MEMPHIS APPEAL

BY

GALLAWAY & KEATING.

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TUESDAY, : JANUARY 21, 1879.

THE CITY CHARTER WILL BE REPEALED.

The concurrent information received from Nashville, is to the effect that the bill before both houses for the repeal of the city charter will be passed. This will be gratifying news to the people of Memphis, whose condition is most pitiable. We have everything to make and nothing to lose by the desperate alternative to which we have been forced. If the tax-paying real estate owners and the prompt business men are compelled to satisfy the mandamuses now ready for service on the city council, immediate ruin is inevitable. Even if the repeal should be declared by the courts null and void, it will take years to arrive at a decision, and in the mean time, the honest tax-payers will have time to recuperate. We certainly will have more prosperous times two years from now. There is a general impression that the bottom has been reached; and if the law decides against repeal the tax-payers will be better able to pay the increased taxation when a decision will have been reached by the courts. There is a prevailing impression that while the suit is pending an adjustment will be effected between the city and its creditors, and that Memphis can again resume her incorporation, instituted for the benefit of the people, but which is now used for their destruction. We repeat then, that we have everything to make and nothing to lose by a repeal. One thing is certain and indisputable, unless the business men of Memphis can find immediate relief from the mandamuses which have been eating into their vitals for months, and which promises to consume their existence in the near future, they will be forced into bankruptcy. The bondholders are talking about "bonah," to use the stereotyped words of the snuffing catarrh, but the people of Memphis will take care of their "bonah" after they have rescued themselves from bankruptcy and their children from beggary and want. Without relief the real estate owners will become "*property poor*," compelled to pay taxes every day to satisfy millions of dollars demanded by inexorable writs of mandamuses, while his rent receipts are not equal to his tax and insurance. The sale of his property under such circumstances is inevitable. An honest man is thereby ruined, for his property is purchased for a mere song by the ghouls, who, like thieves at a fire, rejoice at the ruin because it is favorable to their plunder. For two years the mayor of Memphis has begged and implored the creditors of the city to come forward and fund their debt at fifty cents on the dollar. Thousands of dollars have been spent for the purpose of securing such an adjustment. This was a liberal proposition for a bankrupt city, scourged by an epidemic which has contributed to the decrease of values. We asked our creditors to reduce their claims to a ratio corresponding to the shrinking in property. There was no dishonor in this. But the last pound of flesh has been demanded. Without repeal ruin is certain. The legislature is now in session which, under a constitutional provision, will be necessarily short and will not meet again for two years. If the bill for the repeal of the charter of Memphis should be defeated, our people will be forced to resort to desperate means to free themselves from vexatious mandamuses. In similar straights, the people of Montgomery, Alabama, combined and refused to bid a dollar at the tax sales, and the city officers pledged themselves to resign in order to thwart compliance with court orders which, as fast as one was paid off, another would take its place. The same thing will occur here in Memphis if the bill to repeal the city charter should be defeated. But in their great agony the people of Memphis lift up their voices in thankfulness to God that the legislature is composed of sympathetic, compassionate and merciful men, who will stand as a bulwark between an unfortunate people about to be engulphed in ruin and the rapacity of the sordid creditors, whose bond, if not the product of fraud, was purchased for a mere song.

HOME MANUFACTURE AND FOREIGN EXPORT.

"There is a tide in the affairs of man which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," and it is worth inquiring whether such a tide may not now be beating on the shores of the United States. The astonishing power of invention manifested by our citizens is everywhere acknowledged, and we have carried the mechanic arts beyond the furthest point ever reached by any other nation. This being the case, why are we so greatly dependent for manufactured goods upon the labors of countries outside our own; labors often carried on by inventions obtained from the United States? There is certainly something about this that is peculiar and that deserves investigation. It is pleasant to observe, however, that we are beginning to export manufactured articles, and it is perfectly exciting to find that, when compared with English manufactures, their superiority and excellence is at once acknowledged. In any matter of a trade character, it is hard for the English to acknowledge superiority outside of themselves. Yet this is what they have been compelled to do, and to do it on the point on which they pride themselves so greatly; on which they vaunt the achievements of Hargraves, Arkwright and other distinguished inventors of cotton-spinning machinery—that point is the manufacture of cotton goods. Yet even these articles are exported from this country to Liverpool, Manchester, London and other trade centers, and even that formidable specimen of the biological kingdom, "the British female," acknowledges the superiority of American-made cotton goods. This is a triumph—a triumph over skill, and a triumph over prejudice. The New York *Times* correctly says: "We are rapidly changing ancient conditions. Our products now go to the remotest ends of the earth. Man cannot travel to any quarter of the globe without meeting with some kind of American goods. Hundreds of people in the far east, who may have never seen a 'live Yankee,' have eaten or used something the Yankees have made, and every year adds to the sum total of our innumerable exports." Are we, in this part of the country, sufficiently alive to these facts, to their significance, to the future possibilities they point out? Are not our people altogether too blind and indifferent on the point of our foreign trade, when they ought to be alive, awake, watchful, active, earnest and energetic? What possibilities lie there! We have agricultural lands in the richest abundance; we have iron, gold, silver and many another valuable product; and we have a people with enough to make the best, the utmost of the advantages, agricultural and manufacturing, are placed within our reach. Ought any nation, any people, to be our superior in the commerce of the world? True, others had the priority, "and ruled the world when we were young;" but they have customs, prejudices, restricted notions, classes, distinctions, aristocracies, and a thousand other weights, opposers and hindrances to the advance of progress, the upward course of genius, and the equal diffusion of education. We are free from the ruts in which the old nations jog onward; we are above the narrow prejudices and restricted view of things that antiquity has shackled them with, as the rain of years hamper and deteriorate the steel of the sword with the rusts that dim its brightness, dulls its edge and destroys its once exquisite temper. Young, unhampered, unshackeled, what should prevent our soaring, and what stop our onward career? It was a happy policy of Secretary Evarts to require the American counsels, in every part of the world, to forward to his office official statements respecting the trade and commerce of the countries in which they dwelt. In this way our merchants have learned what are the wants of each country and how they are supplied, when supplied at all, and if so, whether to their satisfaction. This information shows that a thousand possibilities are within our reach we had not dreamed of; wants are made known we had not suspected; openings show themselves where we had deemed ourselves to be shut out. Slowly we are allowing ourselves to be aroused to the prospects that are revealed to us. Like Aladin when the magician had sent him to the enchanted gardens, we gaze on the fruit that glitters on every branch around us, believing the corruscations are but the glitter of colored glass; we are slow to know them for true jewels, and so earnestly set to work to possess ourselves of the glorious gems whose splendor gleams in the air like a magnificent writing that tells of a grand destiny to come. We are doing something, however; we are sending John Bull his beef—beef that makes "the roast beef of Old England" grow pale with envy. That beef, and even our cattle on the hoof, can be put down at the London stock-yards for a price such as not only John himself is unable to compete with, but we can even undersell Denmark in the English market. We send coal to Denmark and into the interior of France, even to the Alps. In Copenhagen American butter and cheese can be found competing with the native made products, and American canned meats are *le rage* all over France. Our agricultural implements, our plows, our seed-sowers, and reapers—what sky is there whose vault has not echoed their fame? Princes love to repose on American rocking-chairs, and luxury everywhere dotes upon the American spring-mattress. American machinery, American tools, especially the American ax—has not fame trumpeted their claims to all the earth? A recent dispatch from Havana says that Spain will contract next March for fifteen million five hundred thousand kilogrammes of Virginia and Kentucky tobacco, to be made into cigars. This beginning will be followed, doubtless, by many other orders. It seems novel that Spain should depend on us for tobacco, when she has heretofore got all that she wanted from Cuba, whence she has drawn so many of her supplies. This is another introduction to the new order of things to which Europe in due time will become accustomed. If we send beer to Germany, cheese to England, caviare to Russia, why should not we send tobacco to Spain? Our best cigars used to be Spanish cigars. It will not be long before the shopkeepers in the Puerta del Sol and the Calle de Alcala will soon be advertising the finest American cigars. The exports of the weed are increasing each year. Most of the western States now grow tobacco, and as the production increases there is a corresponding increase in the foreign demand. Heretofore we have sold largely to England, France and Italy, but now Germany, Spain, Cuba and Austria, all tobacco-growing countries, are becoming customers. But to us of the south all this is not the best or the greatest. On the shelves not only of great importers, but in the shops of small dealers in London, Manchester, Glasgow, and a thousand smaller places, are found American cotton goods. They are popular. The women like them. The washerwomen give them a good character. The dry goods clerk praises them. The public at large prize them. With all these things in our favor, why should we not become an exporting people? Let us extend our exports, and we shall attract immigration. We can draw cotton-spinners from Oldham, cutlers from Sheffield, lace-makers from Nottingham, and merchants from Liverpool, and with all this skilled labor we cannot fail to make goods such as no other country can produce, and we can trade with every nation under heaven. It is time we saw all this, and estimated it at its true worth, for we have never yet prized the privileges we hold as we ought to do. What should we think of the English if they sent their iron ore to Philadelphia, and made of it penknives, razors, steel pens, surgical instruments, and a thousand more things, in Pennsylvania, and herself imported these things, thus made of the iron dug from her own mines? Monstrous, stupid, idiotic, as such conduct would be on the part of the English, it is precisely and exactly the conduct we pursue who live in the south. We do not tear a mineral from the bowels of the earth, it is true, and send it to England for the people there to make our knives, our plowshares, our swords and our steam-boilers for us, but we grow cotton upon the surface of the earth and send it to England for them to make our yarn, and our wives' gowns, and other articles innumerable. We do even worse than this, we send them our cotton to be turned into articles with which they supply five thousand markets that we ought to be supplying ourselves. We have thousands of men among us calling upon God and man for the means of obtaining a living, and we take the raw material upon which they should be employed and send it to a foreign country to give work to the people there. The fact is, we as a nation have, up to this time, failed to recognize the position we occupy in the world. We can make five hundred articles, or produce them, better, or more abundant, than any other people—ought we not then, in those articles, to have a better and a more extensive market in the world than is possessed by any other people? We grow the wheat, and somebody else carries it from our shores—we grow the cotton, and other people take it and make wealth with it in the world's markets. To this great subject the American people must apply all their energies, and no where is this duty as strong as in the south. We must have a vast export trade. We must have swept from the statute book every legal provision, and every item of the tariff, that interferes with our freely, extensively, and profitably carrying on a foreign export trade. It is for us to supply the wants of the nations, and in doing so we shall prosper and become great. To us the emigrants will come in flocks, fill our valleys, tear their mineral wealth from our hills, work our machinery, fashion our wood, and make our metals, engines, utensils and ornaments that will gratify all the peoples of the earth, and win for us their silver and their gold and their rich products of their fields, their forests and their seas. To no part of the United States will all this be a blessing as it will to the cotton States. Their product will find a market from the camp of the Eskimo beside the frozen Arctic to the Kraal of the African in Timbuctoo; it will be the pride of the princess in her assemblies and the comfort of the savage as he rests beside his fire under the forest shade. It is time we recognized, at Memphis, the grand destiny we hold in our hand from manufacturing the cotton our planters grow, and prepare, without delay, to have our full, overflowing share of "the good time coming."

At a meeting of Republicans held at the Union League club rooms, New York city, recently, Dexter A. Hawkins advocated the bill recently brought forward by Judge Hoar, providing that money received from the sale of public lands be devoted to educational purposes and distributed according to the number of the illiterate in each State.

MISSISSIPPI.

A Letter From That State Which Says that the Blacks are Idle, the People are Poor, and the Plantations Running to Weeds.

Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune*: "A letter addressed to a gentleman in this city, whose position brings him great influence in public affairs, gives rather a gloomy view of the condition and prospects of the people of the counties bordering on the Mississippi river, in the State of the same name, from one of which it was written. The address and signature are omitted, at the request of the gentleman who received the letter, which is as follows: 'Your letter was forwarded to me here. As a means of giving you proper insight into the condition of the country, I write again, for you may have the opportunity of so directing both public sentiment and legislation as to ground benefit to this section. The hard times and poor crops along the Mississippi river have reduced all classes to a condition which no one can realize except by coming here. Magnificent estates which formerly yielded fabulous returns are now a mere wreck, and as is the landed property and the land-owners of the country, so may it readily be pictured what the laboring class must be, since the war, each year the negro laborers, with few exceptions, have been growing poorer and poorer, until now there is an actual impoverishment of the whole mass, and they are powerless to cultivate crops and must depend upon others for actual food in the future. Out of one hundred laborers there will not be found five who have teams, wagons and other implements for successful cultivation. I have been here nearly two weeks, right in their midst, with hundreds of them in a radius of six miles, and what I write is from actual observation and thorough scrutiny, and I sadly confess that the great problem as to the black race is yet one difficult of solution, which must test the true statesmanship of the country. The negroes are rage, shoeless, destitute, and worse than all, not desirous of working. By their neglected education during slavery, always directed what to do by their owners, and not thinking for themselves, it could not be expected that freedom would bring in its train intelligence and administrative ability. As a consequence, their ignorance has destroyed the fruit of their labors for years past, and they have been the prey too often of unscrupulous men, who have amassed fortunes at the expense of the negroes who traded with them. The risk has been so great in crediting the negro, that from one hundred to three hundred per cent. has been asked and paid for advances of supplies. As a consequence, the negroes, seeing that they worked hard throughout the year and had nothing at the end, have become demoralized and suspicious of everybody and everything, don't wish to work, and would prefer to sit in the sun or fish all day rather than attempt to work. It is my firm opinion that under present circumstances, if any locality was surrendered to them for a place of residence, without interference from the whites, it would not require five years time to bring the special community into assimilation with the African tribes. For ten days I have been offering steady work at remunerative prices for a dozen laborers, and I have not yet secured them. I have wanted fences built and houses erected, and I cannot find one or even a company of them ready or capable or prepared to do the work. And I have to hunt up a white man to take the contract at one hundred per cent. higher than actual cost, or superintend the matter myself. The women wish to ape the habits of the rich whites. The poor white women have to work as hard as the men. But the majority of the negro men seem determined not to do work in the field, as they formerly did. If a man could get a cabin and an acre or two of ground, it is feasible to live by raising enough vegetables, poultry and a lot of hogs, which are prolific here. But about ten or twelve acres require cultivation for each laborer. The country would grow up in weeds, and the inhabitants would relapse into barbarism. The thrifty and industrious white race has not come forward to replace the other labor. The whites now here, as a general rule, are the sons of the former land-owners, reared in luxury, and without experience in work, nor accustomed to labor, the result of ten years has brought them to nearly the same condition of impoverishment as the black race. Prices of cotton have been steadily dropping each year, but the usurious interest and commissions have not abated. And so the merchants have accumulated the load of debt to the point of probably half the value of the land, and then the mortgage is foreclosed, and the former owner is homeless and destitute. In a stretch of nearly eight miles of splendid cotton land in front of my window this is the record of nearly every plantation formerly producing thousands of dollars of revenue, and now owned by the commission merchant. This a new phase has been introduced. The merchants must do something to make the land available, and a system of absentee landlordism like that of Ireland comes in. Agents must run the land and employ the labor, and each succeeding year will witness the same scene of bare subsistence by the laborer, with not a nickel to store away for old age or sickness. As is the laboring population of a country so must its prosperity rate. If these people are a mere aggregate of ragged serfs, what must be the reflex influence upon the other portions of the country? The ignorance, the immorality, the degradation, must in time react with dreadful results upon the now better educated and more prosperous sections, and in a year of dearth and famine the condition would be, on a smaller scale, like that of North China, where last year ten million people are said to have died. While it is proper that full vindication of law should be insisted upon everywhere, it seems to me that a thorough understanding of the true condition of the laboring classes here might afford the opportunity of directing thought toward such measures as would reclaim this country from its present drift toward serfdom and barbarism. The infusion of new blood saves life in desperate cases, and it is pertinent to suggest that a new class of labor is necessary here, not only to secure future cultivation of the land, but to inspirit and encourage the now nerveless labor, and, by example and association, to elevate the *morale* of the resident population. To develop this, would it not be wise to make the levees along the river, with permission to corporations to construct railways thereupon, and thus bring an influx of hardy and industrious white men here to till the soil? In my judgment this would go far to solve our political and social problem, and the enhanced value of commerce would soon pour back into northern States fortyfold the sums expended on general account. I have intruded upon your valuable time, as I have heretofore done, for the earnest purpose of doing all in my power to advance the common welfare of our people, and I hope will afford you some means of accomplishing it."

THE SOUTH

And the Postal Service—The North and the West Have all the Accommodation they Want, but the South is Left Out in the Cold.

Washington correspondent of the New Orleans *Democrat*: "'Human nature,' said wise Martin Luther, 'is like a drunken peasant on horseback. Prop him up on one side, he falls over on the other.' It has been our duty, several times of late, to impress this lesson of our great reformer on certain of our Democratic friends in congress, who have allowed their zeal for retrenchment in public expenditure to outrun their discretion. In their patriotic anxiety to check the wasteful extravagance of their predecessors, who, between robbery and jobbery, brought the country to the brink of bankruptcy, some of them have 'fallen over on the other side.' A reasonable reduction in public expenditures and retrenchment of wasteful appropriations are desirable and patriotic procedures. But an indiscriminate assault on all appropriations does not constitute economy; nor is retrenchment always a saving to the public. To regard all appropriations for the public service as the western pioneer is said to regard a tree, viz.: as 'a natural enemy,' to be forthwith cut down, is not the hight of true political wisdom. Other calculations than those of economy ought to occupy the mind of a statesman, for that government is not necessarily the best which is the most cheaply administered in its different branches. Let us take to-day, as an example, our postal communication, that great artery by which the thought and business of the country is conducted from its head to its extremities. There is no branch of the government in which the people at large are more directly interested than this, and none where the application of the rigid economy and restriction of its limits attempted by some of our congressmen could be more injurious or unwise, in view of the necessity of its expansion. To an extended and efficient mail service is due, in a large measure, the rapid development of some of the richest and most valuable sections of our country. If we are to continue the march of our progress, its facilities should be increased, not diminished, both by land and by water. Wherever it goes, like Noah's dove, it brings back the olive branch, and peace and prosperity follow in its train. Such men as Wells and Fargo, Holliday and Butterfield, whose sagacity prompted them to offer for and obtain from the government the contract for carrying the mails, where the true pioneers who opened to the east the new world of the Pacific slope. The present value of California and our railway communication with it are the fruits of that wise piece of public lands be devoted to educational purposes and distributed according to the number of the illiterate in each State.

to underrate the old stage lines as too slow to be useful, and to curtail the already insufficient postal accommodations afforded to the more remote and sparsely inhabited portions of our country. The strenuous efforts now being made by some of the southern members of congress to carry their rigid ideas of retrenchment into the postoffice department are as mistaken as they are doubtless patriotic, and if successful will recoil most heavily on that portion of the people whom they specially represent. Have they looked at home and reflected on the peculiar position and needs of their friends and neighbors? Is the argument good, that because the settlements are comparatively few, the population sparse, and the number of letters passing from point to point less than in the more densely populated regions of the north and east, there is less need of mail facilities? It is shown by official documents, and notably in the able and exhaustive reports of Gardiner G. Hubbard, that while the service of the southern States in 1861 comprised ten million nine hundred thousand miles, in 1875 it comprised only eight million three hundred and thirty-four thousand miles. It is also further shown that while the total transportation has been increased nearly thirty per cent. in fourteen years, it has been actually decreased twenty per cent. in the southern States during that time. The total Star service in the southern States to-day is less than in 1861, while for the whole country it is fully fifty per cent. more. We commend these facts and figures to the serious attention of southern members of congress, since they touch the special interests of those they were sent here to represent. Will the pretexts set up for this sectional disparity bear examination? Let us look into them. Sparse settlements and limited correspondence are the chief pleas in extenuation of a gross and glaring disparity between the postal service of the northern and southern sections of the Union, to the advantage of the former and detriment of the latter. Oddly enough, the postoffice department for several successive administrations has been ceded to the south, as witness Postmasters General Blair, Creswell and Key. The value of correspondence to the country at large is to be estimated not by the number of letters sent, but by the comparative importance and value of their contents. Many hundreds of familiar epistles containing family gossip, applications for office, or amatory effusions, can be outweighed by a few lines from a southern planter in a country neighborhood concerning the disposal of his crops, and pages of the rubbish of correspondents to newspapers would kick the beam in the scales against a brief note of a southern factor who has the handling of the planter's coming crop. The cotton and sugar production is upon large and comparatively isolated tracts of land, remote from towns and cities. For stock raising, large and almost boundless plains are requisite, precluding the possibility of large or neighboring settlements. Yet the production and disposition of cotton, sugar, molasses and stock are of immense interest to the producer, and not less so to his correspondents in the southern and northern cities, as well as to his section and the country at large. Take, for instance, a southern planter who plants annually five hundred bales of cotton or three hundred hogsheads of sugar, yet who writes, perhaps, not a dozen letters a year. The few letters he does write, however, represent the value of those articles to the country at large, as well as make or mar the fortunes of his business correspondents who offer his operations are regulated by his advices. Through him and his correspondents, also, his fifty or sixty laborers are supplied from every section of the country with the thousand articles needed for clothing, food and manufacture of the merchantable article of produce. The single planter and his solitary letter may thus represent the wants and wishes of these sixty others, in addition to his own. Yet were each to write singly, the multiplication of the letters would be regarded as an argument in favor of increasing the facilities for prompt, rapid and reliable mail service in that vicinage, which proves the fallacy of the pretext alleged. But a larger view even than this may be taken of the advantages accruing from enlarged postal communication. There is no better educator of the masses, to whom higher institutions are barred, and badly managed common schools in sparsely peopled districts are a delusion and a snare. Be the citizen in these regions white or colored, the mail bag adds more to his mental culture and knowledge of current events than the school can do. After he has mastered the A. B. C. of elementary instructions given him in those schools, the newspaper and even the patent medicine circulars, so liberally circulated by his northern brethren, largely contribute to the number of laborers who read, and educate themselves by reading and reflecting. These are but few out of many proofs that might be adduced to prove our statements. We have confined ourselves to that portion of the government, because it is one that comes most directly home to the great masses of the people, and is outside of the sphere of party politics. It is sectional, inasmuch as it shows that the distribution of the advantages and expenditures of the government discriminate unfairly and unwisely against one section and in favor of the other, under pretexts as frivolous as they are false. For both the facts and the figures prove that the southern share in the distribution of the general expenditure is disproportionately and decreased twelve per cent. in the last fourteen years, while the northern has increased in the same ratio. Is it, therefore, the part of patriotism or of wisdom for southern members to accept fallacies for facts, sophistries for reasoning, and misstatements for *solid* truths? The southern member of congress, whose strict construction ideas and narrow notions of economy lead him to countenance and even urge the continuance of such a disparity, may find himself confronted at home by constituents of a more generous turn of mind. Northern Democrats also ought to see that a people on whom the vials of Radical wrath are now profusely poured because they are 'solid' for the Democratic party, would at least share in the benefits showered on the more favored sections, instead of having their present limited government expenditures within these borders still further crimped and curtailed. Thoroughly Democratic is the great axiom that all governments were instituted for the benefit of the governed, and without intending to be in charge of sectionalism, all public men must admit that the interest of their own particular communities which have invested them with their representative capacity, ought to be nearest their hearts, due regard being had to the common weal. A Congress composed of divers parts all just demands of every section should be listened to and accorded. The same reasoning must apply to the natural demand for more intimate intercommunication with the outside world by postal and commercial communication with countries south of us, through mail facilities with South American ports—a gap in our postal department, which, sooner or later, congress must supply.

VIATOR.

Stewart's Remains Found.

Cincinnati *Inquirer*: "The remains of A. T. Stewart have been in the possession of Judge Hilton eight days. This assurance comes from the attorney of the Stewart estate in this part of the country. Stewart had mills and extensive business interests in this section, and this attorney enjoyed the entire confidence of Stewart, and has been a prominent factor, co-operating with Hilton, in the management of the estate since Stewart's death. My informant states that Stewart's remains have been in possession of Hilton at least eight days. This statement the *Inquirer* can rely upon. Hilton has spent sixteen thousand dollars in the search; the amount of ransom was fifty thousand. The remains are now secreted, their whereabouts being known to less than a score of persons. There will be no prosecution, and the names of the guilty parties, three in number, will probably never be given to the public. Mr. Hilton has been in negotiation for the return of the remains for five weeks. He does not himself know who the resurrectionists are. The ransom money was paid to a legal firm. The lawyers produced the plate that was wrenched from the coffin as preliminary proof, and gave Mr. Hilton complete details of the desecration. Hilton was greatly annoyed at the refusal of the lawyers to divulge the names, but finally came to terms. The remains will remain secreted until the mausoleum is completed on Long Island."

Caleb Cushing.

The late Caleb Cushing is said, besides his serious studies, to have read more novels of every sort than any man of his time. He read them in English, French, German and Spanish, though French novels were his favorites, especially those produced during the long reign of Louis XIV. He has devoured most of the Gallic fiction lying between the interminable times of Mme. de Sandeau and the ideally-elegant social pictures of Mme. de Lafayette, down to the works of Balzac, George Sand, Souhle, Karr, Musset, Gautier, Souvestre, Feval, Murger, Champfleury, Feydeau, Flaubert, Dumas, Hugo, and all the rest. It is said that he could remember long passages from Duclos, Prevost and Sade; could recall the plots and incidents and name the characters of hundreds of romances which he had not opened for twenty-five years. One of his associates has expressed the opinion that he must have devoured at least five thousand novels, as he could master one of ordinary size in three or four hours, and has been known to get through with a dozen a week as mere recreation in his strictly intellectual labors. It is odd that a man who had such taste for dry statistics and prosaic facts, for such writers Spalger, Grotius, Puffendorff and Niebhuhr should have taken delight in *La Sophie* and *Le Payzen Parcesue*. But Cushing was full of opposites and inconsistencies, though in all his variations and tergiversations he was undeviatingly loyal to his conception of self-interest.

GREENBRIER, for medicinal purposes, cannot be equaled.

ALABAMA

And the Election of Presidential Electors—A Threat of Coercion from a Leading Republican Organ—Conformity Demanded.

New York *Times* (editorial): "The committee on foreign relations of the sovereign State of Alabama has just been intrusted with a delicate and important duty. It is to devise a method by which the participation by that State in the election of a President of the United States can be so conducted that the alien government of the Federal Union and its citizens shall be kept in the dark as to any peculiarities in the process. Alabama is a very jealous State, not less so than when it threw the ægis of its legislation over a community of slaveholders, offered a reward for the kidnapping of Mr. Garrison, and drove Mr. Birney out of the State, because these gentlemen dared to question the morality of the institution. If any of our readers are not quite prepared to believe that the Alabama senate regards the laws of the United States as a proper subject for consideration by its committee on foreign relations, here are the preamble and resolution which attest the fact, adopted on Wednesday, the fifth-teenth inst.:

"'WHEREAS, Interference by officers of the United States in popular elections is justly regarded by the people of this State as an evil of great magnitude; and, whereas, the manifest purpose of such interference, in part, at least, is to influence and control the action of the State in selecting electors for President and Vice President of the United States; therefore,

"'*Resolved*, That the committee on foreign relations be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the selection of electors for President and Vice President by the general assembly until the acts of congress authorizing interference by Federal authority are repealed,'

"The acts of congress referred to have two objects; one, to enable a representative of the United States government from each political party to watch the registration, voting and canvassing at any election for representatives in congress, and to transmit a report of what they may see to congress; the other, to authorize such representatives to secure the arrest and trial of persons who, at any stage of such election, may violate the laws of the United States. This is the sum and substance of the acts. They are impartial as between rival parties. They confer no arbitrary or unconstitutional powers. The authority they give is strictly defined. The offenses they provide against are violations of the free right of lawful suffrage, which is the basis of our institutions. The officers whose appointment they direct are named by the judges of the United States courts, conceded to be equal in fairness and integrity to any judiciary in the world, and these officers are held, from first to last, within the control of these judges. The main purpose of the law, perfectly observed in all its provisions, is to throw light on the process of election, and to prevent evil-disposed persons, of whatever party, or for whatever end, from voting illegally, from preventing a legal voter from voting, or from destroying by fraudulent counting the effect of legal votes. This is what the senate of Alabama calls 'interference by officers of the United States in popular elections,' and which it declares is 'justly regarded by the people of that State as an evil of great magnitude.' To avoid, therefore, the scrutiny which the laws of the United States provide shall be exercised in federal elections, the Alabama senate proposes to go back to the old scheme of choosing Presidential electors by the legislature. It is the clear right of the State to do so. If the committee on foreign relations report favorably, and the measure becomes a law, and if then the elections to the legislature are held entirely separate from the congressional elections, the thing can be done. The people of the United States, through their government, are as powerless to interfere to prevent any fraud or wrong that may in this way be accomplished as if their relations with Alabama were as 'foreign' as the resolution of its senate implies. The Democrats of Alabama might, by red-shirted raiders, by intimidation, assassination, by the use of union-shin ballots, by fraudulent counting, and by all the tricks with which their curious notions of Democracy are in harmony, practically disfranchise their Republican fellow-citizens, and the United States would have less redress than the empire of Germany, should Alabamians perpetrate similar outrages on its citizens. This is one of the beauties of our constitution, which, in the ninety-first year of its age, is as antiquated in some of its main features, as was unlitted to protect the rights of those who live under it, as though it were derived through the *Koran* from Mohammed. But such action by the legislature of Alabama might have ultimate effects quite different from its immediate ones, or from those designed by its originators. The United States is not a nation foreign to the little community of bigoted and unscrupulous partisans which chooses to so designate it. The constitution, however clumsy it may be in parts, is, after all, the charter of popular rights, and though it may yield slowly to the force of public opinion, it does yield when public opinion is strong enough and firm enough. No State can with impunity deliberately carry out a purpose to deprive the people of the country of the right which is theirs, that in every State all duly qualified voters shall be allowed, if they wish, to take part in Federal elections, and to have full and fair effect for their votes. A question very similar to this was settled by the war. Before the war the south sought to set up a substantial oligarchy—the rule of a minority. It sought to wield with the same severity the rod which bore undisputed sway at home throughout the Union. The election of Mr. Lincoln was the response of the country to that resolve, and the conquest of the rebellion was the conclusion of the arbitrament of force to which the south resorted. The spirit which produced both results may be so patient and so calm that the senate of Alabama thinks it is dead. But it is not dead. Every rash and insolent act, such as that we have recorded, challenges it to renewed life and activity. It is only necessary for the foolish men who are now again challenging it to go far enough, to find that it is as strong, as firm, and as efficient as it ever was."

SOUTHERN NEWS.

Winona, Mississippi, has a portable barber-shop.

The Lowndes county, Mississippi, jail was burned down Christmas day.

There are seventy-three weekly and eight daily newspapers published in Arkansas.

Mr. John Prewett, editor of the Marianna (Ark.) *Index*, died of typhoid-pneumonia on the ninth instant.

The Winona (Miss.) *Advance*, of the seventeenth, gives a quarter of a column to the discussion of hard times.

The Knoxville *Republican* is the name of a new paper lately started at Knoxville, this State, in opposition to the *Chronicle* of that city.

The county in which Clarksville is situated pays its superintendent of public schools the liberal salary of two hundred dollars per annum.

A Breathitt county, Kentucky, wife murderer, whose arrest was the occasion of recent bloody riots in that section, is now in jail at Lexington awaiting trial.

A Meridian, Texas, man lately whipped his ten-year-old daughter until she fell down, and when she arose he kicked her in the pit of the stomach, killing her instantly.

The Mississippi Press association are contemplating the erection of a monument to the late Colonel W. J. L. Holland, who died of fever at Holly Springs during the epidemic.

A thief stole all the altar decorations and money from the alms-box in All Saint's church, in Grenada, recently, and twenty-five dollars reward is offered for his arrest by the church authorities.

Brownsville (Tenn.) *States*, 16th: "It is only a little more than three weeks since Christmas, and yet all the country editors who exchange with us announce that they are again nearly sober."

There are twenty-five national banks in Tennessee, capital, $5,080,800; dividends last year, $142,480; ratio of dividends to capital, 4.92 per cent. These figures are from the annual report of the comptroller of the currency.

Miss Huth M'Alexander shot five times at a tramp one night recently in Jackson, Tennessee. The rascal tried to enter the house against her wishes, but he left in greater haste when she presented her compliments in the shape of pistol balls.

Raymond (Miss.) *Gazette*: "We are told that plenty of meat, molasses and corn have been raised the past year, but the same gentleman says starvation is staring hundreds in the face. How is this? Who made the products and how are they to be utilized?"

Shelbyville (Tenn.) *Gazette*: "Mr. S. A. Glenn, for a number of years a citizen of this place, but who removed to the eighteenth district of this county some month ago, committed suicide at his home in that district last Tuesday morning by cutting his throat with a razor."

Little Rock *Gazette*, 17th: "A young man named Martin Filpot was arrested by Chief Counts yesterday, upon authority of a telegram from Sheriff Clayton, of Jefferson county. The telegram set forth that Filpot had killed a negro man named Bob Dedrick."

Oxford (Miss.) *Falcon*, 16th: "Harrison Pags, the negro desperado and murderer of Dr. Buck, sheriff of Claiborne county, was arrested a few days ago at Edwards depot. Mr. Birdsong, who made the arrest, took Page to the penitentiary at Jackson for safe keeping. Mr. Birdsong will get five thousand dollars for making the arrest."

Covington (Tenn.) *Record*, 17th: "Rev. Luke Roane, an Ethiopian by nature and a hardshell Baptist by profession, imbibed too much Jersey lightning, fell from grace, was arrested and locked up, broke the calaboose stove and attempted suicide, all in the short space of one day."

The Wittsburg (Ark.) *Chronicle* says that a difficulty occurred near that place between James Pate and Rev. John Hall, a Campbellite preacher, in which Pate called Hall a —— liar, whereupon Hall stabbed him with a knife, inflicting probably a fatal wound. Hall left for parts unknown.

Nashville *Banner*, 17th: "Mr. John B. Lillard, the secretary of the Historical society committee, yesterday invited the States of North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Kentucky, through their governors and historical societies, to take part in the celebration of the centennial of Kings mountain, in October, 1880."

At Shelbyville, Tennessee, last Sunday, a daughter of Jown W. Cowan, a prominent and retired merchant of that place, administered strychnine to him instead of quinine, which resulted in his death that afternoon. He had been accustomed to use quinine as a tonic, and his daughter through mistake gave him a large dose of strychnine.

The spot of ground on which General M'Pherson fell and died has been purchased by the officers of General Ruger's staff, at Atlanta, and is marked by a twenty-four-pounder, surmounted by a shell and fenced in by a gunbarrel fence. The spot has been allowed to remain just as it was, and avenues have been made leading to the place.

Vicksburg (Miss.) *Herald*, 16th: "Unacclimated individuals who fondly dream that the river channel will be restored to its former course around the island and in front of the city might as well dispel that illusion and make up their minds to accept the inevitable. If we can keep the river as near to us as it is now, we shall have reason to be thankful."

Governor Baxter, in the Little Rock *Daily Democrat*, of the ninth instant, publishes a card to the public in which he says that neither his self-respect nor his sense of propriety will permit him to prolong a controversy with a man who has been "stigmatized" as Colonel Gause had been by him, and who had failed to demand satisfaction.

The Shreveport *Times* reports Miss Pomeroy and Miss Willis as resting well and improving somewhat. The amateurs of Shreveport have decided upon a performance for the benefit of the disabled actress and her company. The play of *Led Astray* is in active rehearsal, and will be produced at an early date, when an overflowing house may be expected.

Monticello (Ark.) *Monticellonian*, 14th: "While on the bayou, in Ashley county, last week, we learned the following sad particulars: A white man and negro boy were camped on Big bayou, on their way out from the Mississippi river, and during the night, while they were both sound asleep, a tree fell on them killing the negro instantly, and at our last information the white man was not expected to survive."

Oxford (Miss.) *Falcon*, 16th: "A difficulty occurred last week near Columbus, Mississippi, between Hon. A. J. Ervin, representative of Lowndes county, and a Mr. James Cox, in which Captain Ervin was badly cut with a knife, Cox receiving several flesh wounds, painful but not dangerous. Captain Ervin's condition is critical, but his friends hope for the best."

A. M'Rae and B. D. Ladd, of South Pittsburg, have been awarded the contract for building arched gateways at the national cemeteries in Chattanooga and Vicksburg, Mississippi, according to the Chattanooga *News*. The gateway at Chattanooga will cost six thousand and six hundred dollars, the other seven hundred dollars. The stone to be used is obtained at Courtland, Alabama, and is said to be of very superior quality.

The Carrollton (Miss.) *Conservative*, of the twenty first ultimo, says that William Fritsch, who had been teaching school in that county for two years, was found on the roadside, two and a half miles northwest from Carrollton, on the nineteenth, in a dying condition. The only audible remark made when found was: "My God! Am I going to die in this condition?" From the fact that an empty whisky bottle, and an ounce phial labelled laudanum were found near him, the coroner's jury rend