Wilmington Journal

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1875.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

Fifteenth Day's Proceedings.

From the Raleigh News.

RALEIGH, September 22th.

Symth, col., arose to a question of personal privilege, in regard to the *News* Reporter styling him "colored," stating that he should hereafter treat that Reporter with dignified indifference.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Bennett, an ordinance to amend art. 2 of the Constitution, providing that no Convention or General Assembly shall act upon any proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, unless the body shall be chosen after the presentation of said amendment. Referred.

By Mr. Sinclair, an ordinance to amend sec. 10, art. 11 of the Constitution, relating to the caring for the deaf and dumb mutes and the insane.

By Mr. Coleman, an ordinance to amend section 7, article 14, of the Constitution. Provides that disqualification of officers from holding any other office, or sitting in the General Assembly, shall not extend to Trustees of the University, or any person holding an office or place, to which no compensation is attached.

By the same, an ordinance to amend article 6. Provides six months residence in a county before voting. Also, that "no person who, since the first day of January, A. D., 1868, has been, or hereafter shall be, convicted of treason, perjury, forgery, larceny, or any other crime, infamous by the laws of the State at the time of the commission thereof, or of corruption or mal-practice in office, shall be eligible to office or to a seat in either house of the General Assembly, or be competent or allowed to vote or be a juror, unless he shall have been legally relieved of such disabilities."

By Mr. Bennett, dem., an ordinance amending the Constitution; providing for the exemption from taxation of all agricultural products. Referred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The question of per diem and mileage of members of the Convention came up as unfinished business, the bill being to pay $5 per day and 20cts. mileage.

Mr. Robbins withdrew his motion to make it a special order for Tuesday next.

Mr. Withers offered an amendment making the pay the same as the ordinance adopted by the Convention regulating the pay of the members of the General Assembly, being $4 per day for the members and 10 cents mileage.

The main question being ordered, the substitute of Mr. Withers was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. President, Allison, Allman, Anderson, of Clay, Anderson, of Madison, Bateman, Bean, Bennett, Bingham, Blocker, Bowman, Buxton, Bryan, Carter, Clingman, Coleman, Cowell, Cunningham, Dula, Durham, Everett, Faircloth, Faison, Farrior, French, George, Grantham, Green, Hampton, Harrington, Hassel, Henderson, Hinnant, Hoffman, Holton, Jones, of Caldwell, King, of Lenoir, Love, Lowe, Manning, of New Hanover, Massey, McCauldess, McCorkle, McEachin, Morehead, Motz, Neal, Nicholas, Nowell, Patterson, Price, Redwine, Reid, Robbins, Robberts, of Davidson, Roberts, of Gates, Rumley, Scott, of Onslow, Shober, Sinclair, Singletary, Snake, Summers, Turner, Vaughan, Watts, Wilcox, Wilson, Withers, Woodfin—72.

Nays—Messrs. Badger, Barrow, Bell, Blivens, Boyd, Bullock, Cary, Chamberlain, Crosby, Davis, Dixon, Goodwin, Hodge, Horton, Justice, Mannix, McCabe, McDoland, Munden, Page, Smyth, Wheeler—22

The bill as amended then passed its second reading by a vote of 76 to 20; and under a suspension of the rules passed its third reading.

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING.

Ordinance providing for the removal of the Supreme Court from Raleigh to some other point or points at the option of the Legislature, was considered.

Mr. Avera moved as a substitute to sec. 9, which is proposed to be stricken out, an ordinance providing that the terms of the Supreme Court shall be held at such times and places as now provided, until otherwise provided by law. Adopted by a vote of 54 to 36.

The main question was then put and adopted by a vote of 53 to 36.

THE REMOVAL OF HOLDEN'S DISABILITIES.

The ordinance of the removal of Wm. W. Holden's disabilities came up at 12 o'clock as special order on its second reading, the Committee having reported adversely upon the passage of the ordinance,

Mr. Badger, of Wake, took the floor in support of the passage of the ordinance. He appealed to the best feelings of the members of the Convention to relieve this man of the disabilities that had been imposed upon him for offences "or crimes" that he may have committed. He reviewed the doings of 1870, and defended the action of the then Gov. Holden as being but in response to the crying demand that came up from the people to him. He had no excuse to offer for the crimes that may have been committed by the men who acted under Gov. Holden, as it was impossible for the one man to control the actions of men in an hour when party and personal feeling ran so high; but he would say from a personal knowledge, having been present at the councils then held that Gov. Holden indignantly spurned advice, the very mention of which would make the blood run cold even at this day. He then argued at some length upon the power of this Convention to remove these disabilities. He claimed that this act was not legislative in its character, and that there was no restrictions upon this body, and if this be so, he appealed to the members of the Convention to grant this pardon asked.

Mr. Reid wished to suggest to the delegate from Wake that under the Constitution of 1868, the government of North Carolina was one of restricted powers. The Judicial Committee, of which he was a member, was now preparing a bill providing that the General Assembly shall have general power in cases of impeachment to grant pardon and amnesty, and this would relieve this body from acting under restrictions seemingly imposed by the present Constitution.

Mr. Manning, of Chatham, at the request of the Chairman of the Judicial Department, stated that the Committee was of opinion that this body had no right to grant the pardon asked, as it was legislative in its character, but that he would gladly support a measure giving a guarded power to the General Assembly.

Mr. McCorkle, dem., said he would not go behind the sentence of impeachment. We were stopped by the records. He considered the powers of this Convention prevented from doing such a thing as is asked, and some power must be established to this end before it can be done.

Mr. Avera offered a substitute that no person who has been or may hereafter be convicted on a trial of impeachment, shall be pardoned, unless a bill to bardon such person shall have been agreed to by a majority of the whole number of members of each House of the General Assembly, nor shall any person, so convicted, be so pardoned until five years shall have elapsed after such conviction, and moved the reference of the whole matter to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Chamberlain, rep., favored the granting of the pardon asked at the hands of this Convention. He thought this body had full and ample powers to do so. The General Assemblies had so thought, and he did not like to see these technicalities now being brought forward. He did not propose to appeal to the feelings of the members of the Convention, but he would now ask them to consider the matter as a naked proposition as to whether the disabilities of W. W. Holden should not be removed.

Mr. King, of Lenoir, thought that if the Legislature did not have the power, the Convention must necessarily have it.

Mr. Reid said a mere ordinance will have no other effect than an act of the General Assembly, and being in conflict with the Constitution would be void. An amendment to the Constitution would confer the power on the General Assembly and then it might be wrightfully exercised.

Mr. Tourgee was acquainted with the causes which led to the action of Gov. Holden in 1870. He had then opposed and entered his protest against what was done by the Executive—not that he opposed the end aimed, but he doubted the propriety of the matter in which this end was sought to be accomplished. But we should now seek to appreciate the circumstances under which Gov. Holden then acted. He thought what there was of error in his actions was an error of the head and not of the heart. He thought but for the steps taken by Gov. Holden at that time to suppress the insurrectionary movements in the State that this conduct on the part of the secret societies would have led to civil war. He had been fully convinced that the act asked was not legislative in its character.

Pending the consideration of the question, the Convention adjourned.

SIXTEENTH DAY.

THURSDAY, September 23.

Mr. Manning, of Chatham, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, submitted a report in relation to the Robeson county contested election case, which was voluminous in its character, and cannot be given as full as its importance demands. The report in substance recites that the contestants, Messrs. McNeil and Norment, must have their right to the seats established by a comparison of the poll books, etc., and that all the testimony in the case must be before the Committee, and prays the Convention to take such order as it may seem necessary to meet the ends of justice, and recommend that the resolution ousting the present incumbents, Messrs. McEachin and Sinclair, do not pass. That the certificate of the Sheriff made out a *prima facie* case for the incumbents, and that it is for the contestants to rebut this and establish their right to the seats. Thas there was no competent testimony before the Committee on this subject. That the act of Assembly giving contested elections to the General Assembly, as applicable to this case, has not been complied with by either the contestants or incumbents.

This act does not apply, and the Convention must make rules to govern the case,

Mr. Chamberlain, rep., submitted a report in behalf of the minority of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, claiming that the contestants, Norment and McNeill, received a majority of the votes cast in the county of Robeson, and were therefore entitled to seats in the Convention; that the Board of Commissioners acted illegally in throwing out the vote from certain precincts whereby the present incumbents received their certificates of election. It alleges that the whole affair was a specie of fraud perpetrated for political ends. And this minority was of the opinion that this question did not come under the provisions of regular contests, the certificates of election having been given on improper returns.

Mr. Manning moved that both the majority and minority reports be printed and made the special order for Tuesday next at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Buxton moved it be made special order for Saturday at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Manning's resolution prevailed by a vote of 55 to 54.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Stallings, an ordinance to amend sec. 3, art. 5 of the Constitution. Provides for the taxation of dogs. Referred.

By Mr. Avery, an ordinance providing for the establishment and working of public roads and bridges by taxation. Referred.

By Mr. Wheeler, a resolution to adjourn *sine die*. Lies over.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The bill to remove the disabilities imposed upon W. W. Holden by the Senate, sitting as a Court of Impeachment in 1871, was taken up as unfinished business.

Mr. Albertson, rep., as a member of the committee which reported unanimously adversely upon the bill, stated that the report was correct as far as he then understood the question, he not being then clearly of the opinion that this body had the right to act upon this question. But by a subsequent thorough investigation of the matter, he had come to the conclusion that this action might be termed "necessary legislation" ordered and allowed by the act calling the Convention. That this was a necessary incident attendant upon all bodies, and he did not deem the Legislature in calling this Convention meant to prevent such "legislation" as would be embraced in the passage of the bill now being considered. Whatever power of legislation the Legislature itself did not possess could not be included in the restrictions imposed upon this Convention, and hence he held that this action was entirely within the province of this body.

Mr. Hassell, dem., had not expected any argument upon the report of the Committee, as he had supposed the workings of this Convention would be abridged; this question was not introduced into the campaign, and he thought it should not have been introduced here; but it had been done, and those who favored it had discussed its merits fully, with a view, as he thought, if the measure could not be passed, to make political and party capital in the next canvass. In alluding to the leadership of Mr. Tourgee of the Republican side of the House, he said he would like to see the "native element" a little more prominent on this floor in the framing of this Constitution. He reviewed at some length the speeches of Mr. Tourgee during the sitting of the Convention, and characterized his allusion to Christ as a carpet-bagger as an insult to the Convention and as blasphemous in the extreme. The speaker then reviewed the action of Gov. Holden, for which course he is now bannied. He had at one time resolved never to vote again, but the actions of that official in organizing an army to make war upon the citizens of his State had absolved him from that resolution, and he had then voted to overthrow those in high places who could so act, and should continue to exercise this right in order to assist in protecting his people from such lawless actions. He then argued against the right of the Convention to grant the pardon asked. He favored pardon and amnesty in its broadest sense, and he would go with those who favored putting the pardoning power in the hands of the Legislature, and he doubted not the next Legislature would grant this pardon.

Mr. Berringer, rep, was a member of the Judiciary Committee, and still entertained the opinion that this body had no right to act in the premises, as no argument yet deduced had changed his opinion. He would vote for the removal of the disabilities of W. W. Holden on personal grounds, but not as a public right, as he did not endorse the action of Gov. Holden in 1870, deeming that he had pursued a course altogether wrong in the effort to accomplish the end desired. He did not approve of the Governor then allowing himself to be influenced by the "carpet-baggers" and the negroes—the former did not sufficiently understand the wants and feelings of the people of North Carolina, and the latter had not been sufficiently long acquainted with political matters and the management of the affairs of the State to know what was the best to be done for the people of North Carolina. These people had improved in knowledge, and had become a power that was felt and recognized. He would cheerfully however, vote to place the power asked in the hands of the General Assembly, and let that body exercise that privilege. He was one of a Committee of three, that having seen the corruption that was being perpetrated under the Holden administration, visited that official and urged him to put a stop to it, but he had declined to do so, and hence he could not now sympathize fully with him.

Mr. Stallings, dem., stated that he did not think a minister of the Gospel lost his citizenship or his right to participate in the political affairs of the country. His personal feelings would lead him to remove the disabilities asked for, but he was not here to exercise these personal feelings, and he believed the only power this body possessed was to pass a general law governing such cases.

Mr. Tourgee replied to the remarks of Mr. Hassell, defending his action upon the floor and especially his allusion to the fact that "Christ was a carpet-bagger." He denies that he had compared himself to the Son of God, but that he had only referred to language to be found in the Bible itself. He continued at some length in his assault upon the clerical robes of Mr. Hassell and in defence of the name "carpet-bagger."

Mr. Jarvis moved the previous question.

Mr. Vaughan moved an adjournment, it being 2:30 o'clock, which motion prevailed, leaving the motion for the previous question pending.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.

Mr. Reid, from Committee on Executive Department, reported a bill authorizing the General Assembly to exercise the right of pardon in cases of impeachment, but such pardon shall not be extended until 5 years after such impeachment, and shall not restore such person to the office from which he may have been deposed. It also provides for the abolishment of the office of Lieut. Governor, and reduces the terms of all Executive officers to two years.

Mr. Munden, from the same Committee, submitted a minority report opposing the proposition of the majority to abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor and the reduction of the terms of office.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Woodfin, rep., an ordinance concerning the public tion of ordinances, resolutions, &c., of this Convention. Referred.

By Mr. Green, dem., an ordinance providing for the election of Attorney General and Solicitors by a joint vote of the General Assembly. Referred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The question of the removal of W. W. Holden's disabilities came up as unfinished business.

The question recurring upon the previous question called by Mr Jarvis, the called was not sustained.

The question recurred upon the adoption of the substitute of Mr. Avery and his motion to recommit.

Mr. Turner stated that he would like to close the debate, although that debate, under general parliamentary rules, had been accorded to the mover, the gentleman from Wake.

Mr. Badger, rep., took the floor and briefly stated that he had nothing to add to the remarks he made on Wednesday, and having so promised the friends upon the other side of the house, he moved the previous question.

Mr. Avery asked to withdraw his substitute, and his motion to recommit, which substitute was covered by the bill reported this morning from the Committee on the Legislative Department.

Mr. Tourgee objected, claiming the gentleman had no right to withdraw his substitute, it being the property of the house.

The President decided that Mr. Avery had a right to withdraw his substitute, the same not having been acted upon.

From this decision Mr. Tourgee appealed, which appeal was lost by a vote of 91 to 15.

Mr. Badger stated that he had called the previous question against his wishes, and seeing that parties on both sides were disposed to continue the debate, he withdrew the motion for the previous question.

Mr. Jarvis renewed the motion, but not persisting in this motion.

Mr. Turner, dem., took the floor in opposition to the passage of the bill to remove Holden's disabilities, and spoke at some length upon the merits of the question, reviewing the acts of the Holden administration.

During Mr. Turner's remarks Mr. Faircloth, by permission, stated that as a member of the Judiciary Committee he was not present when the Committee consulted on this ordinance and that he did not concur with the majority of the Committee. He, however, makes no complaint against the Committee. He only wished to exclude a conclusion.

Mr. Morehead moved the previous question, which call was sustained.

The ordinance upon its second reading failed to pass by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Albertson, Badger, Barringer, Barrow, Bateman, Bean, Bell, Black, Blivens, Bowman, Boyd, Bullock, Buxton, Bryan, Cary, Chamberlain, Crosby, Davis, Dixon, Dockery, Dula, Durham, Faircloth, Goodwin, Grantham, Hampton, Hinnant, Hodge, Holton, Horton, Jordan, Justice, Kerr, King, of Lenoir, Lowe, Mannix, Manning, of New Hanover, Massey, McCabe, McCandless, McDonald, Munden, Nowell, O'Hara, Page, Scott, of Jones, Smyth, Taylor, Thorne, Tourgee, Wheeler, Wilcox, Wilson, and Young—53.

NAYS—Messrs. Allison, Allman, Anderson, of Madison, Avery, Bennett, Bingham, Bunn, Byrd, Carter, Clingman, Coleman, Cooper, Cowell, Cunningham, Everett, Faison, Farrior, George, Green, Harrington, Hassel, Henderson, Jarvis, Jones, of Caldwell, King, of Pitt, Kirby, Love, Manning, of Chatham, Marshall, McCorkle, McEachin, Morehead, Motz, Neal, Nicholson, Patterson, Price, Redwine, Reid, Robbins, Roberts, of Gates, Scott, of Onslow, Shepherd, Shober, Sinclair, Singleton, Spake, Summers, Turner, Watts, Wilson, Withers—56

Messrs. Shepherd, Taylor, Justices Tourgee, Vaughan, Withers, Woodfin, Durham, Faircloth, and Kerr, explained their votes, and Mr. Blocker explained that he could not vote for the measure conscientiously, and therefore asked to be excused from voting.

CALENDAR.

The ordinance to reduce the number of Senators to 25 was considered on its second reading.

Mr. Barringer favored the resolution.

Mr. Vaughan advocated the measure briefly.

Mr. Badger favored the passage of the ordinance, and moved the question be postponed until Wednesday next.

Mr. Clingman would be inclined to make a reduction of the Senators to some 35, providing this should not go into effect until the next apportionment.

The motion to postpone was adopted.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow.

"The Melancholy Days the Saddest of the Year."

In lack of other more practical matter the "September days" have become a subject of newspaper moralizing. When the year began in March this month was so-called from its being the seventh month. By the commencement of the year two months earlier the name has become inappropriate, as have the names of October, the eight month of the primitive Roman year, but the tenth month of the Julian year in our calendar; November, the Roman ninth month, and our eleventh; December, the Roman tenth, month, and our twelfth. The Saxons called September *gerst monat*, or barley month, because they then realize this crop, which was an important crop to them on account of the favorite beverage which they brewed from it. In Switzerland September is still called harvest month. On the 23rd of this month the sun enters the constellation *Libra*, and passes to the Southward of the equator, thus producing the autumnal equinox, a period often accompanied by storms. The astronomical autumn begins about September 23, and lasts till about December 21, but in popular language in this country, autumn comprises the months of September, October and November.

An American poet has spoken of the autumn days as "melancholy days, the saddest of the year." The majority of mankind will not agree with this sentiment. It is by no means "melancholy" to escape the melting heats and peculiar diseases of summer. It is not the least sad to be delivered from the plague of flies, and to be able to pass the day without brushing them away with one hand while at work with the other. Nor is it at all tending to lassitude or dejection of spirits that in the nights of autumn a man can sleep without disturbance from heat or mosquitoes. Indeed, it is rather exhilerating than otherwise to see how those insects which have been destroyers of our peace during the summer exhibit signs of debility and are evidently passing into a moribund state. To flies and mosquitoes, to wasps and beetles the autumn may be "the melancholy days, the saddest of the year," but not to their emancipated victim, man.

The beginning of autumn is really the most animated and yet peaceful season of the whole year. There are those who dispute weather spring or autumn is more beautiful. Spring has the advantage of contrast with the inertia and cold of winter. It is a kind of resurrection—a striking type of that which is peculiarly known by that name. The grave of winter gives up it dead. The naked forest put on a green and glorious vesture. The rivers, freed from the ice, roll singing and shining to the sea. The leaden skies become radiant, and the birds in the woods and gardens pour forth anthems of joy and hope. And yet autumn, especially in our American climate, has great attractions. Its moderated temperature, even after a summer like the past, which has not been of extreme heat, is especially grateful. The abundant rains of this season have left the vegetation almost as green as in midsummer. The skies are clear and the atmosphere pure and bracing. In the meadows and the valleys, on the uplands and the hillsides, men are at work to gather in the golden harvest. There is no happier sight to look upon among human employments than the laborers reaping the fruits of their peaceful toil during the summer, those fruits upon which millions of human beings are to be fed, while the blue, vast heaven smiles benignantly above, and the merry voices of the harvestmen make music below. As has been well said: What grand subjects, mellowed by the setting suns of departed centuries, do these harvest fields bring before a picture-loving eye! Abraham among his reapers; Jacob laboring to win Rachel; Joseph and the great granaries of Egypt; Ruth standing in tears among the alien corn, and the harvest of Palestine, amid which our Saviour walked by the side of His disciples."

The moralists have never failed to avail themselves of autumn as a lesson to mortals whose "summer of life is past and whose harvest is ended," and who have before them only the wintry years of old age, and "the dark river with the sluggish tide," as a Roman poet has described death beyond. It is suitable and perhaps well to remind men by such analogies of their brief stay upon earth, and how all things here are transient. At the same time it ought to be a right use of the opportunities in youth and manhood the autumn of existence, like that of the year, may be made a harvest festival of the fruits of a good life, yielding pleasant memories and immortal hopes. Cicero, in his noble essay on "Old Age," has beautifully described the serenity and calm of the closing hours of man's mortal career, when it follows a life wisely and temperately employed, and in which the seeds of virtue, falling upon good ground, have germinated and taken root, and brought forth flowers that will shed fragrance over even the grave, and fruits that will endure forever.

THERE are thirty thousand people in Fall River, Mass. One-half of those, fifteen thousand, are mill operatives who have been on a strike for six weeks. Winter is at hand, and much suffering is anticipated. Men and women, boys and girls, haunt the streets haggard and pale, and exhibiting already the pinching effects of want. The strike began because the mill owners proposed to reduce wages ten per cent. This was resisted. Now the operatives are ready to resume, but the mill owners are not. The stock of goods is large and, owing to the highness of money and the general prostration of trade, orders are few, and to go on producing without finding consumers, is not an encouraging prospect. Had not the strike occurred, work would still be in progress, but the manufacturers have found the pause more advantageous than going on, and now they are on a "strike." The outlook is very bad for the poor operatives.

GEN. MCCLELLAN and family, who arrived from Europe last week, are at their summer residence near Orange, N. J., where they remain until November, when they will go to New York for the winter.

THE GULF STORMS

Later Particulars from the Disastrous Tidal Wave.

Devastation of Homes and Destruction of Merchandise—But Wholesale Ruin on the Island Not Apprehended—Ten Men Drowned on the Breakwater at the Bar.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 20.

The *Times*, from information obtained from papers and passengers, gives the following account of the storm at Galveston. To briefly summarize the disaster: A gale from the south by Wednesday at midday reached such proportions that the captains of steamers accustomed for generation to traverse this portion of the Gulf declined to put to sea. Almost simultaneously with this determination, a ship-yard at the extreme eastern end of the island had been inundated, and men were fleeing for their lives. A rapidly falling barometer indicated an increase of the storm, and the waters of the Gulf, which is on the south side of the island and in the rear of the city, gradually commenced to encroach. The gardens of scattered residences skirting the beach were soon overflowed, the water during the day reaching a depth of two feet. All day long and during Thursday it blew a hurricane, pushing the Gulf water over the entire island, and covering even the highest elevations to the depth of two feet and a half. This side embraces an area of perhaps twelve blocks of buildings, extending from Mechanics street to Market, a distance of two squares, intitudinally, and from Centre street to Bath avenue, about six squares, longitudinally. In the entire rear east and west ends of the city the water rose to a sufficient depth to float large wooden edifices, many of which are very valuable. The residence portion of the city was most affected from Fremont street, where this section begins. For a distance of at least one mile west every garden and every foundation is destroyed. Domiciles are scattered promiscuously in the centre of the thoroughfares, many of them being jammed together. Further to the west, in the neighborhood of Oleander Park, where there are many small farms and stylish residences, the water is reported to have reached a depth of from six to nine feet. A similar story is told of the eastern end of the island, which extends from Centre street at least one mile and a half. In the business section of the city large stocks of goods are kept on the ground floors, and one can estimate the injury which thirty inches of sea water would involve. It is fair to presume that the earnings of an entire year will be exhausted in repairing the damages. Probably vegetation has been utterly destroyed. But that the island is involved in wholesale ruin, we do not apprehend.

The storm commenced Wednesday, and raged with great violence until late Friday night; knocking down some hundred small tenements; unroofing several churches and residences; knocking down signs, awnings and other hangings. The Strand Market was several times two feet deep. Three large schooners lying in the harbor were swamped. One steamboat and two tugs were sunk, one being completely demolished. One of Morgan's steamships was driven against the wharf, but only slightly damaged. One large English bark was forced from its moorings and driven ashore. One sloop is forty feet on land. Some ten men working on the breakwater at the bar, were drowned. The Health Officer, Dr. G. W. Peet, and his grandson, are drowned; his house was carried off. One negro woman was killed by a house falling, after having floated fifty feet. The railroad track is torn up in twenty places on the island. The bridge is partly destroyed. Culverts on both roads are washed out, and the damages are variously estimated at from $100,000 to $200,000. The storm was a regular cyclone, but the wind was not very heavy, though the water was higher than during the great storms of 1867 and 1871. A committee has been organized for the relief of the sufferers, who are principally residents on the Gulf side and Bay shore. The storm extended to Hempstead, on the Texas Central, and Willis, on the Great Northern Road, doing damage along the entire route, including the city of Houston.

THE CITY'S EXPOSED POSITION—CHARACTER AND SITUATION OF THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS:

A large number of Texans in this city were much excited on Saturday over the dispatches concerning the inundation and hurricane at Galveston. Many persons having large property interests in that city were seeking for news throughout the day at the commercial and financial houses which are in communication with Texas. Many gave free credence to the reports. Others, who had been endeavoring to get private dispatches from Houston and vicinity, and had either totally failed, or only received intelligence of a lack of information, were inclined to think, or at least to hope, that the dispatches were greatly exagerated.

Those acquainted with the history of Galveston for the past 25 years were apprehensive of a great calamity. They thought the total submersion of Galveston only a matter of time, unless some means could be found for protecting the foundations of the city. The expense of any effectual and durable protection would prove so great as to be entirely out of the question at present. The fact that communication with Houston was interrupted was considered as very discouraging. S. W. House, a guest at the Grand Central Hotel, and for thirty years past a resident of Houston, Texas, gave some information to a reporter of the *Tribune* concerning previous destructive visitations. He was in Galveston in 1867, when the city was submerged to a depth of seven feet, and states that it is not uncommon for a strong east wind to bring in a tidal wave sufficient to flood the streets to a depth of from one to two feet. Mr. House's statement was substantially as follows:

Galveston is situated at the eastern extremity of Galveston Island, a low strip of land, a mile wide at the city, and stretching from the entrance of Galveston Bay along the coast a distance of 25 or 30 miles. It is a little more than a sand bar, and is separated from the main land by a navigable channel two miles wide. The island is perfectly flat, but notwithstanding its exposed position produces excellent oranges, lemons, bananas, and other tropical fruits. It is only seven feet above the sea level at the city, which is built partially upon piles. Galveston has a population of 33,000, and after New Orleans is the most important commercial city of the extreme Southwest. It exports yearly millions of dollars' worth of cotton, hides, tallow, wool, and pecans. There were 16,000 bales of cotton stored in the city before the present inundation, valued at $1,000,000. An English line of steamships runs between Galveston and European ports, and the coast trade is extensive. Considering the frequent recurrence of destructive tidal waves and the utter exposure of the city to an enemy in time of war, Mr. House said, it is a matter of surprise that enterprise should have placed there such great commercial interests. The channel between the island and the main land furnishes a safe harbor for the shipping in ordinary weather, but it is almost sure destruction to vessels to be found there whenever a large tidal wave comes rolling in. They are either dashed to pieces against the wharves or stranded. When there is prospect of trouble, the ship makes all haste to get into Galveston Bay, which offers comparative security.

The most important part of the city is called the Strand, and fronts upon the open sea. Here are situated many of the great warehouses and imposing business blocks, which in solidity and appearance, compare well with the commercial buildings of the great Northern cities. There are no cellars to the houses, and no wells, for blackish water is reached by excavating four feet. The city depends for its water supply upon cisterns, erected on scaffolds. As the ground floors of the warehouses, notwithstanding frequent warnings, are always full of merchandise, the destruction of property in this instance must have been great, as the water is reported to have submerged the island to a depth of seven or eight feet.

Mr. House said that severe equinoxial storms usually prevailed between September 12th and 24th each year, and that they were always attended with more or less danger to the city. Frequently the wind from the Gulf attain almost the power of a hurricane. The destructive storm of 1867 came with frightful rapidity upon the city and to judge from the unauthenticated reports the present storm exceeded that in fury. The sailors acquainted with the tropical seas were the first to give the alarm, noticing the falling barometer and the consternation of seabirds. The storm was preceded by rain. The wind grew stronger from the east or south east until it assumed the strength of a hurricane, driving the waters of the Gulf before it. Suddenly all the winds of the Gulf seemed to converge towards the Texan coast, and piled up the waters until a vast wave was sent rolling toward the coast. This wave, Mr. House said, was from 30 to 50 feet high, but to the terrified inhabitants appeared to be much higher. The city was flooded to a depth of seven feet in the course of five hours, and after the cessation of the storm the flood took an equal time to subside. The destruction to shipping was great. The streets were filled with sand. Notwithstanding the annual danger, the city makes little preparation for such inundations. It is powerless to cope with them. Previous to 1867 a tidal wave submerged the island in 1837, when only two or three houses stood on the site of the present city. At that time a great many vessels were left high and dry on the island.

Mr. House apprehends great loss of life if the present storm did not abate within 24 hours, and at last accounts—not considered to be wholly trustworthy—it was still raging. It is reported that the new bridge of the Gulf and Sante Fe Railroad, partially built had been swept away, and that 20 feet of the old bridge had been also destroyed. In that case there would be no escape for the inhabitants to the mainland. Houston, which is 50 miles up Galveston Bay, is considered safe. There are several coast towns of minor importance which would be imperiled if the storm were as great as that of 1867. Mr. House said that the dredging fleet was in the bay, 40 miles from Galveston, and being in a well protected port, was probably safe. The bay is framed like a basin, with a small aperture, so that if the storm prevailed for any length of time from the southeast, the water would pile up in the bay, and then if the wind should shift to the north, might effect the destruction of Galveston, as it rushed back to the Gulf.

DESTRUCTION OF SAN BANARDINO, MATAGORDA, AND CEDAR LAKE.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 23.—The surgeon of the steamship Australia, ashore at San Barnardino, reports every house in San Barnardino washed away. All the people except five, who took refuge on the steamer, were saved. Not a house is standing on Buffalo bayou. Two houses left in Matagorda. The town of Cedar Lake is washed away—All lost.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The *Times* special from Galveston, 22d, says the Australia lies five and a half feet under water. The body of Will Blunt, lost with Dr. Peel, is found. Six bodies were found in different parts of the bay yesterday. The bark Mary Queen and schooners Minerva and Amos, from Houston are high and dry. The schooner Adelaide is ashore on high ground. The schooner Christiana will prove a total loss. The steamship Harlan gave all the provisions she could spare to Indianola. The town of Velasco was entirely swept away. The storm or cyclone appears to have taken in its course a belt of country some forty miles in width, from the north of Galveston Island, extending to the north of Houston. The hurricane swept over this entire section of coast to the west of Indianola into the Gulf. Galveston was to the south of the more severe storm.

An Important Movement—Improvement of the Catawba River in Prospective.

We called at the Central Hotel, yesterday, upon Col. S. T. Abert, who has been sent out by the United States Corps of Engineers, under instructions of an act passed at the last session of Congress, introduced by Representative Vance, of North Carolina, to gather information and make an examination, if necessary, of the Catawba River between Old Forts, McDowell county, N. C., and the South Carolina line, a distance of about 200 miles. The design of this examination, is to ascertain if such improvements of the river as to make it navigable, are feasible. Col. Abert has been in the Western part of the State on the same business, and was here to gather additional information of gentleman residing in this city, as to the feasibility of the idea, and the feeling of the people on the subject. He has consulted with a number of persons regarding the stream, but has really arrived at no definite conclusion as yet. He left last night for Raleigh, to trace up, if possible, a survey of the river which was made under authority of the State in 1828, from which he expects to learn facts which will aid him in his report. He thinks the Catawba a very beautiful stream for purposes of navigation, but does not as yet know enough about the river to form an idea as to what would be the better plan for making it navigable, whether by locks or dams or by removing obstructions from the bed.

He thinks the improvement would be a great benefit to the people at large, affording them additional facilities for shipping and reducing freight rates. He sees how it would be of advantage to Charlotte, if in nothing else in the bringing of lumber from the West.

This visit of Col. Abert, is, of course, but the first step, and public expectation need not yet be raised. After examining the survey among the State papers at Raleigh, he will prepare a report which will be submitted to the next Congress. If he reports favorably that body may make an appropriation for a survey, and after this for the improvement, but there are so many contingencies that all conjectures as to the probable result of this first step, would be idle. We sincerely trust that something may grow out of it. The river can be made navigable; no one questions this, and the benefits to be derived from such navigation, are obvious. We feel satisfied, after conversation with Col. Abert, that he is favorably disposed to the scheme, though he did not say so in express terms, nor did he say that he thought the work could be done at such cost as would render the enterprise entirely practicable; yet he gave us to understand that much worse streams are navigated, and that this one will probably be, if our Senators and Representatives in Congress put forth the proper efforts in the proper direction. We hope they will not fail to do this.—*Charlotte Observer.*

A tramp arrested in New York State the other day declared that he'd rather loaf around on one meal per day than to work for a thousand dollars per minute. If politicians would only be as honest in expressing themselves.

BY TELEGRAPH.

YELLOW FEVER.

A Vessel from Cuba Arrives in New York With the Epidemic on Board—Discharges at Quarantine in Violation of Law—Fruitless Search for the Vessel.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Agricultural Bureau Statistics—Commission of Valuation Appointed—Chicago Custom House—Customs—Revenue Receipts

CRIME AND CASUALTY.

A Murderer Taken from Jail and Lynched—Wife Murder, Arson and Suicide—Death at His Mother's Grave, &c.

NEWS IN GENERAL.

Insurgent Victory—The Pope and the Toleration Clause in the Constitution of Spain—The Porte Still Stubborn—Shipwrecks.

GOLD 16 5-8.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE JOURNAL.]

NEW YORK.

Insurance Convention Foreclosure—Horse Disease—Suicide—Fire.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—The following officers have been elected by the Insurance Convention to serve next year:

President—Roe, Mich.

Vice-President—Pittsburg, Mich.

Secretary—Steph. H. Rhodes, Mass.

A sailor belonging to the brig Washburn, from Matanzas, is down with the yellow fever in the Brooklyn hospital. He is not expected to recover. Before becoming speechless he notified the officers that the Washburn came from Matanzas with a cargo of sugar, which was discharged while the vessel lay at quarantine. The patient was taken to the hospital on Saturday last, while the nature of the disease was not discovered until Thursday. Search has been made for the infected vessel, but without success.

In a suit in the Supreme Court for the foreclosure of a $700,000 mortgage on the Bleecker Street Railroad, Dr. J. W. Ramsey, one of the stock-holders, has been appointed receiver. Wm. C. Duryea has filed an assignment for the benefit of creditors. Wm. M. Shudlow has been appointed assignee.

The horse disease is apidly spreading throughout New Jersey. The disease is pronounced of the *Cerebro Spinal Menengitis* type.

HUDSON, Sept. 25.—Capt. W. Stradham, of the steamer City of Hudson, shot himself while seated on his mother's grave in the Episcopal cemetery at Athens. Since the recent robberies on his mother's house he was very much depressed. This is supposed to have been the cause of the act.

WATERTOWN, Sept. 27.—A fire last night entirely destroyed one section of Leggett & Dey's paper and rag factory, with a large amount of paper stock. The fire was caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. The total loss will amount to $30,000; fully insured. One man was suffocated.

BANK STATEMENT.

Loans Decrease	$700,000
Specie Decrease	175,000
Legal Tenders (Decrease)	625,000
Deposits Decrease	255,000
Reserve Decrease	2,500,000

WASHINGTON.

Cotton Report—Commission—Chicago Custom House—Revenue, &c.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—The September report of the Department of Agriculture says of the corn crop:

"Could it be thoroughly ripened its aggregate would exceed any previous crop, and the yield per acre would be one of the best, notwithstanding the losses by overflow of bottoms and the saturation of heavy flat soils, such losses proving much less than the usual damages by drought as insects, while the rains have greatly benefitted the crops on drier and higher soils. Nearly everywhere corn is late in maturing from one to two weeks. The general high condition is still maintained, the average being one per cent. higher than in August."

The State averages are as follows:

Maine, 105; New Hampshire, 100; Vermont, 98; Massachusetts, 100; Connecticut, 108; New York, 99; New Jersey, 111; Pennsylvania, 108; Delaware, 100; Maryland, 106; Virginia, 112; North Carolina, 104; South Carolina, 87; Georgia, 90; Florida, 83; Alabama, 111; Mississippi, 116; Ohio, 97; Louisiana, 85; Texas, 89; West Virginia, 107; Arkansas, 103; Tennessee, 114; Kentucky, 103; Michigan, 101; Indiana, 83; Illinois, 95; Wisconsin, 60; Minnesota, 72; Iowa, 92; Missouri, 111; Kansas, 109; Oregon, 100; Nebraska, 93; California, 95.

Hon. R. B. Vance, of North Carolina; James Stevenson, of Washington; and A. T. Davidson of Ashville, N. C., have been appointed as Commissioners to appraise the lands recently recovered to the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

The new Chicago Custom House Commission have submitted their report to the Secretary of the Treasury. They recommend the strengthning and completion of the concrete foundations. Also, that certain parts of the building be taken down.

In referring the report to the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, the Secretary directs him to proceed to carry out the improvements at once.

CUSTOMS.

Rece