

Christmas-Day.

It is customary in this free land of ours to give the employees of the country printing office the benefit of the last week of the dying year, and as all hands must have rest, we shall not depart from the rule. Consequently no paper will issue from this establishment until after the holidays. In this connection we may offer a word to the reader: Much has been accomplished during the year for which we should all feel thankful, while some things have happened only to be remembered with regret.—It is the same old story—alternate hill and valley, cloud and sunshine, sterile wastes and fields of living green, sins, both of omission, and of commission, good deeds and bad ones. But we have no right to indulge in unpleasant recollections of the past and should deal with it only to accept that which has seemed good, rejecting the bad—and exercising at all times the beautiful christian attribute which teaches us to forgive and forget. The active, living present is all we have to contend with. As for the future—"sufficient unto the day will be the evil thereof." Of this much we may be positive. As the new year breaks upon us let the good resolutions formed twelve months ago be renewed and taking for our precept the golden rule of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, set out to accomplish whatever we can for the advancement of the human family in the scale of happiness and prosperity. With these remarks we take leave of our readers for the present year, with the trust that its closing hour will find them surrounded by substantial blessings, and that they may be prepared to enter upon the duties of the new one, to battle cheerfully and manfully with its trials, vicissitudes and temptations, and with consciences void of offense toward God and their fellow-man.

It is our aim to re-dress the Post at an early day. In order to do this, and to pay whatever debts we have contracted through the expiring year, we must collect the subscriptions and other accounts due the office. There are several thousand dollars on the office books much of which is owing by men who are abundantly able to pay—and some of it for work and labor done years ago. Yet these men pass and repass without ever hinting at settlement, while others, who do not handle one-tenth the money, call and discharge their indebtedness promptly. If it is true of the countries beyond the great deep, where kings and emperors hold sway and the voice of one man gives law to millions, that the dregs form the lower strata of society, here, in this land of free and equal rights, gravitation is reversed and the dregs and lazaroni float on the surface, and worth, substance, and honesty thread the humble, unobtrusive walks of life. Another remark: Among the names upon our subscription book are to be found a good number of Republicans. It is but justice to state that these, with rarely an exception, pay their subscriptions punctually, while many of "our own people," who have had the advantage of our poor abilities for years and who would think it a great misfortune to be without a "party paper," though it should be no better than ours, never offer to pay. But we have, perhaps, said enough on the subject. We have penned many a dun, but seldom before a complaint. We never intend to again. We have endured with patience and long-suffering, and we know a way to rid ourself of such troubles in future, and with the New Year will adopt a new system. We are too high-strung to chafe men about for what they owe us, and we hope that all who are in arrears will respond promptly to this notice, that we may be enabled to go forward with a light heart and an unembarrassed front to meet whatever tribulations Eighteen Seventy-Five may have in store for us. But if they don't—if delinquents persist in being delinquents—we shall promptly hand them over to the terrors of the law and to condemnation, and may the Lord have mercy on their souls.

Gold—Bonds—Cotton.

Gold, in New York 111½ a 111½. Tennessee Bonds 79 for old and 78 for new. Cotton 14½ for middling upland.

Fire at Murfreesboro.

From a private letter from Murfreesboro we learn that the office of the Monitor, published there, was destroyed by fire on Monday night. Another handsome building was also destroyed.

Louisiana.

The Louisiana returning board, it is said, has so far progressed in the canvass of the votes as to give a Democratic majority of fifteen in the Lower House, which, it is thought, will be increased to twenty-five.

State Treasurer.

N. P. Hight of Sweetwater, publishes a Card in the Enterprise of that town announcing himself as a candidate before the Legislature for the office of Treasurer of the State. Mr. Hight is a gentleman well qualified to fill the position with honor to himself and credit to the State.

Communication.

S. P. Ivins:—Two communications, one in the Post of the 18th instant, over the signature of "McMinn" and the other in the Press and Herald of the 19th instant over the signature "H." have attracted my attention; upon both of which I wish to make a few remarks. "McMinn" would seem to be desirous of reviving the old party division of Whig and Democrat. Now if "McMinn" would only look back to the time when the white population of the State were emancipated, after the late unpleasantness, he would see that ever since then, the Conservatives of lower East Tennessee have entirely ignored those ante bellum party divisions and have given all the important offices in their gift to old line Democrats, not because they had been Democrats, but because they were honest, capable, faithful to the constitution, and in every way worthy of the offices to which they were elected. Key Chancellor, Hoyl Circuit Judge, and Blizard Senator. My advice then to "McMinn," and all others who desire the overthrow of the Radical party is not to stop to enquire to which of the old parties the aspirant to office belonged, but is he qualified as before stated, and does he agree with us upon the present issues before the country.

Now a few words upon "H." He very truly says that in ante bellum times, though occasionally departed from, the rule was to divide the offices among the various divisions of the State; but I would request "H." and the members of the Legislature, to review the history of the State from its first organization up to the present time, and tell me whether the lower half of East Tennessee from Knoxville to the Georgia line, in all the offices to which it was conceded that all East Tennessee, by courtesy, was entitled to, has not been entirely ignored as a part of the State? All the Governors, all the Supreme Judges of the State, all the Foreign Ministers, all the Federal Judges, and all the United States Senators who have been selected from East Tennessee, have been taken from upper East Tennessee, none from below Knoxville. It is true that the Hon. Spencer Jarnagin, at the time he was elected to the U. S. Senate, was living in Athens, but he had only recently removed there from Knoxville, and soon after he left the Senate, removed to Memphis, and never was looked upon as a lower East Tennessean.

I do not wish to be understood as desiring the Legislature to confine itself to East Tennessee in selecting a U. S. Senator, nor do I desire it to restrict itself to any particular locality of the State, but I do desire that, if it should conclude to select a Senator from East Tennessee, it will not again as always heretofore ignore lower East Tennessee as a part of the State; and if not, several gentlemen could be found who could discharge the duties of the position with credit to themselves and to the honor and benefit of the country.

Again, I do not desire that the Legislature should be restricted to a selection from the distinguished gentlemen who by themselves, or by their especial friends have been announced as candidates, or as worthy of the position, for in my own section of the State, in addition to Chancellor Key, and from a long and intimate acquaintance with him I can, and do cordially endorse every thing said of him by "McMinn," there are James B. Cooke, Esq., P. B. Mayfield Esq., and others who are peers of the gentlemen now canvassing for the Senatorship.

Now is the Time to Take Papers.

Congress is in session and our State Legislature soon will be. Every family in the State should take a newspaper. Those who are not taking the Post should send in their names and money; and those who are taking it should renew their subscriptions before they expire.

Come on, friends, at once. We wish to put on a new outfit and otherwise improve the paper. Now is the time to subscribe! Many are coming in, but we have room for thousands more. If not convenient to come in person, send by your neighbors, or forward by Express, by P. O. Order or in registered letter.

The Fourth District

The Democratic Congressional Convention of the Fourth Congressional District nominated Judge Samuel M. Fite, of Carthage, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. John W. Head. The Nashville Union and American says Judge Fite's nomination gives very general satisfaction, and that he is good for at least ten thousand majority over any Republican that may be put upon the track. It is, however, understood the Republicans will save their money and breath by declining to make any contest. So Judge Fite will walk over the course.

Mississippi.

A proclamation from the President dated on the 21st, commands all disorderly persons in Warren county, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, to retire to their homes and abstain from forcible resistance to law and—submit themselves to the lawful authority of that county and State.

A fee of \$5,000 was paid to the officiating bishop at a recent San Francisco wedding.

The Interest Law.

One of the important questions that will engage the attention of our incoming Legislature at an early part of the session will be the rate of interest and as one of Col. Blizard's constituents take this occasion to call his attention to the fact, that though ten per cent. is the extreme maximum limit of interest allowed by law, yet Banks openly loan money, (or discount it, as they call it, which is too palpably only an evasion) at from twelve to twenty per cent.

Now, sir, if our individual citizens are only allowed to charge seven per cent. of interest, then it is only too plain that it is wholly wrong and unjust to permit Banks or any other corporation to dispose of their money under any pretense, or by any scheme of evasion or subterfuge at a greater per cent. I admit, however, that when man or combination of men regard law or obligation only for the penalty that it imposes, and falls into the too popular idea, that a man is a man in proportion to the dollars he owns, that it is exceedingly hard to restrain them from evading laws that stand in the way of their money making, but apply the rules of the old adage that "desperate diseases require desperate remedies." If in no other way, let the loaning of money for a greater per cent. than allowed by law, forfeit the whole amount to the State for educational purposes, and I assure you that all the money in the country would not have to pass into the vaults of our Banks before men who need its use could get it.

I shall take the liberty to call your attention to the subject of local or State money, hereafter. TOMUNTER.

Plain Truths Plainly Told.

Washington Republican: The country is looking for relief of some sort to Congress—looking for a solution of the grave difficulties and dangers that beset it. The people are in a temper to be trifled with. Gentlemen, there are ninety thousand men in the State of Massachusetts who are on the verge of starvation; there are seventy thousand men in the city of New York alone who do not know where they can get their suppers to-night; there are hundreds of thousands of men in Pennsylvania who are almost threatening bread riots. The wheels of the mills have been stopped; the ships are tied to the wharves; merchants are on the verge of bankruptcy; there is not a man in any rank or class of life, except among the capitalists who have grown rich by your legislation, who is not in worse circumstances now than he has been at any time for fourteen years. They look to you for relief and assistance. It may not be in your power to give it, but, in the name of humanity, make the effort. In the present condition of the country you have no right to a holiday recess. You are paid by the people to attend to their interests, and it is a crime upon your part to take nearly two weeks out of a short session of seventy or eighty days, and squander time which you cannot recall. You have work to do, plenty of it. There are the appropriation bills; you can pass one or all of them. And there is that message of the President, and the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury, suggesting the ways and means whereby you may restore something like prosperity to the country. Let us know what, at least, you think about them. Republicans and Democrats, can you go home and see and face the misery and poverty and distress of your starving constituents, who look to you for relief?

Reputation in Two Forms.

Courier-Journal: A small fragment of the people favor the repudiation of the national obligations to the extent of making Government bonds payable in paper instead of coin, and another class favor repudiation to the extent of making Government notes payable in bonds instead of coin. The latter class comprises the Eastern capitalists and bondholders especially, who are strangely ignorant of the fact that when they advocate the annulment of the legal tender property of greenbacks before they are payable on demand, in order to force holders to exchange them for Government bonds at lowest interest, they propose a greater breach of faith than the bond repudiators, greenbacks were recognized from the first as a Government promise to pay coin, but the Radical Congress was not committed to a like construction of the public obligations on 5-20's, until the latter had been transferred to purchasers. This defect has since been healed at a vast loss to the country, and the legal obligation is now complete; but what is the difference in the merits of a policy which would force bondholders to receive pay in greenbacks and a policy which would force greenback holders to take pay in bonds? The proposition to repeal the legal-tender law involves compulsion to exchange greenbacks for the proposed bonds, though the holders should be mocked with a sham option to hold of fund them as they may prefer.

The construction of the Panama Railroad cost eighty-one thousand human lives—a death-rate equal to one man per yard of the track.

Silence is the softest response for all the contradictions that arise from impertinence vulgarity and envy.

What We Pay For Crime

Nashville Union and American: The costs of criminal prosecutions to the people of this State for the year 1873, ranged up toward a quarter of a million of dollars. These expenses might be largely reduced by mere uniformity in the making out of bills, and further important reductions ought to be effected through changes in the law, where it plainly leads to extravagance. The diversities of construction and practice in the different courts is surprising. Take, for instance, the item of "turnkeys." Some judges allow the jailer fifty cents, for bringing a prisoner to court in the morning, and fifty more for returning him to jail at night. Others rule that the jailer shall have fifty cents for every time a prisoner passes in or out, during trial. There is a similar diversity of practice about what constitutes a day's board, some courts allowing a full day's pay if the prisoner take only one meal, or being jailed late at night is released next morning after breakfast.

The criminal expenses of 1873 have been itemized as follows: Ordinary, \$122,870; jail fees, exclusive of Davidson and Shelby, \$51,497; Davidson jail fees, \$11,658; Shelby jail fees \$20,997; bringing convicts to the penitentiary, \$10,122, making an aggregate of \$217,144. In the matter of bringing convicts to Nashville, there have, in the past, been many gross abuses in the way of extra unnecessary guards and overcharges for mileage. In May, 1873, for instance, a sheriff claimed pay and mileage as guards for his three sons who come here to see the Exposition on half fare tickets no doubt. The ages of these three boys were twelve, fourteen and sixteen respectively, though the law says distinctly that guards shall not be under eighteen. Of course they did not get any pay from the present State officials.

Under any law, however bad, the courts of the State should endeavor to reach something more like uniformity in bills of costs. For this purpose, as well as to discuss any changes in the law that might seem desirable, a convention, comprising a large number of the most prominent Judges and Attorneys-General throughout the State, met in this city last January, and devoted three days of earnest attention to the subject. In view of the early meeting of the Legislature a brief review of their proceedings and conclusions may prove interesting reading to members elect and the people at large.

A committee appointed to investigate what would be a proper distribution of criminal costs, between State and county, submitted a lengthy report on the second day of the session. The committee was composed of Messrs. Hicker-son, Fussell, Williamson, Fite, Frazier, Caldwell and Newton Hacker. We cannot, of course, detail here all the changes proposed, as few but lawyers would understand all their bearings. The most salient ones were the proposed dispensing with the issuance of *se i fa*, where forfeiture is taken on a bond; allowing juries to separate during trial, so as to avoid heavy hotel bills; that exempted property shall be liable for legal costs, the same as for taxes; that all prisoners convicted of felonies not capital, should be made to work out the costs of their prosecution at such pay per day as the Legislature may specify; that every county jail in the State should be declared a work-house, under the provisions of existing law, so that the inmates may be set to work and save at least \$80,000 a year now spent in feeding idle prisoners.

The discussion preceding the adoption of the report led to strong remarks regarding the abuse by magistrates of their power to assess cost against the State, one member asserting that the expenses of a Justice's court would often run a full Circuit Court.

Col. Wm H. Stephens.

This gentleman in a speech at Jackson, West Tennessee, on the 19th inst, formally announced himself as a candidate for the United States Senatorship. The Whig and Tribune in referring to this fact says: Col. Stephens has a deep and lasting hold upon the affections of the people of West Tennessee, and has many select admirers and friends in all parts of the State. His presentation of his claims will be able, and no matter what the result of his candidacy may be, it will be freely admitted by all that he is eminently worthy of the highest honor in the gift of the legislature of Tennessee.

Richard C. Parsons, Republican Congressman from the Twentieth Ohio District, assured the House that no Congress had received, to his knowledge, any of the Pacific Mail bribe money. Confronted by Randall, he confessed that he received some himself, before he became a member. It turns out, however, that he was Marshal of the Federal Supreme Court at the time. An officer of the highest judiciary in the land, confessing that he was a paid lobbyist, makes it just a bit worse than an ordinary Congressman.

The Chronicle says: A rattle-snake passed over the E. T. & Ga. R. R., by mail, from Georgia to New York, the other day, which was three feet and six inches long. They say it was carefully handled.

Congressional.

The finance bill, agreed to by the Senate Republican caucus in its leading features are substantially as follows:

First—Free banking, to be open to all individuals and associations without limitation of capital.
Second—The retiring of an amount of greenbacks equal to 80 per cent. of the amount of new national notes issued, until the greenback circulation shall be reduced to \$300,000,000, after which no further reduction of greenbacks is to take place. It is claimed that by this provision there will be neither expansion nor contraction of the currency, as about 20 per cent is now required as bank reserves.
Third—The withdrawal and destruction of the fractional currency and the substitution of silver coin. This arrangement is to go into effect as soon as practicable, within the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, who is authorized to use the surplus money for supplying silver coin and if this is not sufficient, to sell the requisite amount of bonds of the new series to obtain funds for that purpose.

Fourth—Removing the cost for the coinage of gold at the several mints.
Fifth—The resumption of specie payments, to commence on the 1st day of January, 1875. The Secretary is authorized to use the surplus specie in the Treasury, but if that is not sufficient, to sell bonds in order to obtain gold to pay the Treasury notes. But this last provision does not, like the others, go into immediate effect.

The legal tender act remains undisturbed. The bill was agreed to almost unanimously by the caucus, there being only four members dissenting. This unanimity insures the passage of the bill by the Senate, and it will, (it is thought by the Senators) pass the House of Representatives by a respectable majority. In this case no doubt is entertained that it will receive the approval of the President, as it is in accordance with his recent recommendation to Congress.

It is said that so much of the fractional currency is mutilated and lost (as much as four per cent. annually) that silver can take its place without any inconvenience to the public. The Government is able to purchase and coin silver at a profit, and can at an early period effect the substitution.

The Secretary of the Treasury says the estimate of the director of the mint shows a gain in specie and bullion in the last two fiscal years of about \$38,000,000. The stock of specie in the country is said to be about \$166,000,000. This, in connection with the annual production (about \$70,000,000) of precious metals, affords encouragement that a stock of coin may, within a reasonable time and with favorable legislation, be accumulated to an extent sufficient to enable the resumption of specie payment.

Prominent Republican members of the House say that the House will pass any financial bill that may be adopted by the Senate; and the opinion grows that the majority in both branches will put through some bill as a party measure to save the organization. It is said every Republican Senator is pledged to support the bill agreed on in the caucus. This bill involves no direct contraction.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Republican Senators held a caucus this afternoon, at the solicitation of the Southern Republican Senators and Representatives, at which the condition of the South was considered.

Senators from the South advocated the sending of troops to several of the States of that section. They feared that the Republican party was hopelessly dead unless decisive steps were taken during the present session to put down the turbulent whites. They confessed their inability to poll white votes. The Northern Senators did not endorse the proposition, and some of them openly interfered with the affairs of the South, saying they had lost many votes in the North by it.

Senator Lewis, of Virginia, declared that the Republican party had lost power in the South because of the bad character of many of its would-be teachers, and the advocacy of the civil rights bill, which he considered a most iniquitous measure. The South could only be carried for the Republican party, as at present organized, by sending soldiers enough there to prevent the people from voting.

The majority evidently agreed with him, as before a vote was taken many Senators left the room, and Senator Morton, who was relied upon by the extreme Republicans, did not come to their relief.

Pacific Mail Steamer Burned.

HONG KONG, Dec. 19.—The Pacific Mail Company's steamship Japan from San Francisco and Yokohama for this port, was burned Thursday last when sixty miles out from Yokohama. A few of the crew and passengers have arrived here. It is feared that many lives have been lost.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The following dispatch has been received from Washington at the office of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. "The State department has a dispatch that the Japan was burned at sea, near Hong Kong, with a fearful loss of life and the mail." The Japan left San Francisco, Nov. 14, arriving at Yokohama Dec. 10, and sailed thence on the 12th for Hong Kong, with three cabin passengers and 424 Chinese in the steerage. The steamer left San Francisco with 937 tons freight and \$375,000 in treasure.

HONG KONG, Dec. 21.—The captain and several of the crew and passengers of the Japan have arrived. The following are unheard from: R. M. Quindell, cabin passenger, Surgeon Gale, and several of the crew and four hundred Chinese. The fire occurred a hundred and fifty miles from Hong Kong. The mails were lost.

Rape at Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—A negro committed an indescribable assault upon the twelve year old daughter of a United States Judge. The brute assisted himself with a knife. There is some hope that the child will not die.

A subsequent dispatch says the negro has been held in \$20,000 bail. There is a prospect of the girl's recovery.

The Temper of the Coming Legislature.

In a few weeks the new Legislature of Tennessee will assemble at the capitol. Our Senators and Representatives come directly from their constituencies, and it is supposed that they are conversant with the wishes and the wants of the people. The most careless observer cannot but perceive that the hardships of the country, arising from general causes, have been intensified by local disasters here in Tennessee. The past year has been one of disappointment to the agricultural class of the State, and when this great creator of all real values suffers, there can be no prosperity anywhere throughout the entire industrial and commercial system.—The people are poor, taxes are heavy, and the pledges of the Democratic Convention held at Nashville, in August last, must not be trifled with or forgotten. Retrenchment in all the departments of the State Government—legal reforms wherever they can be effected without endangering the public peace and the administration of justice between man and man—rigid economy in all things—and no increase on the present rate of taxation—these were the salient points of the platform on which Gov. Porter was borne into office by a majority of which he has a right to be proud, and it will be ill for that party and for the Legislature if they are not kept steadily and faithfully in view.

At the same time we recognize the fact that the good faith of the State is a matter of infinite importance and that it is to be preserved. In the face of sore temptation the people of Tennessee have turned their backs upon those who have counseled repudiation in any guise. The lure was a dangerous one, but bad as the disease was known to be, the remedy seemed worse, and besides, was repugnant to the instincts of the State. We are a covenant-keeping people, but we cannot afford to be sentimental at such a time as this. We have assumed a heavy debt, which was imposed upon us by others, and in view of the distress that now prevails in many portions, in fact in all portions of Tennessee, our creditors must not be clamorous or exacting. We have confidence in our representatives; believe that they know the nature of the emergency they will have to meet, and therefore leave its solution to them.

Newspaper Borrowers.

The Nashville Banner has an article on newspaper borrowers from which we extract:

There are small villages in the South where a single daily newspaper is read, perhaps, by almost the entire male portion of that community. In Southern cities, even there, are scores of people who get daily news as lunch-punishers get their square meals, i. e. thrown in with the drink, which they purchase on long time, or obtain, through the liberality of some free-handed acquaintance who "stands treat." There are numbers of able bodied creatures, who get their daily intellectual pabulum and telegraphic news free at barber shops and in beer saloons, and there have been instances where borrowers would even borrow a paper from a news boy to read only the telegraphic headlines, and return it without even thanks for the time wasted.

A newspaper can hardly be published in any community without benefit to every individual member of that community. If it is not intellectually beneficial to readers, it is materially beneficial to the town, as its representative and spokesman abroad—the apt and brief chronicler of its commerce and progress. In like manner the commonwealth at large derives benefit from the foreign and home circulation of its leading newspapers. It is to the interest of every inhabitant that it should thrive and prosper. No more accurate barometer is furnished of the material, commercial and intellectual progress of the State, or of its cities and towns than these daily and weekly messengers. It is short-sighted economy to beg a reduction of expenditures with the cutting off the insignificant annual outlay of one's newspaper subscription. The individual or family must be poor indeed that cannot take a newspaper. A town, a city or a State are judged by the appearance of their newspapers. People who have never seen the town, city or State may see their newspapers. Indeed they generally see them first, and judge of the character of their places accordingly. And if Southern newspapers do not present as healthful an appearance as their Northern contemporaries, the cause is to be attributed, in a great measure, to the noble army of newspaper borrowers.

Ye Jour Printer on his Travels.

Those who have known anything of "jour printers" will recognize this picture, delineated by a Kansas City newspaper: "He was just in from Indianapolis this time. Things are in a bad way there—half rats and half union men. When he struck Indianapolis he had wealth—a cool hundred; but he set 'em up for the boys and got broke. Chicago was a good town, but there was a fearful mob there; he could not stand it. St. Louis 'bout played out, and there's going to be a strike, so he hopped out. Bought a half-fare ticket to Atebison, but the rooster that did the punchin' wouldn't have it. Believe he'd skip to Kansas City and stir up the boys, and then go over to the Pacific slope. 'Say, ain't there a freight West? Give us a chew tobacco. Well, so long, boys.' And he was gone."

The essence of true nobility is neglect of self. Let the thought of self pass in, and the beauty of a great action is gone, like the bloom from a soiled flower.

Gen. Stuart, the engineer who made the recent railroad survey from Knoxville to Ducktown, is in Cincinnati in the interest of the enterprise.

The Chicago Tribune, a Republican paper, admits that Governor Ames is responsible for all the blood shed in Mississippi.

A tree was sawed into lumber in Somerset county, Pa., recently, yielding 4,080 feet.

Count Von Arnim has been sentenced to three months imprisonment.