

The News.

TRI-WEEKLY.

VOL. IV.] WINNSBORO, S. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1866. 2.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Ordinary advertisements, occupying not more than ten lines, (one square,) will be inserted in THE NEWS, at \$1.00 for the first insertion and 75 cents for each subsequent insertion.

Larger advertisements, when no contract is made, will be charged in exact proportion.

For announcing a candidate to any office of profit, honor or trust, \$10.00.

Marriage, Obituary Notices, &c., will be charged the same as advertisements, when over ten lines, and must be paid for when handed in, or they will not appear.

POETRY.

TRANSIT GLORIA BREVIS.

BY ALBERT PIKE.

When Autumn's chilly winds complain,
And red leaves wither'd fall,
We know that Spring will laugh again,
And leaf and flower recall.

But when Love's saddening Autumn wears
The hues that death presage,
No Spring in Winter's lap prepares
A second golden age.

So, when Life's Autumn sadly sighs,
Yet smiles its cold tears through
No Spring, with warm and sunny skies,
The soul's youth will renew.

Love blooms and dies but once for all;
Life has no second Spring;
The frost must come, the snow must fall,
Loud as the lark may sing.

O Love! O Love! ye fade like flowers
That drop and die in June:
The present—oh, too short!—is ours,
And Autumn comes too soon.

MESSAGE NO. 1.

[Concluded.]

THE PENITENTIARY.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the late extra session, to establish a Penitentiary, I appointed Messrs. William Gregg, of Edgefield, Wm. R. Robertson, of Fairfield, and Archibald Cameron, of Charleston, "Commissioners of the Penitentiary" to select and procure a site and to erect a suitable temporary enclosure and temporary cells. They have performed the duty of selecting and procuring the site, and have ordered the work on the cells to commence. I submit to you herewith their report, together with the plans, estimates and drawings of the entire establishment, prepared by Captain T. B. Lee, the Engineer and Architect. The site is within the corporate limits of the City of Columbia—a plateau of several acres of level surface, with a bold bluff on the canal, rising some sixty feet above the level of the river. A track less than half a mile, nearly at grade, will connect the building with the Greenville Railroad at the point one-half a mile from the depots of the South Carolina and Greenville and Columbia Railroad. The water now running through the channel will furnish all the motive power that will be needed for many years. Its accessibility from every part of the State by railroad, and the facilities thereby afforded for the transportation of provisions and materials, and for shipping the supplies manufactured, make it a most admirable and advantageous location. Granite, in inexhaustible quantities, can be procured, if not within the walls, certainly within a stone's throw of them, without any cost of transportation. Its location, within the city limits, will allow the number of guards to be reduced greatly below the force which would be requisite for the safe-keeping of the prisoners in remote localities where the population is sparse. It is believed by the Architect and Engineer having the work in charge that cells may be in readiness by the first of January to receive convicts.

The Engineer and Architect estimates the appropriation needed for the rapid and successful prosecution of the work for the next year at forty-five thousand dollars.

I directed the Commissioners who were ordered to sell the buildings, machinery, &c., of the State Works at Greenville, to reserve such machinery as might be usefully employed in the manufacture of wood and iron in the Penitentiary, when fully in operation. The reservation was made, and there will be in the future only a trifling outlay needed for the machinery to operate most branches of manufactures of wood and iron.

THE LAND SCRIP FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

In obedience to the resolution of the General Assembly, passed at the special session, I appointed John S. Richard, Esq., Agent of the State, for the purpose of procuring and selling the land scrip to which this State was

entitled under the Act of Congress, establishing Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges. He was furnished with a certified copy of the resolution, duly authenticated, and filed it in the Department of the Interior. From a communication addressed to me by the Hon. D. H. Browning, Secretary of the Interior, a copy of which is herewith communicated, it will be seen that he declines to issue the scrip until the Legislature accepts, by Act, the donation in conformity to the provisions of the law of the Congress of the United States, making the grant. No time should be lost in securing this munificent donation to the cause of education and science, and I recommend that an Act be passed for that purpose. This step will certainly be accepted as a compliance with all the requirements of a Congressional law.

In some of the Northern States, the fund thus raised has been used in establishing schools for teaching the branches required by Act of Congress, in existing colleges and universities; and if this policy should commend itself to your approval, the agricultural and mechanical features of the College may be engrafted on the University of South Carolina, and save the State all expense for lands and buildings required to be furnished by it. The buildings of the University are commodious enough to accommodate all students that may desire to matriculate, and the lands adjacent to and owned by the College will furnish sufficient land for an experimental farm. It is very important, if the donation be accepted, that such legislation shall be adopted at the present session, as will make it available, independently of, or in conjunction with, the University.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY.

was organized early in January last, and has now about sixty-five students, but its number of matriculates has not been equal to the expectation of its friends. The Act of last December, establishing an University, requires further amendment, by providing for Medical and Law Schools as a part of the general system of University education. Many of the young men who go to the Universities of other States, to prosecute their studies in these professions, would willingly avail themselves of the opportunity, if offered, of pursuing them here. With one Professor of Law, and two Professors in the Medical School, in conjunction with the Professor of Chemistry already there, these schools could be put into complete and successful operation, and the hope might then be reasonably entertained that the number of students would be largely increased. The Board of Trustees, for reasons which were doubtless, satisfactory to them, declined, in May last to fill the chair of Modern Languages. This important branch of modern education should not longer go unprovided for, and the Trustees will, doubtless, fill the vacant chair at their annual meeting in December. The Institution as organized during the present year, though by law an "University," has been practically nothing more than the College revived. No new branches have been taught, and so long as provision is not made for teaching the modern languages, and for organizing Medical and Law Schools, so long will the youth of the State seek other institutions, where these studies may be prosecuted. Until the University can be made to merit the patronage of the State, by enlarged facilities for acquiring knowledge in science, languages, and the learned professions, its friends cannot expect to command a general public patronage to sustain it.

The Board of Trustees now numbers nearly forty members. This makes it a very unwieldy body. Its numbers destroy all sense of individual responsibility in the management of the affairs of the University. Nearly one-half of the Board are Trustees *ex officio*, and, with rare exceptions, these *ex officio* members constitute, by reason

of official engagements, which call them to Columbia in May and December, the majority who attend its session. It was found nearly impossible to secure the attendance of a quorum (one-half of the Board,) and you provided by law, at the last session, that nine should constitute a quorum in a Board of thirty-nine members. A smaller body would realize more fully their responsibility to the State for the proper management of its principal educational institution. I therefore recommend that the Board be reduced to seven members, and appointed in such manner as the General Assembly, in its wisdom, may direct.

THE PURCHASE OF CORN.

Pursuant to the resolution of 21st September last, passed by the General Assembly, I appointed Colonel D. Wyatt Aiken, Agent of the State, to make purchases of corn. Having satisfied himself fully that the double restriction imposed in the resolution rendered it impossible to effect purchases, he declined the appointment. I concurred fully in his conclusion, that the double restriction rendered the whole scheme nugatory, and I have not, therefore, appointed another Agent. The resolution required that three hundred thousand dollars of bonds should purchase and deliver in the State three hundred thousand bushels of corn. It is reasonably certain that the bonds could not have been sold for more than seventy cents to the dollar, and corn could not be purchased, in any market, and delivered at one dollar per bushel. The correspondence between Colonel Aiken and myself is herewith communicated.

The grain crop of the State has been gathered, and you are better prepared now, than at the extra session, to determine the deficiency, and what will be needed to supply the absolute wants of the poor. When you have fixed the amount, the grave question arises how are you to supply the funds to purchase it? The feverish and unsettled condition of public affairs has not tended to appreciate the credit of the Southern States; and if the purchase of a large amount of breadstuffs, for distribution among the poor is to be effected by the sale of State bonds, it can only be accomplished at a ruinous discount. The question is earnestly commended to your gravest deliberation.

The firm of Browne and Schirmer, grain merchants of Charleston and Columbia, have made a proposition to furnish corn, and have requested me to lay it before you. They propose that if the State shall advance to them twenty five thousand dollars, which they will give approved security to refund, they will engage to furnish 60,000 bushels of corn per month, to be sold at actual cost, with transportation and two and one-half per cent. commission added, to the citizens of the State; invoices to be submitted to commissioners, and the corn to be subject to inspection by the commissioners or by an agent. If a larger amount should be needed monthly, that larger amount will be furnished, upon condition that the State make a *pro rata* increase of the loan. The money loaned is to be returned as soon as the contract terminates. It is proposed by these gentlemen to establish depots for the sale of the corn in Charleston, Columbia and Marion, from which points it may readily be distributed to every section of the State. The members of the firm are enterprising, and trustworthy, and, if such a contract is awarded them, they will, doubtless, fulfill its stipulations with fidelity. If the necessities of the State should require the importation of one million of bushels, to supply the wants of those who must buy and are able to pay, the saving to the people of this State, by such an arrangement, would not fall short of two hundred thousand dollars.

I have been informed that a proposition of the same sort will be submitted to you by A. M. Riker, a grain merchant of Charleston, who can furnish you with satisfactory testimonials of integrity and business capacity. The plans for supplying with corn the whole population, including the Boards of Com-

missioners of the Poor, who will be compelled to provide for a large number of indigent persons, at a profit of only two and a half percent. to the contractor, on cost and expenses, are commended to your favorable consideration.

THE PECUNIARY DISTRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE.

The short crops of grain and cotton excite the indebtedness of the people to press heavily on them. This state of things imposes on every generous creditor the duty of making as liberal compromises with his debtors as he can admit without pecuniary ruin. If he has been fortunate in escaping the general wreck he should cheerfully lend a helping hand to his less fortunate neighbor who is still struggling in a sea of debt. Legislation consistent with the Constitution and the general interest of the community may be adopted, which will greatly relieve the public. I reiterate my recommendation made at the extra session, that imprisonment for debt be abolished, except in cases of fraud; and when a debtor is about removing his person or property without the limits of the State, that the insolvent laws be so extended that a debtor may, by petition, on giving three months notice, to all his creditors, require them to come in and prove their demands, and upon his surrendering his entire effects for their benefit, that they be perpetually barred from ever again proceeding against him in the Courts of this State, and that all cases where a defendant is sued and makes no defence to the action, no costs shall be taxed against him.

Persons in *sui juris* can now compromise with their debtors, but such as occupy fiduciary position are restrained by the stringency of legal rules, and not being authorized to compound with debtors, they frequently lose the entire debt. It is sound policy to modify those rules, so as to allow them to compound the demands they hold against debtors, taking care to guard against fraud or ill-faith on their part.

I invite your attention to the propriety of passing a homestead law, and of extending the value of articles exempt from levy and sale, for the head of each family. Most of the States have made much more liberal and humane provisions than South Carolina for guarding the families of unfortunate and improvident debtors against being cast out upon the world, homeless and breadless. The decisions of some of the State Courts have affirmed the constitutional powers of their Legislatures to enact laws increasing the exemptions from levy and sale, even upon antecedent debts. It is not by any means clear that you are precluded from enacting such a law, either by precedent reason, justice or the Constitution.

DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Agreeably to the resolution of the 21st of September last passed by the General Assembly, a circular was issued by me, "directed to each of the Tax-Collectors of the State, requiring them to furnish me with a list of the names of all citizens in their respective Districts who were permanently disabled in the State or Confederate service during the late war; particularly specifying those who have been deprived of their limbs, and stating in each case whether it be an arm or leg, or both." The information thus acquired the Governor was requested to furnish to the General Assembly at the next regular session. Returns have been received from the Tax-Collectors, with the exception of those of Abbeville, Barnwell, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Kershaw, Lexington, Marion and Union, and the Parishes of St. George's, Dorchester, St. Helena, St. James, Goose Creek, St. James, Santee, St. John's, Colleton, and St. Stephen's.

The Districts and names reported have been alphabetically arranged, and are herewith transmitted for your information. The number reported, so far, as having lost legs, is one hundred and sixty-seven; one hundred and eighty have lost arms; one hundred and seventy are otherwise permanently disabled. The printing of the Journals of the ex-

tra session, together with the joint resolutions then passed, could not be completed until within the past week, and my attention was not called to your resolution of the 15th of September, "directing the Governor to invite proposals and specimens of artificial legs." Proposals have not been invited; I am, therefore, not prepared to report "the name of that manufacturer who will present the best and cheapest models, with the price thereof."

COVERING THE STATE HOUSE.

In conformity to your resolution of the 19th of September last, advertisements were published inviting proposals for "estimates of the cost of covering the new State House, and of fitting up therein a sufficient number of rooms for the use of the General Assembly, and its officers upon the most economical plan. Bids have been received from three builders. They will be laid before the Committees of the two Houses charged with the subject, together with their respective plans, specifications and estimates. Well-informed architects represent that the building, in its present condition, will rapidly deteriorate, and I recommend that an appropriation be made to carry out the purpose of your resolution.

GENERAL INCORPORATION ACT.

I respectfully renew my former recommendations, that a general Incorporation Act be passed. Capital should be invited into the State by every legitimate means, and ready facilities for organizing chartered companies, where it may be concentrated for enterprise too large for individual effort, would promote the end, and are greatly needed. Such an Act would save much of the time which the General Assembly is now compelled to devote to granting charters, and would reduce, very materially, the annual cost of printing Bills and Acts of incorporation.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

I communicate herewith the report of Dr. Parker, Superintendent and Physician of the Asylum. You will learn from it that there are now in the Institution 143 patients, of whom 56 are paying and 86 are charity patients. The latter list will soon be increased by transfer from the former, arising from the inability of present paying patients to raise funds further to support themselves. The Institution is admirably managed in all its departments, and I commend it to your continuing favor.

THE DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND.

The Commissioners of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, at Cedar Springs, in Spartanburg District, met in June last and made the necessary arrangements for putting the schools into operation, under the supervision of Messrs. Henderson and Walker. The boarding-house and schools were opened early in November, and they have now resumed their long suspended functions under the most favorable auspices. The schools are rapidly filling up, and promise to reach, at an early day, the maximum number heretofore attained. The reports of the Commissioners and Superintendents will be soon transmitted to you. I beg to commend this noble and humane charity to your fostering care.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY CONGRESS.

I transmit herewith a communication from the Hon. W. H. Seward, covering the constitutional amendment proposed to the several States of the Union, by the Congress of the United States. History furnishes few examples of a people who have been required to concede more to the will of their conquerors than the people of the South. Every concession we have made, however, so far from touching the magnanimity or generosity of the victors, has sharpened their malice and intensified their revenge.

In the surrender of our last organized army of the late Confederate Government, Generals Johnson and Sherman, each representing the military power and authority of his respective Government, agreed upon certain terms of capitulation. While exacting in some respects, these terms were, in the main such as a liberal and generous victor would concede to a fallen foe. They were accepted in good faith by the Southern people, and every organized body of soldiers in opposition to the laws of the United States were in a few days dispersed. Scarcely

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