MEMPHIS APPEAL.

MEMPHIS.

WEDNESDAY, : : FEBRUARY 21, 1866.

☞ Correspondents must bear in mind the rule of writing on one side only of the sheet, in order to enable us to make use of their favors.

☞ The documents we give in another column will instruct our readers as to the state of the controversy between Gen. Fisk and the Legislature of Kentucky.

GEN. FORREST'S "ARREST."

The announcement made by some of our city contemporaries, of the "arrest" of Gen. FORREST, may mislead persons at a distance. The arrest is nothing more than service of notice by the Marshal of the indictment for treason, found months ago in Judge TRIGG's Court, against some two hundred or more of our citizens, Gen. FORREST among the number. A very large number of these were disposed of at the last term of the Court, by the discharge of the persons indicted. Gen. FORREST not being here, no notice was served upon him, until the other day, when he entered into the usual recognizance to appear at the March term, when his case will most likely take the same course as other similar ones which have been disposed of. That's all that is in it.

THE STRIFE MAKERS.

Is it not a curious fact (asks the New York *Herald*,) that while all those who fought the battles for the Union and those who fought against it, now alive, acquiesce in the present state of peace, those who never shouldered a musket or flourished a sword on either side, are the most blatant and vociferous about reconstruction, confiscation, negro suffrage, and all other questions that have been the offspring of the conflict? Who are braying the loudest about the tyranny of the North, the grasping, bloodthirsty spirit of the Yankee, and endeavoring to keep alive a feeling of resentment and hostility between the people of the two sections? Such fellows as the editors of Southern newspapers, scarcely one of whom ever saw a battle field, except at a safe and respectful distance, and others who skulked from the responsibilities of the hour, and under various expedients, cowardly shrunk from the combat. Show us, continues the *Herald*, a good fighting man in the Southern armies, from Gen. LEE, Gen. JOE JOHNSTON, and others of that stamp, down to the humblest private, and we will see one who is willing to acknowledge that the North had the best of the fight, and is content to trust to the magnanimity of the victors in adjusting the question of restoration. Then, looking at the Northern side of the picture, we find that while such victorious Union champions as Gens. GRANT, SHERMAN, MEADE, SHERIDAN, LOGAN, HANCOCK and many more of the same stamp, who are the great mass of their heroic hosts, who were in the midst of the fiercest fights, are in favor of a fair and honorable policy of restoration, like that of President JOHNSON, such radical leaders as SUMNER, STEVENS, WADE, CHANDLER, in Congress; such immaculate military leaders as CARL SCHURZ and BEN. BUTLER, and such incorrigible specimens of the manor race as FRED DOUGLASS and HALF SHELL DOWNING—neither of whom ever shouldered, much less fired, a musket in the Union cause—are laboring like crazy zealots to devastate or confiscate the South, wipe out the political existence of the white race there, and erect an enormous charity establishment for the benefit of Sambo. These are the two extremes that are creating all the domestic troubles that now beset us. The great and patriotic conservative center, the true heart of the nation, however, is all right, and, under the sound policy of President JOHNSON, bids fair to result in a triumphant success.

THE MASS MEETING AT NASHVILLE.

A number of delegates for this city and county left on the train yesterday, to attend the Mass Meeting at Nashville on the twenty-second. We are persuaded that they go there imbued with the right spirit, and we trust their mission will be attended with good results. Among them are "Confederates" and "Federals," who though widely separated during the war, are now thoroughly of one mind and heart in their support of our wise and patriotic President in his efforts to restore the Union under the Constitution, and to heal the wounds of the late fratricidal strife, by infusing a spirit of conciliation and mutual oblivion of injuries among all our people, of every section of the Republic.

With its action directed to and limited by these objects, the Convention cannot fail to be productive of good. Whatever narrow minded and bigoted zealots may say, the great popular mind of the country will see in the solemn declarations of so respectable an assemblage, an earnest of the good faith and honest sincerity with which the people of Tennessee, of all classes, have returned to their allegiance to the Government of the Union, and will hail with delight the evidence afforded by it of the progress made in the work of a real restoration of fraternal feelings.

As we have said before, this is a movement, as we understand it, of the People, and in no sense a scheme of the Politicians to erect a party. Should there be any ambitious individuals connected with it, with any lurking idea of turning it to such account, they will be frustrated in their designs by the broad, catholic patriotism of the people. They do not wish Party—least of all, now. The only party to which sincerely patriotic men can belong, now, is that of the Constitution, and the Government under it. They have had enough of revolutions, and strife, and yearn for repose, and the security of the public liberty, under good government, acting in accordance with the Constitution of the Fathers of the Republic. They want no more innovation, no more violence, no more division, nor hatred, nor discord. The war, with its terrible sacrifices, has taught the value of Union and peace, and the utter worthlessness of mere Party.

Doubtless, as the Government settles back into its old equilibrium, and the perturbations created by the Civil War in our political system shall subside, and cease to be the paramount object of popular concern, honest differences of opinion will agglomerate themselves into the semblance of parties in opposition to each other. But until the present crisis is past, so threatening of radical and fundamental change in our whole republican system, there can be, without crime, no party but that of the Government under the Constitution. In the South, especially, there can be but one party—that of an honest, sincere and honorable support of the Government, legitimately administered in conformity with the Constitution.

We have no fears, however, that any successful attempt, or any attempt will be made to divert the Convention from its high mission of endeavoring to unite rather than divide an already too much alienated people.

☞ A small party of troops were attacked by about one hundred Indians, near Fort Fletcher, on the Plains, on January twentieth. Two soldiers were killed and four wounded; one escaped uninjured. The men were walking thoughtlessly with their guns in their sacks. Had it not been for a boy, who discovered the Indians and gave the alarm, all would probably have been killed.

☞ Under a law of Rhode Island which prohibits the sale of goods by sample without a State license, a poor clergyman at Providence, who was trying to sell religious pictures, was lately arrested and compelled to pay a fine of fifty dollars and costs. The Legislature is trying to amend the law.

☞ The proprietor of a private banking house in Norfolk, Va., doing a considerable business, disappeared about two weeks ago, taking with him, it is alleged, forty thousand dollars belonging to depositors, and has not been seen or heard from in that city since.

Correspondence of the Louisville Journal:

LETTER FROM FRANKFORT.

The Investigation of the Committee Appointed by the Legislature in Regard to Gen. Fisk.

FRANKFORT, Feb. 12, 1866.

In the House yesterday morning, Hon. J. M. Armstrong offered a resolution to extend the sittings of the Committee appointed to investigate the statement of Gen. Fisk. This resolution brought quite a spirited discussion. Mr. Armstrong desired to present a minority report, and read a letter and telegrams from Gen. Fisk, giving the reasons why he, as the General, had not presented himself before the Committee. If the Legislature did not show a willingness to give the fullest investigation of the matter, no matter what the decision of this body or the facts in the case were, the effect would be injurious; people would not believe statements unless there was an opportunity given for the other side to be heard. Mr. Webb also urged the Committee to take this course, and withdraw the majority report until the minority of the Committee could present their report.

Mr. Conklin hoped the resolution would not be adopted; he could see no good to be accomplished by extending the sitting of the Committee. The effort of Gen. Fisk to exculpate himself, might, if he chose, keep the Committee in session during the entire interim of the session of the Legislature, at a great expense. He wished the investigation should only be made in regard to the statement of facts that occurred at Lexington. He did not think Gen. Fisk to have the privilege of traversing the whole State to procure evidence of every little act of mistreatment that might have been inflicted upon the negro, for the purpose of justifying the speech made at Cincinnati. Gen. Fisk made a speech that reflected upon Kentucky. The Legislature introduced a resolution to inquire into the correctness of the statements made in that speech—not to reflect upon Gen. Fisk. To this Mr. Armstrong responded that he was willing to modify the resolution so as to have the investigation limited to the points named, and also that the Committee should sit without pay. Gen. Fisk had certainly indicated his wish to come before the Committee, and he had never been legally notified. He was at Washington City at the time the letter was dropped in the post office directed to Louisville. Mr. Stoll expressed the hope that the Committee would be allowed to withdraw their report, and that they would ask to do so. The gentleman from Louisville (Mr. Armstrong) was absent on duty at the time the report was made, and he asked, in justice to him that this be done, and also in justice to Gen. Fisk and the State, for the clear reason that the speech had been reported by somebody who wanted to make a sensation paragraph of it, and that it was exaggerated. He was clear in that the case be investigated. Col. Wolford opposed the extending the labors of the committee. He understood the gentleman from Louisville to say that Gen. Fisk denied having made the printed speech; if he did so, that set him right, and all that was necessary was for the State to be set right. He supposed that every gentleman understood the matter. We are marching rightforward to a centralized government. This great power is marching forward to strike down and destroy the very principles of our Government. No man can fail to see the tendency of these things. Mr. Daffin looked upon this as a question for cool deliberation, and that the House should not be carried off by declamation. There was no gentleman upon the floor who would go further in vindicating the State of Kentucky than himself. He was satisfied that the resolution should pass. He would believe that certain things did exist in the State, but he had read letters written to officers of his Bureau from citizens of this State, and he wanted to have these things investigated, and the authors unearthed, and this the Committee could do. He was satisfied in his own mind that the excuse for not appearing here at the time was a good one. He never condemned a man for what he would do himself under the same circumstances, and he would have gone to his family in the same circumstances, no matter what might have been the result of such a matter. Mr. Bijur said that the resolution contemplated that the Committee shall take *proof of the matters* charged by Gen. Fisk, and lay the proof before the Governor, and the original resolution asked that he be instantly removed by the President, if these statements should be shown to be false, to move him immediately from his position. The course of the Committee thus far would not have that effect upon the President. We are a nation of lawyers, the President is a lawyer, Gen. Fisk is a lawyer, and they can judge of the effect of purely negative testimony. The positive proof as to what occurred is what will have weight, and that proof is necessary in order to attach any weight to the report. The Committee intrusted with this investigation have made it with a view to lay the result before the President of the United States, and have an officer in high command removed.

When commencing that investigation they dispatched a letter to the Sheriff of Louisville, when that party was well known to be in Washington. The moment he received it, he notifies the Committee that he was present there. When he reaches Louisville, he receives news of afflictions in his family at St. Louis, and attends the funeral of his sister-in-law, and to watch by the sick bed of his wife. Yet the Committee hurry back to Frankfort from Lexington, against the protest of one member of the Committee. They hurry back here and make a report, thus disregarding the obligations of a fair trial; and for what? To clear Kentucky of these charges. I deny that Gen. Fisk has made any charges against Kentucky. In the very speech from which this extract is taken, he says that "a majority of the people of Kentucky are imbued with a sense of justice and law," but he charges cruelty upon some of the inhabitants. If the report is received by this House without any further investigation, these charges will go forth to the world, and the world will believe that we are avoiding an investigation. It will fall before the President and before the world. The minority of the Committee shall have a hearing, and God, I trust, shall have an opportunity of either showing the truth of what is stated, or of retracting what is false. I, sir, am but an humble citizen of Kentucky, but I am as anxious to see the honor of the State vindicated as any citizen of the State. Mr. McHenry supported the resolution in a few pertinent remarks, and moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. Mr. Buckner followed in a short but caustic speech, animadverting sharply upon Gen. Fisk, and expressing the fear that he would escape the condemnation due to him, in the same manner that Judge Goodloe was likely to. The motion of Mr. McHenry was then carried, and the resolution referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. We subjoin the report of the Minority Committee, which will explain the precise status of the whole matter better than any comments or other parties.

Minority Report in the Legislature of Kentucky on the Fisk Case, by Hon. J. M. Armstrong, of Louisville.

To the Legislature of Kentucky:

The undersigned, one of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of the General Assembly of Kentucky, appointed to investigate the truth of certain statements alleged to have been made by Brevet Maj.-Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, in a public speech in Cincinnati, January eighteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, begs leave to offer a reason why he does not concur with the majority in their report.

The Committee visited the city of Lexington as per agreement, on the third day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, and proceeded to the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Fayette county, at the hour of eleven o'clock A. M., at which place we received the following telegram, which was read to the Committee:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2, 1866.

To Hon. J. M. Armstrong, Legislative Committee:

Please delay investigation until I return. The colored soldiers were from five different counties. I have ordered my subordinates to procure all the facts, boxing not only the thirteen referred to in Cincinnati, but of all similar cases in the entire State. I will meet you at Frankfort on my return, and we will go down to the hand-pan on the whole question. I wrote you fully at this date.

CLINTON B. FISK, Brevet Maj.-Gen.

He asked for an extension of the time for the taking of the testimony, in order to allow Gen. Fisk an opportunity of appearing before the Committee. The majority of said Committee, however, insisted upon taking such testimony as might *then* be obtained, as witnesses had been summoned before the Committee. The taking of which testimony he consented to, with the express understanding that, on the arrival of Gen. Fisk from Washington, "he should have the privilege of examining the same parties again." After refusing the testimony taken at that time to be writing, the Committee adjourned, to meet in the city of Frankfort on Thursday, the eighth of February, following. "But as Gen. Fisk had not arrived by the eighth of February," he asked further time, for the reasons given in the following letter:

[Here follows Gen. Fisk's explanatory letter from Washington, of February second, which, having already appeared in the APPEAL, it is not necessary to reproduce here.]

The majority were unwilling to await the arrival of Gen. Fisk, unless it should be before the day set for the adjournment of the Legislature (fifteenth February). On the morning of the thirteenth he received from Gen. Fisk the following letter:

BUREAU REF. FREEDMEN & ABAND. LANDS, STATE OF KENTUCKY, Louisville, Feb. 12, 1866.

To Hon. J. M. ARMSTRONG, Frankfort, Ky.:

Dear Sir: I returned from Washington at an earlier date than I anticipated when I last wrote you, and had arranged to proceed to Frankfort to-morrow and present myself before your Committee of Investigation. A telegram from my family calls me to them at once, and I go to St. Louis immediately. I shall return to Kentucky as soon as I can leave my family, and trust that day will not be beyond the date named in my former communication, to wit: twentieth or twenty-fifth instant.

Has your Committee authority to summon witnesses and investigate the affairs of freedmen throughout the State? If so, please advise me by letter addressed to number two hundred and seventeen Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, and I will forward the names of parties I desire summoned. If ten per cent. of the reported outrages upon colored people in Kentucky are not false, the matter demands the *earnest attention of our entire Legislature*, as well as every good citizen in your Commonwealth.

It is not the intention of this Bureau to establish or continue its authority in any locality where the civil authorities can and will afford ample protection to the persons and property of the freedmen. I will thank you to inform me by early reply just what your Committee desires of me, and whether you will convene the witnesses I may name to you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLINTON B. FISK,
Brevet Maj.-Gen. and Asst. Comm.

Said letter was shown to the *majority*, on the morning of the 13th, *before* making their report to the Senate. Still these gentlemen, exhibiting a zeal for the honor of Kentucky, were unwilling to allow Gen. Fisk time to present himself and offer such proof in vindication of himself as he might be in possession of. Gen. Fisk, after reaching St. Louis, having been called to that city in consequence of sickness and death in his family, sent the following telegram:

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 13, 1866.

To Hon. J. M. Armstrong: Please telegraph me the latest day I can meet your committee at Frankfort. If at all consistent for me to leave my family, I will be with you.

CLINTON B. FISK, Maj.-Gen.

The undersigned has, therefore, seen nothing in the action of Gen. Fisk to warrant the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the Committee, that he wished to shun an investigation, or *trifle* with the Committee. It will be seen that Gen. Fisk does not state in his telegram *send before* the Committee in Lexington that he would arrive in Kentucky on *Tuesday or Wednesday*, "and the first intimation that he had as to the sitting of the committee was, by a telegram from the undersigned, dated February second, eighteen hundred and sixty six, only the day before their meeting in Lexington, the date of the Committee and joint resolution mailed at Frankfort, thirteen January, addressed to him at Louisville, not having reached him;" and he has not received at the same conclusion with the majority of the Committee, viz: that the alleged statements made by Gen. Fisk are *false* and *slanderous*.

It is true that the proof taken does not show that the statements reported to have been made by him were true, nor does it show that they were false. The proof is entirely of a negative character; it merely establishes the fact that the witnesses did not see the thirteen negro soldiers, or hear of their presence in Lexington. The statements are that the negroes were seen by him in the streets of Lexington, and bearing on their persons marks of bad treatment, but *not* that they belonged in Lexington, or Fayette county, or that they had been subjected to that bad treatment in *that city or county*.

But, in the absence of any better evidence than mere negative testimony, it will not violate a sense of justice and propriety to give some weight to the positive statement of Gen. Fisk himself, who has not yet been shown to be deficient in truth and honor, and who must be presumed to possess these high qualities from the high trust reposed in him by the Government.

It can hardly be supposed that a man of his position would pay to the public that he courted an investigation, if he were conscious that he had made statements of so important a character which were false—that he could thus trifle with his own reputation for truth and honor before the world. He informs me in the letter which has been published that the counties of Bourbon, Wolford, Madison, Montgomery and Garrard were represented in the number seen by him at Lexington.

Nothing which has come to my knowledge is sufficient to induce even a belief that Gen. Fisk wishes either to avoid appearing before the Committee, or to shirk an investigation.

I must be free in mind that he is a mere subordinate in the Freedmen's Bureau, and is bound to obey the orders of his superiors, and has been absent from the State in obedience to such orders until his return to Kentucky on the eleventh instant, and that he was immediately summoned from the State by a call which no humane man could disobey.

He may well think that the *immediate* investigation of this charge is not so exceedingly important as to require the repression of the noblest instincts of humanity in order to hasten it.

Suppose the statements about the thirteen negro soldiers be true; they would only show that some Kentuckians had been cruel and inhuman, and that, during their short stay in Lexington, the citizens had either failed to discover their presence, or, if they did discover it, they discovered also that the perpetrators of the injuries resided in other counties, and were, therefore, beyond their reach.

Then why hurry this investigation? Truth is the object of investigations; and if this one be hasty and partial, it will not give satisfaction in any quarter, nor will it allay excitement in the public mind on this subject. The original object was to ascertain the truth or falsity of the alleged statements of Gen. Fisk, and to repel supposed slander upon a portion of the people of Kentucky; but since that object cannot be fully ascertained now, and at once, why not extend the investigation, not only for the sake of the original object, but also to ascertain whether or not wrongs and outrages are being committed on the negroes by bad people for which we ought to afford redress and protection?

J. M. ARMSTRONG.

☞ The Supreme Court at New Haven, Ct., has just decided an interesting case involving fifty thousand dollars. Twenty-five years ago Charles J. Russ, of Hartford, was appointed administrator of the estate of his sister, Cornelia Russ. The estate included a large number of shares in the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, which was appraised at five dollars per share—their full market value at that time. To close the estate, Mr. Russ took the stock at the appraised value and sold it. When the stock became valuable, an action was brought against the heirs of Mr. Russ by the heirs of his sister, and an attempt was made to show that the sale of the stock was invalid. But the court has decided that the sale was valid, and that Mr. Russ acted properly and without any intention of fraud in taking the stock at its appraised and market value.

☞ According to the report of the New York City Inspector, the number of deaths in the city during the past week was three hundred and ninety-four, showing a decrease of sixty-four from the mortality of the preceding week, and of eighty-five as compared with the corresponding week last year. Of the deceased one hundred and nine were men, eighty-three women, one hundred and fifteen boys, and eighty-seven girls; one hundred and seventy-one were children less than five years of age.

☞ We understand, says the Holly Springs *Reporter*, that the Probate Court of this county will refuse to bind, for the future, any apprentice whose parent or parents are living, without satisfactory proof is furnished the Court that the parties either consent to the apprenticing or are totally incompetent to support and raise their children. Where the proof is not satisfactory, citation will be served on the parent or parents, and time given for the full and fair investigation of the case.

☞ The Chicago *Republican* says that Miss Ellen O'Mahony, Head Centress of the Fenian Sisterhood, is not, as is generally supposed, the wife, daughter or sister of the Irish Chief, John O'Mahony. For many years she was principal of the High School at Quincy, and added to her reputation as a teacher by her essays and other productions, presented to the Teachers' State Conventions. In eighteen hundred and sixty-three she went to Chicago, and was made an Assistant of the Kinzie School.

☞ A soldier of the Second Colorado Cavalry, who passed through one season's bushwhacking in Missouri, all the battles of the border, and through an Indian campaign on the Arkansas, writes the news from Indiana that "he never realized the horror of war till he got home to Indiana and found his gal married to a stay-at-home dry goods clerk."

☞ Fears are expressed that Chinese labor will run out the white laborers in California. Several railroad companies have discharged their white laborers and are employing these people, who work very cheap. There are now sixty thousand, and they are pouring into the country in great numbers.

BILL ARP

Addresses the Lebanon Law School, and Gives His Own Sad Experience.

MILLERSVILLE, February, 1866.

MESSRS. Cumming and others, Committee:

Gentlemen—I have received your kind invitation to address your law skool. In the situation by which I am surrounded it impossible for me to go. I wish I could, for I would like to tell you all I know about law, and it wouldent take me long. I'm now in the law business myself a thousand miles from home, and I'm manufakturin it by wholesale, and after while it will be retailed out by the lawyers to any body that wants it. Its an easy business to make law though some of the bills introduced are awfully spelt. To-day I saw a bill, in which "masheenery" was spelt with two esses and four esses. But the greatest difficulty is undertook in the law after it is made. Among lawyers this difficulty don't seem to lie so much in the head, as in the pocket. For five dollars a lawyer can humiliate some, twenty more skewlin to pay. But he oughtent to luminize but one side at a time.

The first case I ever had in a justice court, I employed old Bob Liggins, who was a good lawyer and powerful. I give him two dollars in advance, and he argued the case, as I thought, on two sides, and was more luminous agin me than for me, and I lost the case, and went after wards that the defendent had employed Liggins after I did, and gave him five dollars to lose my case. I look upon this as a warnin to all clients, to pay big fees and keep your lawyer out of temptation.

My experience in litigation have not been great, but it was long enough for me to get the price of a lead of shuks. He said he wanted to buy some ruffness, and I agreed to bring him a load of shuks for two dollars. My wagin got broke and he got tired a waitin, and went out after the shuks himself. When I called on him for the pay, he seemed surprised, and said it had cost him too dollars and a half to have the shuks delivered. I told him I jestly owd him a half a dollar. He was bigger than I was, so I swallered my bile and sued him. His lawyer pled a set off for barter. He pled that the shuks was unsound; that they were hard by limitations; that they dident agree with his now, and that he never got any shuks from me. He spoke about an hour, and allooded to me as a swindler about 45 times. The bedevild jury went out and brought in a verdik again me for fifty cents and four dollars for costs of suit. I haint saved nary shuk on my plantation since, and I dont intend to untill it gits less expensive. I took upon this as a warnin to all folks never to pay for shuks, or any other small circumstance.

The next trouble I had was with a feller who I hired to dig me a well. He got to well now, twenty dollars, and was to pay him in meat and meal, and sich like. The vagabond kept gittin along until he got all the pay, but hadn't dug none to speak of in the grave. So I made out my akkount, and sued him as follers, to wit:

Old John Hanks to Bill Arp.....Dr.

To digin well.....$20 00

Well, Hanks he hired a cheap lawyer, who rarid round extensively, and sed a heap of funny things at my expense, and finally dismissed my case for what he called its "ridiculum absurdum." I paid those costs, and went home a sadder and a wiser man. I pulled down my little cabin, and moved it some 300 yards nigher to the spring, and I've drunk mity little well water since. I look upon this case as a warnin to all folks, never to pay *for anything till you've got it, especially if it lies to be slug.*

The next law case I had I gained it all by myself but there was a strange sequel. I bought a man's note that was given for the hire of a nigger boy, Dik. Findin he wouldent pay me, I sued him before a justice of the peace, and the jury was sorry to make law though some of the bills introduced are awfully spelt. To-day I saw a bill, in which "masheenry" was spelt with two esses and four esses. But the greatest difficulty is undertook in the law after it is made. Among lawyers this difficulty don't seem to lie so much in the head, as in the pocket. For five dollars a lawyer can humiliate some, twenty more skewlin to pay. But he oughtent to luminize but one side at a time.

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My experience in litigation have not been great, but it was long enough for me to get the price of a lead of shuks. He said he wanted to buy some ruffness, and I agreed to bring him a load of shuks for two dollars. My wagin got broke and he got tired a waitin, and went out after the shuks himself. When I called on him for the pay, he seemed surprised, and said it had cost him too dollars and a half to have the shuks delivered. I told that I jestly owd him a half a dollar. He was bigger than I was, so I swallered my bile and sued him. His lawyer pled a set off for barter. He pled that the shuks was unsound; that they were hard by limitations; that they dident agree with his now, and that he never got any shuks from me. He spoke about an hour, and allooded to me as a swindler about 45 times. The bedevild jury went out and brought in a verdik again me for fifty cents and four dollars for costs of suit. I haint saved nary shuk on my plantation since, and I dont intend to untill it gits less expensive. I took upon this as a warnin to all folks never to pay for shuks, or any other small circumstance.

The next trouble I had was with a feller who I hired to dig me a well. He got to well now, twenty dollars, and was to pay him in meat and meal, and sich like. The vagabond kept gittin along until he got all the pay, but hadn't dug none to speak of in the grave. So I made out my akkount, and sued him as follers, to wit:

Old John Hanks to Bill arp.....Dr.

To digin well.....$20 00

Well, Hanks he hired a cheap lawyer, who rarid round extensively, and sed a heap of funny things at my expense, and finally dismissed my case for what he called its "ridiculum absurdum." I paid those costs, and went home a sadder and a wiser man. I pulled down my little cabin, and moved it some 300 yards nigher to the spring, and I've drunk mity little well water since. I look upon this case as a warnin to all folks, never to pay *for anything till you've got it, especially if it lies to be slug.*

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