

WATCHMAN
WEDNESDAY, JAN 11, 1870
A. A. GILBERT - EDITOR

The Sumter Watchman has by far the largest circulation (especially in the surrounding country) of any paper published in Sumter, and was established in 1850.

THE STATE TAX. The Legislature, in its recent action, levying a tax for State purposes, of nine mills, exhibited a recklessness in handling the vital and sensitive matter of taxation, which surpasses all previous acts of wrong and oppression done by South Carolina Radicalism.

But this recent action looks as though a re-instatement in power, for two years more, has been seized as the opportunity to do with impunity yet more heavily from the pockets of the honest and industrious people of the State. In 1869 the levy was seven mills—last year (as though, if possible, to produce the impression of some returning sense of justice and economy) it was put at five mills; and now, when another election has been secured, the first enormous tax is overleaped by two mills, and we have a levy of nine mills, of ninety cents upon every hundred dollars valuation of property—the valuation being arbitrarily put, and, in some instances, at more than two hundred per cent. above the actual value, whilst almost in every instance it is exceeded.

Some of the arms held by the colored militia were taken from them, and it appears, as we learn from the Columbia Phoenix, that on Sunday, Jan. 1, Capt. ALEX WALKER, the colored captain of the militia, applied to the parties who had charge of the guns 'belonging' to the militia, but his demand was refused, and he was subsequently arrested—charged with the killing of Mr. MAT. STEVENS. Fifteen of his militia were also arrested. On Wednesday evening, a party of unknown horsemen went to the Sheriff and peremptorily demanded the keys of the jail; they were given up, and they proceeded to the jail and took charge of five of the prisoners—

Captain A. WALKER, CHARLES HENNINGSON, JOE VAN LEW, ANDY THOMPSON and SYLVANUS WRIGHT. The next morning, the bodies of WALKER and HENNINGSON were discovered in the road; and it was afterwards found out that THOMPSON and WRIGHT were badly wounded.

We are further informed that Mr. Smith, (the acting deputy,) who was wounded on Sunday last, died on Thursday night.

A number of the good citizens of Union have visited Columbia, asking protection from the State authorities from this shocking state of affairs. The Governor, we learn, has been absent, and what will be done remains to be seen.

The Bennettsville Journal has been discontinued, from want of patronage and failure of patrons to pay—we apprehend chiefly in consequence of the latter. Newspaper bills are the most difficult of all bills to collect. With many the idea seems to prevail that the editor and printer can be put off with impunity, to the last, and—if he is never paid—why, it don't make much difference. And yet no man, or set of men, white or black, work as many hours out of the twenty-four, or contribute more to the general prosperity. Some men will take your paper three years, without paying, and then ask you to stop it, and work for what is due—some never think of paying and never intend to pay, if their actions are an indication—Some grumble when the bill for two or three years subscription is presented, say they didn't think they owed so much, and one half the time didn't get the paper. Some, after taking the paper two or three years, will deliberately leave the country, and never as much as say to the poor swindled printer, I wish I was able to pay you. Some take the paper awhile, until they think some little amount is due, and then they'll tell the Post Master they don't want it any longer. And so on, and so on. And yet the printer must pay in cash for every sheet of paper he sends out, and as the end of every week, for the labor performed, and the numerous other expenses daily incurred. No wonder the Bennettsville Journal has suspended; but the wonder is that any man should be so stupid as to do this.

WORKING CHRISTIAN. This excellent paper, enlarged, improved, and in convenient eight page format, comes to us from Charleston, S. C., where the office of publication has been permanently established, and ample arrangements made for conducting it in its present style. We have watched the course of this paper with much interest, its accomplished editor and proprietor, Rev. J. H. GAINES, deserves a well deserved and liberal patronage from the church in the interests of which he has so ably labored through its columns, and a journal of which he is respected

in establishing so influential an organ. And besides being so valuable a church paper, as a Christian family journal, it is worthy a place by any fire-side in the land.

TERRIBLE CRIME—MURDER OF MR. A. F. DUBARD. The Columbia Phoenix of Saturday last brought us the shocking intelligence of the murder of Mr. A. F. DUBARD, on the public highway, about six miles above Columbia. It seems that Mr. DUBARD left Columbia, for his home about fifteen miles above that city, on Thursday afternoon last. About six miles from the city his body was found, pierced through with several slugs. He was robbed of his money and watch, but the bundles in his buggy were left. It is supposed that he was instantly killed. His coat was burnt with powder, proving that the murderer stood very close when the fatal shot was fired. Mr. DUBARD was advanced in years, and one of the most respectable, highly esteemed and useful citizens of Richland County. For many years a leading member of the Methodist Church, and one of its strongest pillars at the time of his death. A man of unimpeachable character—quiet and unostentatious, but firm, intelligent and reliable in all things. A man of deep earnest piety, and of large hearted charities—a man against whom there could not have existed animosity to prompt such an awful deed, for he was kind and generous and just to all.

The Phoenix says: "But as a pious God fearing old man, it is to be presumed that he was not unprepared for the quick summons that came to him. His violent and sudden death will excite general and genuine sympathy. The assassin is not yet known; but it is to be hoped that the officers of the law and the friends of the deceased will use every proper means to fix upon the offender the responsibility of his atrocious crime. The marks of fat feet were distinctly seen about the body."

THE UNION TROUBLES. On Sunday, Jan. 1, Mr. MAT. STEVENS was dragged from his wagon a few miles from Union Court House, and murdered in cold blood by a band of armed negro militia. The attempt to arrest some of them was resisted with arms, and one or more of the militia outlaws were killed.

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Mr. Editor:—Occupying the position you do, the brief and modest notice given in your editorial columns of the recent Sunday School Festival at the Methodist Church will do—(as far as you are concerned.) But you will permit an outsider, I hope, to do that which you might not feel it to be in good taste for you to do—speak a little more at length in regard to the merits of that particular occasion, with the hope, meanwhile entertained, that the general interests of this noble cause in the country, may be accelerated thereby.

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THE REGULAR MONTHLY COMMUNICATION OF THE MASONIC LODGE NO. 100, SUMTER, S. C., WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 14, 1870, AT 7 O'CLOCK.
By order of W. W. WALKER, W. M.
JAN. 11, 1870.

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Very Respectfully,
M. STEINBERGER.
SUMTER, S. C., Dec. 25, 1870.
Hon. J. H. Gilman, our pastor, says:
F. M. Steeber my account as teacher amounting to \$70.00 for 2nd term.
(To pencil) sign here.

M. STEINBERGER.
Mr. Editor—I want some of the numerous mathematicians who read your paper to demonstrate the following problem: "Something like it occurred recently, in actual experience, and to some it was a 'hard sum'—
A. owns 1/2 and B. 1/3 of a piece of land for which they paid \$800. They sell it for this land for \$800 each, and divide the remainder of the land equally between them. What amount of the cash received does each get?"

Ladies Monumental Association.
SUMTER, S. C., Dec. 25, 1870.
The Ladies Monumental Association of Sumter District, met this day pursuant to the call of the President, Mrs. J. H. M. M., President, residing on Monticello.
Resolved, That the mortgage given to secure the payment of the Bond for the funds of the Association, loaned, be foreclosed forthwith unless the proposition to pay One Thousand Dollars be carried on or before the 1st of January, prox. And in that event the Finance Committee be instructed to take a new Bond for the balance due, at the same rate of interest, with a mortgage to secure the payment of the same.
Resolved, That the Finance Committee be continued for one year with the powers heretofore granted.

WHY THE TEACHERS ARE NOT PAID.
Mr. Editor:—We desire to ask why we can't get our pay? I don't like to give my ideas on this subject; but, as I am forced to do so, I will with pleasure.
The reason why we can't get our pay is, because there are certain men lobbying around the office of the State Superintendent of Education, who no doubt tickle his ear with propositions to speculate on the teachers' claims.—If this is not so, the signs are suspicious, and I candidly believe it is true. I have ocular demonstration of it, in letters I have seen, from those connected with the office named (State Superintendent of Education) and also from others who are lobbying around his office, for the purpose of speculating on teachers' claims.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.
Mr. Editor:—Occupying the position you do, the brief and modest notice given in your editorial columns of the recent Sunday School Festival at the Methodist Church will do—(as far as you are concerned.) But you will permit an outsider, I hope, to do that which you might not feel it to be in good taste for you to do—speak a little more at length in regard to the merits of that particular occasion, with the hope, meanwhile entertained, that the general interests of this noble cause in the country, may be accelerated thereby.

Now, my readers, you may call this nonsense. But we are informed that there are three kinds of nonsense, to wit: hard nonsense, soft nonsense and foolish nonsense, but keeping teachers out of their tuition, by not sending their checks, I call swindling nonsense.

Now, I will give you the third letter to this town from Columbia, to swindle teachers out of their money. This was sent direct to another teacher and myself; but we can't see it. They saw it was no use to write to the gentlemen to whom the two first letters were addressed; and now they try the teachers direct, for several letters of a similar character to that I herewith publish, were received by other teachers.

Being unacquainted with the gentleman who writes me this letter, I trust he will pardon me for publishing it, and take it as hard nonsense, for soft, foolish and swindling nonsense will have no easy job to outdo hard nonsense.

My candid opinion of the reason why the teachers can't get their pay is, because some of these men, who are occupying the best office in the educational department of the State are not in the proper discharge of their duty, but being a swindling