

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

THE NEW NATIONAL ERA does not hold itself responsible for communications. Well written and interesting communications will be gladly received.

"For the Right." BY FANNIE A. BARRIER.

Out of the intricate chain which binds human endeavors and forms human divisions, we designate in every link different phases of nature embodying abilities for labor, strength of thought and perseverance of aim, which, issuing from every department of life, and, influenced by every kind of circumstance, flow up the stream which, as it becomes confluent with the common tide of existence, generates nobleness, virtue, and strength, or rages meanness, misery, and vice, thus making up the sum of life.

When we recall all that has been accomplished, and from it conclude what can be done in the way of reformation and advancement, we realize that to no station in life is progress limited, and that to success is presented no appeal of former degradation.

A people immured in bondage two hundred and fifty years, with self-respect trampled upon, faculties dulled, hope banished, and surrounded by a darkness, have emerged into the light of a nineteenth century civilization, and the deeper gloom of a nineteenth century moral darkness; into their hands have been placed the reins of self-government and the scepter of moral power by the wielding of which, these, the destiny of their lives are to be shaped.

And from the heights to which some have attained, and the goal to which thousands are hastening, we do believe that the "height shines out the stars," and that to every expectant and ambitious one there is proffered all that he will seek, and even from the wounds of a darkened memory encouragement lurks in aspiration, and strength of purpose creates victory.

White a sculptured granite shows a clear, white figure on a field of black; so, from the midst of misery, vice, and dependency, the mind, sharp, clear, and independent, brings out in the cold relief a noble character; and as the gold, gray strata serve to make more apparent the brighter hue of the design, so too often stands forth some powerful intellect, some transcendent genius from the dull atmosphere of the commonplace workshop of effort.

But to all this success which awaits, there is a second part, another side to this never-ending drama. From earliest history, the great struggle between freedom and despotism, justice and injustice, purity and impurity, has been in progress. The dazzling tints of martial fame, the splendid achievements of successful enterprise have too often hid from the view of justice her uneven scales until, in obedience to eternal laws in the day of unholty victory, the avenging Nemesis appears.

In the palladium of art, the temples of wisdom, and amid the altars of praise, even in these proud lights, revenge majestic walks an honored guest. Avarice sears and in the heart till there remains no resistless power. Envy smiling and flattering, presents the fruit of temptation, and scandal marshals her hosts to defile, from whence then is to spring the light of truth?

Conscientious is the measure of life, and through it we realize that not indeed in the uncertain record of rulers and conquerors of the past, can we turn; for all over the pages of history it is written in blood for the warning of nations, "Power, without principle, must fall," the deeds of genius, for a time may dazzle, but, divested of its gilded covering, disinterested truth records their virtues, their follies, and their crimes. All along earth's pathway wasted lives are there on the right hand and on the left, drifting with the hurrying tide of life, wrecked on rocks and shoals. It is the burden of the last despairing cry that utters in a deeper wail, a darker gloom. It is the sad refrain of lives wasted in idleness, dissipation, and crime.

Since then, not in the light of nations or individuals of the past or present, can we draw the dividing line between good and evil, then, only as an emancipated people, can establish themselves on a firm basis of right, thus warned by examples, and accepting the subjective mode of living which will enable them to reach out for labor which shall accrue only for good, and claim a citizenship which shall be their's, not only by right, but by a divinely appointed seal, truly then shall "the right come uppermost, and ever be justice done." For, from youth to age, in scenes as shifting, varied as the climate, in which they have their birth; tropical terror and frigid severity freely mingle; every form of impulse comes forth in its appropriate robes; petty schemes and noble plans jostle each other; broad-faced humor and tender-eyed grief pass each other unnoticed; every faculty of mind and soul is vividly portrayed. Life is shaped by the choice of these imperious nations; and this is for the actors to decide; the virtues invite the vices, flattery, speaks from the lips of the one, candor from the other; vice deludes with a fair exterior; virtue rewards with a noble heart; vice offers much, but never fulfills; virtue is faithful to all her promises.

From District of Columbia.

MR. EDITOR: Within the last week we have news of the summary execution of distinguished persons adjudged from Spanish stand-point as enemies to the rule of Spain as administered in the Island of Cuba.

It is a matter of serious regret that such measures should be taken as result in the killing of human beings.

We entertain no objection to this intervention. We would that we could by diplomatic correspondence reach the heart and core of oppression in all civilized countries, and thus stay the arm when raised to strike down those who would not wish it to be free; but we would not have this accomplished at the expense of our national honor. In our opinion we have quite enough at home to engage our serious attention, without wandering over creation to find business for diplomatic quills.

We may prate as we please about our laws, Constitution, form of Government, and the like, but history don't reveal a country in which the laws are no little respected as in our own.

Instance the cold-blooded massacres all over the South. Bands of assassins roaming over the country shooting, hanging, whipping, maiming, and the State and Federal authorities standing by, if not powerless, at least unwilling to interfere, for fear of offending those whom they otherwise would condone.

Of late, only those who stood in arms against the Government, and who to-day would inaugurate another rebellion are preferred. Is it a matter of wonder then, that these persons or their allies should be found foremost in the slaughter of persons whose only fault is that they love their country?

We cannot as individuals escape the responsibility of our actions, and what is true in this connection is also true as touching nations. Other countries have flourished as ours, and the same countries from the lack of national honesty, have gone to pieces like a potter's vessel.

Have we any assurance that we will escape the fate of others, when we are treading in the identical footsteps?

What right, under present circumstances, have we to interfere with Spain in her struggle to maintain her authority in Cuba, when under the shadow of our laws we suffer our own people to be murdered and no effort made to inflict speedy punishment upon the perpetrators of crime—the like committed nowhere else but in our own country?

Once upon a time, when Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner, and John Brown stood at the head of a few followers in arms, justly too, against such oppression as only Americans could invent, the entire country like one man was ready to march South, each man with his coffin on his back, to quell negro insurrection, and no section was more willing than the North to lend a hand in crushing out the last spark of freedom which lived in the bosom of the negro.

Within a few years we have, upon paper, revised or reconstructed the character of the Constitution, and, under its protection, secured all without reference to color or previous condition. We profess enough on paper to render our land to its inhabitants as happy a place as was the Garden of Eden to our first parents before they fell. But what does all this profession amount to when we fail to make the application? Is it not from a moral point of view, as much or more the business of Spain to see that we make our people behave themselves and respect the laws, as it is our business to intermeddle with Spain when she puts to death the enemies of her national peace? We suffered no diplomatic or other interference when we lunged John Brown and his friends; they were adjudged to be the enemies of the Constitution, men who by their conduct had put themselves outside of all decent consideration, and so we murdered them in turn to appease the cry for blood. The expression "let us have peace," will deserve as it will receive due consideration, when we learn to conquer a peace by punishing even to the death all those who conspire against the well being of society, whose hands are red with the blood of hundreds to whom the Republic promised "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Who gave to man the power to prescribe who should, and who should not, become intelligent and useful beings?

Did the black man ever give his consent to become a slave, or to have his children grow up in ignorance?

The white man's arrogant self-righteousness and tyrannical assumption of unnatural conditions should bring to his uncheck the blush of shame for his responsibility in keeping his fellow-creature upon a par with the brute creation.

Upon what principle is founded a law prohibiting any child from attending either a white or black school? The schools being public, or sustained by a system of general taxation, should be general in the application of school funds, and tyranny takes the place of decency and self-consistency in those who discriminate at the door of the school-house when any child knocks for admittance.

They seem to lay aside any morality they may have possessed, of or professed for this, and with whisky in hand, stride forth to succeed. At our late County Convention, I am informed that at least twenty gallons of "farty red" was furnished to the freedmen beside what was drank outside before and after. The result was a disgraceful mobbish gathering, outraging decency and propriety. The leaders are responsible for this, and are leading the freedmen down the road of intemperance with amazing rapidity. A careful calculation shows that our colored friends, in this city and vicinity, spend enough each year for whisky to support a good school six months in the year for each fifty children of school age.

While at the North we secured what will net our Normal school about \$20,000, which will bring our available funds up to \$45,000, when our State scrip is at par again. It's prany the day scrip will have on.

Our political skies have cleared up the last two months, and there seems a prospect of better things for the future. The disbanding of the militia and ceasing the war between rival factions have a good portent. The grand difficulty now seems to be a lack of officers, the demand being greater than the supply; not only for the high offices of State, but for County, town, and city offices. Men with nothing to recommend them but ignorance, and brazen-facedness, are putting themselves forward, and our offices are too frequently filled with incompetency, both colored and white. We are playing the same role that is being played in the Territories, and was played in the newer States to my certain knowledge. Broken down politicians I knew in the Northwest before the rebellion, are scattered through the South to retrieve their fortunes. The effect of our political campaigns is somewhat like a lady missionary to the Sandwich Islands complained of: "Oh dear! there has been a whaler here, and undone all I have done the past six months." So here we get colored and white into our temperance organizations, and our campaign and election will undo nearly all our work. The politicians say it is impossible to conduct a campaign without it, the first question is "have you got something good?" and I am told, by a prominent politician, that they have the whole matter in their hands, but could change their course if they would. The practice shows a lack of will in the right direction.

Cotton is a drug in the market at present, and although we have an excellent crop, the freedmen is coming out in debt. Here and there one is making something, and buying some land, but they seem to like the plantation style, and so are likely to drag along, living from hand to mouth, and the planters seem anxious they should. There is a great need of good colored lecturers—temperance men—to go around among them, and in plain lectures arouse them to the situation. They cannot learn from the papers, so must learn from the stump.

M. W. MARTIN.

Letter from B. D. Beckley.

My attention has been called to a letter in your excellent paper, signed "C. F. P.," and, whilst I have made it a rule never to notice anonymous communications, yet, from the malicious and scurrilous character of the one in question, I feel that it would be doing injustice to myself were I to remain silent and permit such false and slanderous assertions to be publicly made without branding them as they deserve. The communication to which I refer was written from Lottsburg, Virginia, October 23, 1873, and purports to give an account of a speech made by me at that place. The article is captioned "from Virginia," and its author is said to have originated from "Massachusetts," but the exact point of the scold from which he radiated is not definitely ascertained, nor would I attempt to follow up an inquiry which would be without profit to myself or interest to your readers. From my earliest childhood, from the time I first learned to espouse my mother's cause to the present, it has always been a pleasure to me to recognize and admire in the female sex the characteristics of modesty, gentleness, innocence, and truth; but when a woman, like the writer of the article referred to, throws aside her self-respect and parades her indecencies in public she must be to a grave reflection how lost she must be to all that makes the name of woman honored and revered. But it is still more to be deplored that such an one should be entrusted with the important office of instructress of the young and charge of their moral training. The female rhetorical charlatan says:

"R. D. Beckley, after seeking and enjoying the shelter and utmost hospitalities of our roof, from darkness and storm and prejudice that would have kept him unsheltered from every other white home in Lottsburg, drew that audience we had gathered for him away from the warm comfortable school-house, to the chilly out-door whisky-grocery corner."

If the writer of this ill-natured paragraph lacked good-breding, so much as to forget what is due to a guest, I shall certainly not forfeit my own claim to self-respect by advertising in the manner in which I was entertained by my hostess. Instead of being "unhoused in a storm," I had received various invitations from other white persons tendering me the hospitalities of their homes, for which I now take occasion to return my thanks. I accepted the hospitality of Miss Holley, it is true, from compulsion, because of the urgency of her entreaties, and because she would accept no denial. The school-house to which your correspondent refers was a church, and, believing that there would be objections to holding a political meeting in a place of worship, I took the pains to inquire of the parties in charge, when I found that my surmises were well grounded. If there was any bar-room near where I spoke I was certainly unaware of the fact, and the superior knowledge of "C. F. P." on this subject, at least, and her familiarity with the place, induces me to give this single assertion the credit of truth. She drinks whisky, it is evident, but it is to be hoped it is more palatable than the one she has written, and not so far below the one. So much for the whisky part of "C. F. P.'s" letter.

The next and still worse subject she undertakes to immortalize is a Miss Holley, and after this fashion:

"When Miss Holley asked to make some corrections, that these Lottsburg colored voters might not be cheated and deceived as they have been all their lives by these Virginians, he repeated and insulted her to 'leave the place,' to 'shut her mouth,' and 'ministering to the most brutal and vulgarly insidious,' said: 'If his wife should attend a Republican political meeting, he would whip her when she got home.'"

"He said he was 'no woman's rights man,' that Miss Holley had no business at a political meeting; 'who was not a citizen.' With gratuitous meanness, he made a tirade against naked schools; said the agitation had done great harm; and misled in the District of Columbia."

Miss Holley, it appears, wanted to "make some corrections," which she proceeded to do in the most approved Billingsgate style, by frequent interruptions of the meeting, and by calling out at the top of her voice several times: "You're a liar!" I had been sent to address the people of Lottsburg by the State Executive Committee, and when I arrived there I found a faction opposing the regular Republican nominee. Miss Holley was a supporter of this faction, and my refusal to sustain herself and friends in their attempt to break up the party, was the occasion of her loss of temper and violent conduct. "C. F. P." reports me as saying that, should my wife attend a political meeting, I would whip her when she got home. Unfortunately for Miss Holley, she has no one to "love, cherish, and protect" her, and to administer words of wholesome advice, and, so long as her behavior remains uncorrected, it is a question of grave doubt whether she will ever succeed in obtaining one to "love, cherish, and protect." I could remark, in addition to what I have already said, that, should my wife conduct herself after the example of Miss Holley, I would not whip her, but resort to the only remedy left to an outraged husband—a divorce a vinculo matrimonii. The other allusions of "C. F. P." are of such a character as to be beneath the notice of the most coarse and vulgar mind. With regard to my standing on the mixed racial and social equality questions, I will let the papers speak for me. I am not a person who held me speak during the campaign just closed say I am. Miss Holley, no doubt, thought she was doing me an immense damage when she made Caroline F. Putnam write up that long letter of flagrant misrepresentation, but the arrows she hurled at me not lodged in her own bosom; and if she is not totally devoid of a conscience, will rankle there and sting to the latest day of her life.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, allow me to suggest to my good friends at the North that they send down a committee to investigate the official conduct of Miss Holley. I have been informed by the best authority—white and colored persons living at Lottsburg—that it has been a regular practice with this woman for some time past to write the most philanthropic letters to persons at the North (and societies also) soliciting aid for the colored people about Lottsburg, whom she represents to be in the most needy and destitute condition; these calls have always received a ready and liberal response from our good friends in clothing and money. Provisions, boxes of clothing, any many other things are sent to this woman to distribute among them. But what's the result? These poor colored people are made to work two or three days for an old pair of pants, or give a bushel of wheat for an old dress, or a barrel of corn for an old coat, and so on, but not a mouthful of provision, or a stitch of clothing, or a cent of money has ever been given to them without receiving a fair compensation in some way, which Miss Holley appropriates to her own individual benefit. She has shipped more corn and wheat and other farming produce received by her in this way than any other ordinary farmer in that county. How is it that on a little patch of land containing two and-a-half acres, she is enabled to ship so much produce? I will leave the public to answer this question.

One word more to Miss Holley and Miss C. F. P. I would advise you to keep quiet, or the people of Lottsburg, whom you have misrepresented, will tell some things on you that will make my honored friend, Frederick Douglass, blush with shame when he hears them.

H. D. BECKLEY.

Affairs in Mississippi.

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 6, 1873.

DEAR SIR: Your Vicksburg correspondent, "Civis," has fallen, unintentionally no doubt, into several glaring errors. For example, in his letter of the 14th ult., in your issue of the 30th, undertaking to explain the existing difficulty which is involved in the constitutional election laws of this State, "Civis" says:

"Our constitution which was submitted to the people for ratification in 1868 provided for biennial elections; but on account of several objectionable clauses and a military governor, whose sympathies were antagonistic to the Reconstruction Acts, it was defeated in that year. Congress again took the matter in hand, struck out the objectionable clauses, a new military governor was appointed, and it was again submitted to the people in 1869, retaining the clause requiring biennial elections, when it was ratified."

It would be difficult to crowd a greater number of misstatements of historical fact in a space so short. In the first place, Mississippi had the same identical military governor at the election in 1869 that she had in the election of 1868, to wit: Gen. A. Ames, the present Governor elect. Secondly, it was not on account of any objectionable clauses in the constitution that it was defeated in 1868, nor yet on account of the antagonistic sympathies of the military governor. Neither nor both these causes affected the result, as I shall presently explain. Thirdly, nor did Congress ever "strike out the objectionable clauses" or any clauses or words of the constitution as it was originally framed.

Having been one of the Republican canvassers in most of the campaigns in this State since the Reconstruction laws were passed in March, 1867, I am somewhat familiar with the current events. The facts are as follows:

Gen. Ames was detailed as Military Provisional Governor early in June, 1868, before the election of that year, and held that place until as such he signed the certificate of his own election as a United States Senator by the Republican legislature in 1870. It was

by no means a change in governors that gave a different result to the election of 1869 from that which followed the election of 1868. It was a change of the President.

Under President Johnson, Generals Ord, McDowell, Gillem, and Ames were all alike unknown as Republicans, and apparently anxious only to be approved by their superiors at Washington. It was not till Gen. Grant became President that the Republicans of Mississippi received any signal encouragement or sympathy from any of the military commanders or governors.

The constitution had no "objectionable clauses"; that is to say, its defeat and rejection in the election of 1868 had been resolved on by the Democracy before the constitution or any part of it had been formed, and consequently, of course, before any of its clauses, objectionable or otherwise, could possibly have been known to any human being. The constitution was not framed until the 15th of May, 1868; but the following resolutions adopted by the Democratic State Conventions held on the 15th of January and the 10th of February, 1868, correctly show the grounds upon which its rejection was agreed upon, undertaken and accomplished. They speak for themselves and need no explanation.

Resolved, That the military bills of Congress for the reconstruction of the so-called rebel States are unconstitutional and oppressive in all their particulars, and should be resisted by the unanimous voice of the people at the ballot box.

Resolved, That the notorious design of the Republican party in Congress to place the white men of the Southern States under the governmental control of their late slaves and degrade the Caucasian race as the inferiors of the African race, is a crime against the civilization of the age, which needs only to be mentioned to be scorned by all intelligent minds; and we therefore call upon the people of Mississippi to vindicate alike the superiority of their race over the negro, and their political power to maintain constitutional liberty.

Resolved, That by the constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, white males of the age of twenty-one years and upwards are citizens of the United States, and are qualified electors and officeholders, and that no others have right to vote within the limits of said State, or to hold office therein; and that therefore the acts of Congress prescribing rules, whereby negroes are claimed to be authorized to vote or hold offices in said State, utterly null and void, and of no effect whatever.

Resolved, That the pretended constitutional convention now in session at the capital of Mississippi, and which assumes to frame a constitution and form of civil government for the people of said State, is assembled without constitutional authority, not elected by the qualified electors of the State, nor by virtue of the laws of the land; that the acts of Congress, under which military elections were held, for the purpose of polling negro votes, to elect the members of said convention, were not within the delegated powers of Congress, and confer no authority on said convention; that the constituents of said convention are chiefly negroes, destitute alike of the moral and intellectual qualifications required of electors in all civilized communities, combined with a small minority of white adventurers from other States: that the majority of that convention faithfully reflect the peculiarities of their constituents; that their projected acts demonstrate them to be the enemies of the people of Mississippi, who have constituted the State from its territorial infancy to the present time; that under the fraudulent pretense of framing a constitution and civil government for the State, they are wickedly conspiring to disfranchise and degrade the people, to rob them alike of their liberty and property, to destroy their social and political status, and finally place them under the yoke of a negro government.

It is true that, in defiance of their pre-concerted purpose to pursue reconstruction for the reasons stated in these resolutions, there were captious objections, and in fact to all the "clauses" of the constitution. But it is generally admitted that the so-called "objectionable clauses" were not only unobjectionable, but if they had been adopted by the people and ratified by Congress, would have materially reduced the number of disfranchised and disqualified citizens of the State; because, while they did not, and could not, in effect, impose any disabilities in addition to those already imposed by the 14th amendment, and by the reconstruction laws, they would, if they had been accepted as part of the organic law, have removed even those disabilities from all "the private soldiers of the Confederate army," and from all others of every rank who had aided and stood contumacious to aid in reconstruction. See section 5, article 7 of the Constitution as originally framed.

These "clauses" were "stricken out," it is true, but not by Congress. The reannulment Act of April, 1869 authorized the President to reannul to the registered voters of the State "either the entire Constitution, or separate provisions of the same to a separate vote." Accordingly, the Constitution was reannulled in such a manner that the people had the opportunity, by means of a separate vote on separate provisions, to "strike out," and they did strike out those clauses which had been designated by certain partisans, for mere partisan purposes, as "objectionable," but, which as I have shown, were really among the most liberal and unobjectionable provisions of the instrument.

The "mist of years" are rapidly settling over the dark days and unhappy scenes to which your intelligent but evidently-mis-informed correspondent "Civis" refers. They were days and scenes of sorrow and tears to all the people of Mississippi. My TIME, which always brings healing for earthly sorrow, continue the work of healing which is now on among the people of Mississippi. And as the Star of Liberty and Hope rises brightly over the FUTURE, may waters of Lethe cover the bitter memories of its unhappy PAST.

A few words in correction of the views expressed by "Civis" upon the constitutionality of the recent election, and I am done. He is evidently a stranger in Mississippi.

H. C. CARTER.

and is therefore as excusable for his want of familiarity with the Constitution of the State as for the misinformation with respect to our recent public history. It will be remembered that the first State officers, Legislature and Representatives in Congress, were elected at the same time, that the Constitution was ratified in December, 1865, and all of them for terms of either two or four years, and the Constitution contains the following:

"Representatives in Congress to fill the existing vacancies shall be elected at the same time this Constitution is submitted to the people of the State for ratification and for the full term next succeeding their election, and thereafter elections for Representatives in Congress shall be held biennially. The first election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, preceding said full term." Sec. 2, Art. XII.

Under this provision, though in the United States, all our five Congresses held (two terms in Congress on one election) again:

"Sec. 6. In order to establish a civil government as required by the Act of Congress, approved March 2, 1867, and the acts supplementary thereto, an election shall be held at the same time and place at which the Constitution is submitted for ratification for all State officers including members of the Legislature, and for Representatives in Congress, at which election the electors, who are qualified under the reconstruction acts of Congress, shall vote and name others."

"Sec. 9. The first term of civil officers elected at the same time, this Constitution is submitted for ratification, shall commence on the second Monday after their election, and shall continue to hold from said time until the expiration of the first full term succeeding said election." Art. XIII.

Thus it appears that "all the State officers, including members of the Legislature and Representatives in Congress," were all elected at the same time, and were all to be elected by election were to be temporarily filled as provided by the following section, and all of their regular terms are to be two years, save clerks of courts, whose terms are four years:

"Sec. 6. The terms of office of county, township, and precinct officers, who are elected at the same time, this Constitution is submitted for ratification, shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November until altered by law." &c. &c., Art. IV.

And again:

"The political year of the State of Mississippi shall commence on the first Monday of January in each year, and the general election shall be held on the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November biennially." Sec. 1, Art. XII.

It only remains to be added that by the laws of Congress the election of October, 1869, not being final or operative either for the ratification of the constitution, for the choice of officers, or for the restoration of the State till it should be approved by Congress, the Governor and State officers were not allowed to be installed till the 10th day of March, 1869, and our Congressmen not admitted to seats till the same time.

These constitutional provisions and those historical facts furnish the whole argument, with all necessary illustrations. None other is needed. The officers then elected were not installed at the beginning of "the political year of the State"—i. e., the first Monday in January. Circumstances rendered it necessary that they should be, and they were, installed at an irregular and abnormal date; to wit, on the 10th of March, 1870. This could not be the proper date from which to compute their constitutional terms. That must be, according to the several clauses I have quoted, on "the commencement of the political year," or the first Monday in January. It could not be the January preceding, for at least three very commanding reasons. First, The constitution had not then been ratified by Congress, and, consequently, neither it nor the officers created by it had then any legal existence. Section 9, Article XIII, above quoted, required that "the first term of all the civil officers" elected at the election for the ratification of the constitution should be "the full term succeeding said election;" and thirdly, these officers having been elected at the same first general election with Representatives in Congress, and having started ready with them upon official terms, all to be measured alike by biennial elections, the one class holding for two and the other for four years, and Congressmen being required to be elected in the November preceding the commencement of each incoming Congress, the terms of the State officers must necessarily commence in the odd years, as the terms of Congressmen do.

There are some of the reasons why it is contended by many of the best jurists of Mississippi that the second general State election shall occur in November, 1874, and that the recent election is unconstitutional and void; and that the present act of the Legislature requiring annual elections and annual registration at an expense of over \$500,000 per annum, in the face of a constitutional provision, which requires one general election to be biennial, cannot be enforced; and that officers chosen in defiance of all these provisions, and in reckless disregard of the constitution, cannot be installed.

I enclose you, for your information, an unauthenticated copy of our Constitution, and an official copy of the opinion of our Attorney General, the Hon. J. S. Morris, whose public character as a Republican has never been successfully impeached, and whose opinion as Attorney General, has never been reversed by the supreme Court of the State, and, moreover, who has never lost, during his official career, a case instituted against his State.

From Mississippi.

One of the fiercest contests ever known in the political history of this State terminated on the 15th instant. Were it between the Republican and Democratic parties, I would not regard it as a bitter battle, but it was between the Republican party and enemies in its own fold, and General Ames led the bolters. And the figures, so far, show that we have beaten the bolters at least by thirty thousand majority. We shall also have a large majority in the Legislature than we have had since 1870. We will have on joint ballot not less than a majority of thirty. This Legislature will have to elect two United States Senators—one for the unexpired term of one year of General Ames' and one for the long term of six years, commencing from March, 1875. We expect warm times in Jackson in February next, when these exalted officers are to be voted for. Aspirants are already multiplying, but it is almost impossible as yet to place one's eye upon the one most likely to succeed. Should, however, a certain leader in our party be a candidate, his election would be almost a foregone conclusion.

There were certain features in our campaign that was exceedingly painful. To do battle against the Democrats is a pleasure. And one can go at it with a great deal of hilarity and zeal; but to take the stump against men with whom we have been working side by side ever since the reconstruction of the State was not a pleasant task. It grieved us to see them attempting to destroy the grand old party which has done so much for them and us. The election has taught them, however, that men are nothing when weighed in the scales of the great principles of the party. I do not believe that there were one hundred Republicans in the whole State that followed Republican and his tribe? They nominated two colored men on the ticket, but they were without influence or fitness. It is said that Ames was disgraced with both of them, as Rev. T. W. Stricker—his candidate for Secretary of State—denounced salary-grabbers in his speeches, while his chief attempt to defend them, and took all that came to him. And J. D. Webster—his candidate for Superintendent of Education—announced publicly that he intended to vote the Ames ticket. It will take a long time before the people will be ready to repose confidence in those men who seemingly took so much pleasure in denouncing and vilifying prominent Republicans because they felt it their duty to remain loyal to the old flag. We hope, however, that the prodigals will return, but we cannot promise them, as yet, the faithful calf.

One painful fact in our election was the defeat of our friend Hon. James H. Piles—for sheriff of Panola county. The party was seriously divided in his county on local issues, and his opponent—Judge Orange—led him by a very small majority.

Friend Piles is, however, too important an element in our party to be left out, as he would do honor to any position he may be called to fill. We hope, therefore, that Gen. Ames will appoint him to one of the chairmanships that will be vacant next spring. I gave a brief sketch of Mr. Piles last winter, but did not include the best part of his career. Instead of his being a graduate of the High School of Springfield, Ohio, he is a graduate of Oberlin College, and took the highest honors in many studies. He studied law in the office of Hon. Mr. Shalhbarger, of Ohio, and was admitted to practice in the supreme Court in that State. He is a practicing lawyer in this State, and has sufficient experience and legal lore to make a champion for justice. I move, therefore, that the Hon. James H. Piles be made the first colored Judge of Mississippi.

The colored men of this State have called a convention to select delegates to the National Convention to assemble at Washington on the 9th of December next. Mississippi will be heard from in convention, and our members of Congress will have a painful account to render to us if they do not take an active and leading part in securing the passage of a civil rights bill next winter.

Quill's new novel will be called "Two Little Wooden Shaws." It will be issued on this side by the Lippincotts.

"Ship Ahooy!" a narrative of shipping misadventures, based on Plimsoll's inquiries, is to be the title of the Christmas Annual of *Once a Week*. We hope, says the *Publisher's Circular*, that Mr. Plimsoll's excellent endeavors will not be spoiled by too many eager pens, ready to exaggerate the evils complained of, and draw conclusions not actually due to the original philanthropist.

Mr. William Collins has been interviewed on the subject of "Edwin Frost," and stated that that unfinished gentleman was married, and further, that when he read the first number of Mr. Dickens' last story he was so painfully impressed with its vagueness and uncertainty that he at once communicated his fears as to Dickens' health to the latter's physician, and could not bear to read a line of any of the succeeding numbers till after the author's death.

The great fortune of \$5,000,000, left twenty-three years ago to the cities of New Orleans and Baltimore by John McDonough, who died in the former city, has been westered in a lawsuit brought by McDonough's heirs on account of a flaw in the law, to recover the amount, that not more than \$25,000 of the whole amount, could be retained. The rest has gone to the lawyers. McDonough's purpose in making the bequest was that the money should be devoted to the maintenance of free white and black schools in the cities named.

Half a ton of Parliamentary Bluebooks is among the items in a London literary sale.

Morimer Collins has in the press a novel of the curious title of "Transmigration."

Anthony Trollope is to write the story for the Christmas number of the *London Graphic*.

An accidental education, sir, bids me tell you that it is necessary to establish the truth of your first proposition before you presume to draw inferences from it.—Junius.

A legal notice in the *Lawrence Journal* reveals the fact that Mrs. Isabel Wells, wife of Col. Elijah Wells, at one time resided in Kansas politics, is an applicant for a divorce.

Send in your civil rights petitions.