into power, but the time is coming, if it has not already come, when it can be changed. The trifling deposits of from $10,000 to $20,000 affords no substantial security to policy holders against concerns which have become bankrupt, if they are not doing an insignificant business, but they do serve to create a monopoly and to increase the rates of insurance to the policy-holders.

Especially should the deposit law be repealed as to Life insurance companies. They cannot and will not make the deposits. Their business will not admit of it. Let the law be repealed as to them, and let their privilege tax be reduced. The present rate is so high that it is prohibitory. In imposing privilege taxes the rate should be fixed so as to obtain the most revenue with the least oppression. When the rate is prohibitory, no revenue is received. If the tax on Life companies is reduced the State will receive additional revenue, and no injury will be inflicted on any one.

To show the workings of the present system it is only necessary to mention the fact that large sums are now sent out of the State by her own citizens to pay premiums to outside companies which do not pay a dime of taxes.

That Conference.

Precisely what W. E. Chandler asked Mr. E. A. Burke of Louisiana, in reference to the Wormley Hotel conference at Washington, by which it was agreed that the Presidential count should go on after the detection of the fraud that had been practiced, and by which the contest was practically settled in favor of the Republican candidates, who were known *not* to have been elected,—is stated in the following telegram of the former to the latter:

Major E. O. Burke, New Orleans:

Referring to denials in a recently published interview of yours, I have the honor respectfully to ask you this question: Were you, as the representative of the Nicholls Government, with other Southern men and Messrs. Stanley Matthews, John Sherman, Charles Foster and James A Garfield, all or any of them, and other Northern men, present at a conference or conferences at Wormley's Hotel, in Washington, about February 26, last, concerning Louisiana affairs? If so, was any written paper, whether signed or unsigned, and whether with or without names affixed as witnesses of its correctness, made then, or subsequently, embodying or purporting to state the whole or any part of any agreement, understanding or intention resulting from such conference or conferences concerning Louisiana affairs or concerning the Packard or the Nicholls government or the Federal troops in New Orleans; if so, have you now, or have you ever had that paper or a copy thereof; is it in existence; if so, where is it now; if not, when, where and by whom was it destroyed, and will you or not make it, or a copy of it, public, if you have it?

(Signed) W. E. CHANDLER.

The public have been informed that Burke has answered these pointed inquiries by calling Chandler hard names, every one of which, and more besides, he undoubtedly deserves, but this does not answer the statements of Chandler about the *conference*, and the agreement between the high contracting parties. Never mind Chandler's scoundrelism, Mr. Burke, it is the conference the public are concerned about.

The Kemper Cases.

The present term of the United States District Court in this city was fixed for the trial of the Messrs. Gully and others, against whom malicious indictments were found on the frivolous charge of violating the enforcement law by conspiring to prevent the late W. W. Chisolm from advocating his claims as a candidate for Congress in Kemper county, on a certain occasion in 1876. The Messrs Gully meantime had been indicted for the murder of Chisolm in April last, in the Circuit Court of the State; and are now under arrest, as Judge Hill was informed yesterday by the Sheriff of Kemper, without privilege of bail. Consequently, they could not be present at this term of the United States Court. Nevertheless his Honor has dispatched the United States Marshal with instructions to bring their bodies into Court, if they are not actually incarcerated in the county jail, on Friday next. We presume, as they are in custody of the Sheriff of Kemper, who is responsible for their deliverance for trial at the next term of the Kemper Court, he will not surrender them. The other parties indicted in the Federal Court, on the same charge, as that alleged against the Messrs. Gully, are here, attended by their counsel, J. H. Neville, Esq., and are ready to answer. Gen. Robert Lowry, the other counsel, will no doubt be in attendance this (Wednesday) morning.

IN another column will be found the bill introduced by Hon. D. B. Seal of Hancock, to reorganize the Fifth Congressional District. We cannot speak for other counties, named in the bill, but so far as our own immediate county of Hinds is concerned, we are entirely satisfied with the bill of Mr. Seal. The paramount consideration in legislating on this subject, should be to make sure of Democratic representation; and secondly, reference should be had to geographical convenience and identity of local interests. Dispose of Hinds as you may, tie her on to the Fourth District, or lash her to the Sixth, wherever the flag of the Democratic-Conservative party floats, she will be there with her four thousand majority.

Homesteads in Mississippi.

In the National House of Representatives on the 28th ult., Hon. O. R. Singleton introduced a bill to extend the time for proving occupancy of homesteads on the public lands in the State of Mississippi; which was referred to the committee on Public Lands.

HON. MR. PINTARD, of Jefferson, in a letter to his law associate, states that he does not think the Legislature can get through with the business requiring attention sooner than the first of March.

The Projected Railroad From the Tennessee Line to the Sea Shore.

A railroad to the Mississippi Gulf shore, penetrating the heart of the State, and connecting its northern and southern extremities, and securing to Mississippi an outlet to the sea for her own and the productions of other regions, and accomplishing her commercial independence, has long been a desideratum of the people of the State. To this end surveys have been made, and petitions to Congress for the donation of public lands have been sent up. Twenty odd years ago, when the trust funds were loaned to the various projected railroads which were then under way, it was expressly provided that, at a given time, these funds were to be returned to the State and applied to the one great paramount scheme of a road through South Mississippi to the seashore where several commodious harbors at which the navies of nations may ride in safety, are contiguous to the main shore. The war interfered with, and postponed, the plan, but we trust did not wholly defeat it. By the energy and public spirit of Col. W. C. Falkner and other projectors of the Ripley, Kentucky, and Ship Island Road, a beginning has been made at the northern end of the line. It has been in operation for several years from the Tennessee line to Ripley, and they contemplate pushing it southward to Pontotoc county at an early day. We are gratified that the members of the Legislature along the whole line are alive to the importance of the enterprise, and to learn by a letter in the Louisville *Banner*, from Hon. M. A. Metts, the earnest and indefatigable member from Winston, that they are addressing themselves to it with zeal and determination. To this end, Senator Foote has introduced a bill which we presume will meet their concurrence and receive their hearty and united support. We bespeak for this work the good will and support of members from all parts of the State, as a matter of State pride and State progress. What Mississippi most needs is commercial independence, and this she will have when she utilises her own undeveloped resources. She is now paying enormous tribute to other States and receiving nothing.

P. S.—After the above was written, we noticed the introduction of a bill in the House by Mr. Metts of Winston, to carry out the proposed enterprise. In addition to what is stated in the foregoing, we would mention that there are large quantities of public lands in South Mississippi contiguous to the contemplated line of road, and it would be well for the Legislature to memorialize Congress to donate them for its construction, upon such conditions as would secure their application to the building of the road. In this connection, to show what may be accomplished by the judicious application of public lands for railroad purposes, we will copy the following interesting history in the construction of the Illinois Central:

The Illinois Central railroad is a good example of the effect of "subsidies," judiciously applied. An immense body of lands lying along the proposed route was donated to that corporation upon condition that the road, when constructed, should pay over to the State 7 per cent. of its gross earnings from freight and passenger traffic on the Illinois lines. The conditions were accepted and this is now a perpetual obligation on the road. The strip of land extended like an immense Y through the State from Cairo to Dunleith and from Centralia to Chicago. It served as a basis of credit, and on that basis the Company negotiated its bonds and completed its great lines. The lands were placed on the market, sold at low rates and immigration invited by liberal inducements. At the time of its construction, the road extended almost its whole length through unsettled prairies, but under the wise management of the Company, a thrifty and industrious population gathered all along the line bringing revenues to the State and business to the road. Prosperous towns grew up, business was developed, and now this seven per cent. of gross earnings constitutes a very large share of the revenue of the commonwealth. It has been a material factor in reducing the debt of the State in a few years from $11,000,000 to $1,400,000. The payment for this tax in 1876 was $365,005 and the amount for the current year will be much larger. It is estimated that after the State debt is extinguished, which should be in two or three years, the annual revenue from the Illinois Central Company will be sufficient to defray the entire expenses of the State Government.

H. A. M., an observant and intelligent Jackson correspondent of the Memphis *Appeal*, makes a proper observation upon the matter of adjournment by our Legislature. He says:

The real heavy work of the session will begin when those bills are reported. Several others, equally important, will also demand attention. A resolution has passed the Senate looking to an adjournment on the eighth of February. This is to be deprecated. The State and people are in no condition to be burdened with precipitate legislation. Every measure will be potent either for good or evil, and should be carefully inspected and weighed before it is passed. The only censure that has ever been cast upon the preceding Legislature is the shortness of their last session. We are to have no session for two years to come, and we must do our whole duty and transact all necessary business now, or we shall put the State to the inconvenience and expense of a called session.

Necessarily much of the legislation of 1876 and 1877, in consequence of the amount to be performed within a short space of time, was crude and imperfect. It will devolve upon the present Legislature to supply the omissions and correct the errors of its predecessor. Not the least of the many important measures yet to be reported, and acted upon, is the Revenue law upon which the whole financial machinery of the State depends. This subject is in charge of competent committees in both Houses.

DR. J. L. BACKSTROM, formerly a useful member of our State Legislature from the staunch old county of Neshoba, but for years past a well-known public-spirited and honored citizen of Yalobusha county, where he now resides, compliments us by saying at the close of a business letter:

"I am much gratified to see the flattering indorsement of the CLARION by our Legislature; and shall be more so, if the wholesome suggestions, that have appeared from time to time in its columns, in regard to *some necessary* legislation, and *amendments* to our *Constitution* shall *not* be overlooked by that body."

A SHOOTING affray occurred at Yazoo City on the 31st, between H. M. Dixon and Samuel Harris[on], which resulted in the death of the latter. We have not heard the particulars.

THE Moffet bell [p]unch question is agitating the South Carolina Legislature.

THE Holly Springs *South* says that "no judicious business man turns out experienced, tried, and approved servants in the prime and vigor of life, occupying places of peculiar trust and responsibility, because of a mere abstract difference of opinion; besides, Republicans and Democrats are now standing virtually on the same political platform." "Abstractly" speaking, this may all be true, but it presents a very bad rule for keeping the Democratic party in power and the Republican party out of power. If it is true that "experienced, tried and approved officials" ought to be kept in office without reference to their party affiliations, and that Democrats and Republicans are all one and the same, as our esteemed contemporary Judge Watson insists, why did he not favor the retention of Maj. Gibbs in the Auditor's office, and of Mr. Hill in the office of Secretary of State? These offices have no relation whatever to "politics." One of them, at least, requires great business capacity and financering ability, and the incumbent, (Maj. Gibbs,) as the CLARION frequently attested during his term, performed the difficult duties of the office faithfully and efficiently. There was not the shadow of a shade of blemish upon his official escutcheon. Besides, it might have urged that in the selection of assistants he had chosen competent and worthy Democrats, native and to the manner born, and yet the *South*, unmindful of the doctrine it now preaches with all the zeal of a neophite, so far from uttering a word of protest against the deep damnation of his taking off, favored the nomination and election of a Democratic successor. And so too with its own county man, Mr. Hill, who, though objectionable in his Republican politics, which the *South* strangely enough has come to the conclusion accords with the Democratic platform, was ruthlessly hurled from office, the *South* standing by and approving. What has brought this change over the spirit of the dreams of our learned and venerated contemporary? It is strange doctrine for a professing Democrat, or Conservative, (we believe our friend prefers the latter appellation,) and if carried into practice will scatter the Democratic party into fragments and send it higher than a kite.

THE remains of Ex-Governor John J. McRae are buried in a foreign land which he sought but did not reach, in search of health, in 1867. A correspondent recommends that the State make provision for re-intering and burying them in the soil of his own native State of Mississippi, which he loved so well and served so faithfully. The State never had a more devoted son, nor an abler nor better Chief Magistrate. As a public servant he was faithful and true—as a man he was universally beloved for his generous, trusting and noble heart:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, *This was a man.*"

MAJOR BURKE of New Orleans, tells the following story:

The Tilden managers in Washington had schemes for defeating the count in the Senate, and for holding a new election under Conkling; but the party had never authorized them. I know positively that Senator Conkling had a speech all prepared in favor of throwing out the vote of Louisiana, in which event he was to have been elected President of the Senate, and would have become President of the United States, pending the new election which would have taken place a year afterward.

That's interesting news, Major Burke; but what about the Wormley Hotel conference and the little piece of writing?

BY the remonetization and coinage of silver, its value will be increased, because its utility will be widened and enlarged, and its power to perform the functions of money will give to it valuable qualities, and, by employing silver in the payment of interest and duties, the demand for gold to be thus employed would decline, and hence the brokers would be unable to sell it at a premium over silver.

MR. KEATING, of the Memphis *Appeal*, writes from Washington that the friends of the Texas Pacific railroad have agreed that the Stephens bill should be amended so as to leave the appointment of commissioners to decide on the eastern or Mississippi terminus, to the Governors of the Southern States, and that the location of said terminus be limited to a point not farther north than Memphis, or farther south than Vicksburg.

SENATOR CAMERON (Republican) of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill for the coinage of silver dollars and making them legal tender jointly with gold; that is, one-half of each debt could be paid with one metal and the other half with the other. Senator Wallace of that State, goes the whole figure for the dollar of the fathers. The two facts together justify a strong belief that Pennsylvania will join the West and South and laboring masses of all sections on the financial issue in the next Presidential election.

THE Handsboro *Democrat* misunderstands us in supposing that we are advocating the lowering of the standard of qualification of public school teachers. We would restrict the schools maintained at public expense to the teaching of the elementary branches of an English education, and if possible, secure a wider diffusion of knowledge in these branches.

DESERVED COMPLIMENT TO REPRESENTATIVE SHANDS.—Extract of a "special" from this city to the Memphis *Appeal*:

The unanswerable argument of Mr. Shands, of Tate county, upon the Panola county election case, which took the House as if by storm is still the talk of the members. Tate county, and all of the Northern counties as well, should be proud of the position in the lower branch of the Legislature that speech has given to Mr. Shands.

THE following is the official vote in the Eighteenth Senatorial District:

	Humphreys.	Lee.
Lowndes	524	315
Oktibbeha	182	491
Clay	145	288
	851	1,094

Majority for Lee, 243.

THE proof as to the alteration of the Vernon parish returns, in the trial of the Louisiana Returning Boarders, is direct and positive.

A MEMBER of the Kentucky Senate is preparing a bill for the introduction of the Moffet liquor register in that State.

A BILL has been introduced in the Kentucky Legislature requiring school text-books to be uniform throughout the State, and forbidding a change in them to be made oftener than every five years. The object of this is to prevent speculation in school books. This reminds us to express the hope that our Mississippi Legislature will take steps to adopt Col. W. H. McCardle's forthcoming work upon Mississippi as an elementary book for the public schools of the State.

THE only hope of the depositors of the Freedman's Bank, the benevolent institution established at Washington for the good of the poor colored people, to take care of their earnings, is the purchase by the Government of the building in which its affairs were conducted. This is proposed as a charity, not as an act of justice; but can the Government afford to be charitable at the expense of the overburdened tax-payers?

PENDING a resolution declaring section 2398 (in reference to corporations) constitutional, after a lengthy discussion, a Senator sent up to the President the following speech:

MR. PRESIDENT—

"When learned doctors disagree."
What course is left for you and me?
That law is *law*, I know full well,
But *which* is law, I cannot tell;
To settle this, let's take a vote,
The yeas adopt, the noes do not;
Then by the *weight* of *votes* alone.
The law is *fixed, and we are done.*

"BUELL" telegraphs the New Orleans *Democrat*, from Washington, that the silver bill is now regarded as a foregone conclusion, it having been definitely ascertained that fifty-one Senators will vote to pass it over a possible veto, against twenty-five who will sustain a veto, making one more than the necessary two-thirds; while in a full House there are at least twenty-two votes for it over and above two-thirds.

SECTIONALLY, the vote on the remonetization resolution, in the lower branch of Congress stood:

	Aye.	No.
New England States	2	26
Middle States	18	39
Southern States	89	8
Western States	76	4
Pacific States	4	2
Total	189	79

Here we have an almost "solid" West and South.

HON. T. N. MARTIN, of Houston, has become the editor of the *Patriot* at that place. A legislator, lawyer, and journalist of experience, and withal a true Democrat and Mississippian who has consecrated almost a life-work in one way and another, to the welfare of the State, he will bring the best qualifications for the enterprise in which he has now embarked. We wish him success.

THE Greenwood *Oriental*, which under the management of Mr. Perry, was an excellent newspaper, has been succeeded by the *Yazoo Valley Flag*, under Messrs. Summers & Co. The first number of the latter is before us, and gives evidence of ability and tact in its management. It is devoted largely to local matters and has much to say about the levee question.

THE pending bill in the National House of Representatives, reduces the standing army from 25,000 to 20,000 enlisted men. It consisted of 13,000 men in 1861, when the war commenced. What's the necessity for a larger number at this time? In time of foreign war the dependence of the government is upon the citizen soldiery. The Democratic party stands pledged against the policy of keeping up a large standing army.

THE Edwards *Citizen* is slightly mistaken. The present Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum has "not served for the last two years as a Democratic appointee." He was first appointed by Gov. Alcorn eight years ago; and was re-appointed by Gov. Ames—his last term, four years, not having quite expired yet.

"L. Q. W." telegraphs to the *Picayune* from Washington that Mr. Knott, of Kentucky, will introduce a bill in a day or two to remodel the judicial system of the United States, and abolishing the present Circuit Judges, and creating a new system of appellate tribunals.

IN the Senate of New Jersey, on the 1st inst., the House resolution requesting the New Jersey Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote against the Bland Silver bill, was agreed to, by a vote of 11 to 7. The negatives explained their position on the ground that "it was unnecessary to instruct Representatives who are already right."

THERE is universal regret that Gen. Wade Hampton, South Carolina's peerless son, has been compelled by his official duties to decline the invitation to deliver an address at the approaching Commencement at Mississippi University.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE Democrats in the lower House of Congress voted for the silver resolutions, and only twenty-three against them. Seventy-seven Republicans voted for, and fifty-six against them.

MR. BUCKNER, Chairman of the Silver and Greenback League, formed in the Congressional caucus held recently, has appointed Gen. Chalmers a member of the Executive Committee.

THE campaign of Prussia against France lasted six months. Russia's campaign against Turkey from the declaring of war to the signing of the armistice, lasted nine months.

THE anti-subsidy resolution passed the National House of Representatives by a two-thirds majority. The Mississippi members voted against it.

MR. J. G. SNEDECOR steps down and out of the Oxford *Falcon*, and his place is supplied by Mr. P. B. Murray, who has our best wishes.

THE Army Pay bill reduces the pay and allowances of officers to the amount of about one million and a quarter. This is very much as if a man has a horse, and no use for one, should economize by diminishing the feed of the animal, instead of selling it. Reduce the army to ten thousand men.—N. Y. Sun.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

What Dr. Backstrom Says.

To the Editors of the Clarion:

WATER VALLEY, MISS., Jan. 2[8], 187[8].

Being confined at home by sickness and other pressing necessities, I have only seen the proceedings of our Legislature as they appear in the WEEKLY CLARION, which I have only partially looked over; but having a daily mail here, and feeling an interest in what is going on in our Legislature, with this I send also for the DAILY CLARION.

I am glad to see not only that the CLARION is opposed to the calling of a Constitutional Convention, but more so, that our Legislature, from what I have seen, does not favor it. In my opinion, with our entanglements, it would be worse than a blunder—a crime almost equal to that committed by our Democratic Congressmen in the late Presidential tangle, when they foolishly lost to the people their choice for President. Let our Legislature not make a similar mistake, to the great detriment of Mississippi.

[Here follow some strong objections to calling a Constitutional Convention. They are omitted for the reason that the Legislature has definitely settled the question, in accordance with the views of our correspondent.—EDS.]

I have read the article on Mississippi repudiation in a late number of THE CLARION, and with the many I have heard speak of it, most heartily thank THE CLARION for this able, most lucid and satisfactory exposition of this subject. Mississippi cannot forget the defender of her honor and good name, in this her day of trial and trouble, neither can she forget to remember those of her sons, whether he be a trusted representative in an exalted position, or occupying a subordinate post of confidence and influence, who ignores her and panders to the outside pressure and feelings of hatred and prejudice against her by the Philistines who have despoiled her.

Our Legislature should not be in a hurry to adjourn. They must recollect that the people understand the difference being employed by the job and by the day, as heretofore. Then it was common for the demagogues and men of little sense to jump up at the beginning of the session and waste much time and money of the State in moving for early adjournments, which was for buncombe and to bamboozle their constituents at home. That is estopped now by the fixed salary, and the pockets of the people will be taxed less now by going slow and having no hasty and foolish legislation. Our legislators sought or accepted the position, and should stand up to the "rack, fodder or no fodder," If it takes the remainder of the Winter and all Spring to effect the necessary and proper legislation. It is two years before the Legislature meets again, and it would be better were it four. We need quiet and repose, let us have it. It will ruin the industrial interests of the State to have an election every year. Can't the Congressional election be postponed until 1879?

I have noticed some amendments to our Constitution porposed which will certainly not be ignored by our Legislature.

The one of Capt. Roane, our able and faithful Floater Representative, in regard to the election of Circuit Judges by the people, is in accord with the genius of our Government. I wish he had included Judges of the Supreme Court. Let us keep the several departments as independent of each other as is compatible with our system of Government, if we would preserve its purity. I appreciate the objection, and it is this that there is a great difference between the voting population of now and what it was before our civil war when the people elected Judges who would have elevated and adorned the Bench of any State in the Union. But the times are ragged and dejected power is rapidly stealing from the many to the few. The political power of our country has been for years, and is now controlled by monyed rings and over-shadowing monopolists, and, though it is like a run between "Scylla and Charybdis" I would rather trust the safety of the ship to the people than to the Shylocks.

I have been much pleased to see the ability and large legislative experience of General West enlisted on the side of constitutional reform.

I am gratified to see that my old friend Senator W. C. Dowd, of Neshoba, who represents the constituency among whom I have spent many of the best years of my life, is on the line of retrenchment and reform. They will appreciate and sustain him in his patriotic course.

Truly yours,
J. L. BACKSTROM.

The Bureau of Immigration.

To the Editors of the Clarion:

The question is being discussed by the press and the people, "What will our Legislature do for the establishment of an Agricultural College, and what plan will be adopted to secure the best class of immigrants to our State."

Our Legislature is composed almost entirely of members who appreciate fully the benefits of agricultural knowledge, and its importance at a time like this of impressing upon our young men the dignity of labor, and that the future of Mississippi depends upon a progressive and intelligent farming population. Establish in connection with the College, and under the direction of its Chancellor or President, a Bureau of statistics. Let this Bureau collect as rapidly as possible information of a character from every county in the State calculated to enlighten our own people, and the publication of which would secure the best class of people from the Northwest and Middle States. The people of the North, East and West, and South Mississippi, are calling for prompt and liberal legislation. Take South Mississippi, now sparsely settled, map the counties on the seashore and the interior counties, show the advantages they possess in climate, health, and their varied productions. In a few years, by a wise policy, we may hope to see an increased and thriving population, and the completion of the long talked of Gulf and Ship Island Railroad.

Let the Bureau of Immigration use to the best advantage all the information collected by the Bureau of Statistics. Don't cramp the office of Immigration with duties belonging to the department of Agriculture and Mechanics. Make a liberal appropriation, and let the Commissioner bring as rapidly as possible a population who will reclaim our exhausted land, fill up our gullies, and we can then say there is life in the old land yet. The department of Agriculture and Immigration should co-operate, but be distinct. The experience of other States on this subject, should teach an important lesson, and certainly we should not, if we wish immigration, hamper the Commissioner with duties that must make his efforts ineffective.

NORTH MISSISSIPPI.

Congressional District Bill—Introduced into the House of Representatives by Hon. D. B. Seal of Hancock.

An act entitled an act to re-organize the Fifth Congressional District of the State of Mississippi and for other purposes.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the Fifth Congressional District shall be composed of the counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Perry, Pearl, Marion, Covington, Lawrence, Jones, Lincoln, Copiah, Pike, Greene, Wayne and Simpson.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the counties of Hinds and Rankin shall be in the Fourth Congressional District.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the counties of Franklin and Amite shall belong to the Sixth Congressional District.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That this act take effect and be in force from its passage.

Pearl River Navigation—The Stedman.

Carthagenian.

The Stedman came up to the landing [illegible] Thursday evening last. On her last trip down she carried cotton from this point to Jackson, and on her return trip brought goods for our merchants. The prospect is fair for a weekly trip during the next two months. Cotton shipped by the Stedman to Robinson & Stevens is now covered by insurance on an open policy, at the rate of [illegible] per cent. on $40 per bale for risk of fire only.

The Kemper Trials.

Meridian Mercury.

Col. S. M. Meek and Captain Woods went to DeKalb together yesterday morning. The indicted for the Kemper tragedy are their clients, and they may have gone there about that business. The trial term of the court is not far away, and the Kemper county jail is a small affair for so many prisoners.

A PROPOSITION is being seriously considered to dam the Arkansas and Platte rivers and thus turn the waters into the great desert in the western part of Kansas and Nebraska, whence, by tapping the artificial lake, streams may be secured for irrigating purposes.

A convention of delegates from the various State Agricultural Societies of the country will meet in Washington on the third Tuesday of February.