

TERMS: ONE YEAR, \$1.50. SIX MONTHS, 75c. Two Dollars if not paid in advance.

A dispatch from Augusta to the Columbia Register, dated January 28, says that John Butler, a son of Col. A. P. Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture, fell in front of a circular saw and his body was cut in twain. It is supposed that his overcoat caught in the saw, which drew him down upon it. Death was almost instantaneous.

Gov. Thompson has recommended to the President the appointment of Col. A. P. Butler as Commissioner for South Carolina at the New Orleans Exposition, and Dr. W. L. Mauldin, of Greenville, as alternate Commissioner. These are excellent recommendations, as either of the gentlemen named would represent the State in a most acceptable and efficient manner.

It is stated that agents of the Republican party from Washington have visited Columbia for the purpose of reorganizing the party in this State. Their purpose is to organize a Republican Club in every County in the State. This will be the best thing that can be done for the Democrats. It will remind us of the dangers of Republican government, and will unite the Democratic party in an enthusiastic canvass this year.

A Secretary for each United States Senator is a luxury which we can well understand is a great relief and assistance to a Senator, for while he properly attends to his duties they are very burdensome and exacting. A secretary would take the bulk of a Senator's correspondence off his hand and attend to innumerable details, which now consume his time without in any way especially improving his capacity for work. Every Senator who takes anything like an active part in the work of the Senate could hardly get along without a secretary, but it seems to us that he should employ and pay for this luxury himself. The resolution, therefore, of the Senate to provide each member of that body with a secretary at the government expense, is a piece of extravagance which will scarcely be approved by the people. The worst feature, too, about the matter, it strikes us, is that it has been done by a simple resolution of the Senate instead of by Act of Congress. It is, therefore, not a measure put before Congress and passed as other changes in the law are made, after deliberate consideration by the law making body of the government, but it is the use of an incidental power of the Senate for the benefit of its members in a way that was never contemplated, and a way which, although lawful, is not legitimate. Already some member of the House has proposed to provide a secretary likewise for each member of the House. This would be as legitimate as the work of an active member of the House being as laborious as that of a Senator, upon the same principle as that acted upon in the Senate, the resolution should pass. The members of the House, however, are too near the people, and their elections come so often for the passage of such a resolution in that body. It would add about half a million dollars to the expenses of the government, without returning any compensating advantages to the people who pay the taxes.

The press of the country is at present devoting some attention to the discussion of the evils of committee rule in our National and State legislatures. All agree that it is unfortunate for a body to be governed in important legislation by committees which act in private, but unfortunately it is difficult to provide any better system. To abolish the committees would only injure, instead of helping the cause of deliberate and intelligent legislation. It is the duty of the committee to investigate matters committed to their charge, and report upon them to the body which it represents. The original purpose of a committee was to have investigation, and in all cases where there was difference of opinion, to have the conclusion reached by the committee, and the grounds for it set forth in the report for the consideration of the body which has to act upon it. These intended reports were very different from the conventional, conventional reports in which the committees merely state their conclusions without reasons. The purpose of reference to committees is that the body may be informed during the discussion as fully as possible of the merits of the pending matter. As a matter of practice the members of the body do place an undue importance upon the report of a committee. It might be an improvement to require all committees to report their reasons in full, or to report without recommendation. If reported in full, every member could judge deliberately of the sufficiency of those reasons, and if reported without recommendation, then there would be no prestige of committee action for or against the pending measure. The members of the committee would have the information derived from the investigation, and could participate in the debate. Something ought to be done to place more responsibility upon every member of a legislative body for its action. It is not for the interest of the people that one-fifth of the members of a representative body should control the body, and yet in all of them a small proportion do the work and control the action taken.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 28.—A dispatch from Liberty Mills, Wabash County, says: "The twin babies of Isaac and Rebecca Martin were found frozen to death in their crib which had been in a cold room. The father visited the crib during the night and found one dead, and the other was suffering severely and soon after died. The clothing was frozen to the bodies of the infants."

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Letter from Florida. Mr. Editor: I closed my last letter in giving an account of some of the fruits that are raised in this State. I did not finish the catalogue, but only some of those that grow most successfully in this County.

I am told that there are at least a hundred different varieties of fruits grown in Florida, that cannot be grown in any part of the United States.

When we consider the vast resources of this State, its fruits, its corn, cotton, sugar, rice, potatoes, vegetables, &c., together with its tremendous herds of cattle and sheep, we cannot but be impressed with the fact that the people here have advantages that no other people in our vast country have.

Winters are said to be variable; sometimes mild, and sometimes severe. This Winter, so far, has been very severe; never, indeed, than I ever imagined it could be. The "old inhabitant" says it is the coldest that has been felt in fifteen years. There never has been here any sleet or snow, but it has been shivering cold, ice in abundance, and the earth slightly crustled. Yet strange to say the orange trees, except very small ones, have not been materially damaged. The leaves of the trees look as if they have been swinged with fire; they are crisped and perhaps will fall off.

I have talked with persons who are familiar with South Florida, and they tell me that the famous frost-line is all imaginary; that there is no such a line in the State; that frosts are not unfrequently seen in the Everglades. Frosts have appeared from time to time in every part of the State. In this County, I am told by old citizens, snow has never fallen, but sleet sometimes falls. It seems to me that I have felt this Winter's cold as much as I have felt it in Anderson, though of course it is not near so cold. Unless it is rainy, no day is too cold to work in the open air. The frosts here have a peculiar dryness that renders them comparatively harmless. Vegetables often survive heavy frosts.

During the week of Christmas I saw young potato slips shooting out from under the ground.

So many fairy tales have been told of Florida that people who live at a distance have the impression that Florida is a far off country—away amid the tropics and a perpetual Spring, of flowers and sweet-scented roses, a land of sunshine and showers, a "land of milk and honey." This is all a phantom of the imagination. True, roses are here all the year round, but in Winter the country presents a dreary appearance; it is bare of vegetation except the evergreens, flowers are scarce, the singing birds have ceased their songs, and all is quiet enough, save the ceaseless moanings of the wind among the stately pines.

As the Winters are not severe, so neither are Summers very warm. This seems to be the universal testimony. I am told that it would be hot, indeed, were it not for the frequent showers, and never ceasing sea-breezes. These temper the atmosphere very much and make life here pleasant. Persons who have lived here many years have told me that seldom one becomes oppressively warm in the shade, and persons in the fields keep cool from the fact that their clothes, dampened with perspiration, are fanned with the breezes from the sea. In the morning, between sunrise and 9 o'clock, is regarded as the hottest and most sultry part of the day. After that hour, the breezes spring up and are in motion most of the day. Occasionally about noon, breezes lift, and then it is hot, indeed. But this is of rare occurrence.

Persons need never fear to come to Florida on account of the heat of Summer. The people here don't look as if they have been injured by the heat.

The rainy season, as it is called, commences about the first of June. It does not rain incessantly, but it is shower—a shower, perhaps, two or three every day. This rainy season continues through the three hottest months. The farmers generally have their corn "laid by" and are ready for the showers. If they are not prepared for the showers, if their crops are grassy when these showers set in, poor fellows, there is but little hope for them until they are assisted by Winter's frost. The farmers know these things. They know it is of the utmost importance that they exert themselves while the "sun shines" in April and May. These Summer showers are not only beneficial to the growing crops, but are also conducive to health. If the Summers here were as dry as it was last year in Anderson, not only would nothing be made in the fields, but the wells would dry up, the ponds disappear, cattle and people, too, would sicken and die. So we see it is a wise arrangement of Providence that Florida Summers are not dry. And this is one great advantage that the people of other States do not always have, and no assurance of having. Crops here are sometimes shortened by worms and caterpillars, but seldom for want of rains. One of the best farmers in the State told me he had made twenty-four crops in Florida, and his County always, every year, made a sufficiency for the people. While some years there would be a scarcity in one part of the County, there would be an overplus in others. This speaks well for this State. Few States have such a record.

W. D. HARTON, At. Tabor, Florida. A Republican Effort Predicted. A Columbia dispatch to the Atlanta Constitution announces a wonderful reorganization of the Republican fold in Washington politician named Rollin in Columbia working for Arthur, clubs to be organized in every County in the remarkable short time of six weeks, a liberal share of Republican funds to be distributed among the faithful in South Carolina, a weekly Republican paper to be established in Columbia, and a Sherman boom working. The following is the concluding paragraph of the dispatch: "The Executive Committee of the Republican party will meet in Columbia in a few weeks to decide when and where the State Convention shall be held. It will probably be held in Columbia early in April. Then the Republicans will show their hand and their plans will be laid bare."

A little daughter of Mr. John Meete, of Lexington County, was so badly burned on last Thursday while playing with the wash pot that she died Friday.

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The Free Schools. Mr. Editor: I was glad to see the communication of W. N. M. on the above subject in your last issue. Surely every citizen of our County should feel a deep interest in it. The character of the next generation will depend upon the "training" of the children of the present time. The schools that children attend is a very important part of their raising.

The man who has wealth elevates his own children by elevating those of his neighbors. Since insufficient pay drives talent into other callings, and puts inefficient teachers over the schools, and thus makes poor schools, I desire most modestly to bring to the notice of the Trustees of our County a plan, not original with me, by which ten per cent. will be added to the salaries of many of them. I have been informed that Pendleton Trustees pay as they go. The plan is this:

Let teachers be paid out of the public school funds from November 1st until March 31st. Then let patrons pay for Summer schools until enough money has been saved to pay teachers cash. It seems to me that this plan would injure no one; and needy teachers would then sell their claims for ninety cents on the dollar, thus reducing their meagre salaries and making the rich richer, and the poor poorer.

I hope our worthy trustees will think of this suggestion along with those of W. N. M. ELLIS Z. BROWN, Congressman Mackey Dead.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 28.—A telegram received here to-day from Washington announces the death this morning of Congressman E. W. Mackey, representative of the Seventh South Carolina District, known as the "Black District." The deceased was a native of Charleston and the son of the late Albert Gallatin Mackey, the distinguished Mason and author. E. W. Mackey was about 45 years of age. He was a graduate of the Citadel Academy. He was for some time a clerk in his father's office who was the Collector of the Port of Charleston. After the war he was affiliated with the Radical party, being a delegate to the State Convention in 1868. In 1872-73 he was sent to Congress. He has also occupied the positions of Alderman and Sheriff in Charleston. In 1876 he was speaker of the Radical House of representatives in this State, being a prominent actor in the contest with the Democratic or "Wallace House." In 1880 he ran on the Radical ticket in opposition to Mr. O'Conner, who was declared elected. The deceased contested the election, but during the contest his opponent died. Mr. Dibble was elected to fill the vacancy, when the contest was successfully renewed by the deceased before a Republican House. Mr. Dibble being elected. In 1882 the deceased, after a warm contest with Sam Houston, secured the Congressional nomination from the "Black District" and was elected. Mr. Dibble being re-elected at the same time to the seat vacated by the deceased.

Horrible Outrage in Pickens. The Pickens Sentinel contains the story of an outrage committed in that county last week which, it says, was kept secret by the coroner, and relatives of the victim in the hope that the fiend who perpetrated the infamous crime might be caught and brought before the tribunal of Judge Lynch and shot with Sam Houston. The victim is a 15 year old daughter of J. H. Bank's, white. She had gone about a half mile from the house to hunt evergreens, and found some winter huckleberries, which she was gathering, when a negro man who she describes as being "thick set, smooth faced, coal black wearing a round about coat," approached her, and said "good morning." She replied "good morning." The negro then said, "where little daughter are you?" She replied "Mr. Bank's, and turned to picking the berries again. Before she was aware of the designs of the brute, he caught her by the throat and held her until his hellish purpose had been accomplished. He then struck his victim across the side of the head, cutting a gash and knocking her insensible, in which condition she does not know how long she remained. After a certain consciousness, she crawled and walked as best she could to the house, and told her story. Dr. West, a neighbor, and a thorough search was instituted for the brute, but without avail. The track of the man was taken, and he followed into Greenville county where he was captured. He was brought back to Mr. Bank's under the impression that he was the right man, and the rope with which he had been procured, and when he was taken to the jail, identification said he was not the man, and of course he was released. It is thought that the taking of the wrong track was the means of letting the guilty party go, and that he was a stranger to that community, and his pants were ragged. It is supposed that he went in the direction of Cedar's Head, as a negro was met on that road by a Mr. Thrift, whose appearance answered to that given by the girl of her assailant. The girl lay in a very dangerous condition for about two weeks, but the Doctor now pronounces her out of danger.

South Carolina in Congress. A Washington special to the Charleston News and Courier says: "The Senate Chamber, in executive session, pending the consideration of Emory Speer's nomination for District Attorney in Georgia, that a sharp encounter occurred between Senator Butler and Senator Edmunds, in the course of which the South Carolina Senator delivered some vigorous blows to the Vermontor, and out of which Mr. Edmunds, as it is said, did not come with flying colors. Senator Edmunds made an unjust and unjustifiable attack upon Mr. Youmans, of South Carolina, for his conduct in the late election cases at Columbia, to which Senator Butler retorted that Mr. Youmans was the equal of any man in ability as a lawyer and character as a man, and that this attack in a forum, where Mr. Youmans could not defend himself, was unworthy any Senator, especially unworthy a Senator of South Carolina." The Republican fold in Washington politician named Rollin in Columbia working for Arthur, clubs to be organized in every County in the remarkable short time of six weeks, a liberal share of Republican funds to be distributed among the faithful in South Carolina, a weekly Republican paper to be established in Columbia, and a Sherman boom working. The following is the concluding paragraph of the dispatch: "The Executive Committee of the Republican party will meet in Columbia in a few weeks to decide when and where the State Convention shall be held. It will probably be held in Columbia early in April. Then the Republicans will show their hand and their plans will be laid bare."

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The Carolina, Cumberland Gap and Chicago. CHARLESTON, S. C., January 28.—Governor Hanger, of South Carolina, president of the Carolina, Cumberland Gap and Chicago railroad company, has been interviewed as to the prospects of this great enterprise and is hopeful that arrangements will be made by which it can be completed. It has been surveyed along its entire proposed route, which extends from Aiken, S. C., to London, Ky., a distance of more than 400 miles in almost an air-line. In 1882 the company was formed by the consolidation of the five independent railroad corporations in the State of South and North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, the franchises granted to each of the five companies being transferred to the consolidated company. The stockholders of the consolidated railway are the stockholders of the original companies. A majority of the stock is held in South Carolina, and has been nearly all paid up, and has been expended in surveys and construction in this State. The route of the railway fifty miles are graded. When the consolidation was effected a contract was made with the Atlantic and North-western construction company of New Jersey for the building and equipping of the line from Aiken to London, Ky., the construction company to be paid in bonds of the railway company. But it was stipulated by the construction company that it should not be compelled to commence work until a contract was made for the sale of the bonds of the railway company, the construction of the railway thus being made to depend entirely upon the prior negotiation of the sale of its bonds, and that the proceeds of such sales were solely for the purpose of raising money to complete the enterprise. A financial agent was appointed and sent to England, where he is now trying to negotiate the bonds of the company. In spite of the depressed condition of railroad securities he has succeeded in raising money enough to finish the grading and to locate and cross the road from Aiken to the mountains by securing the subscriptions of towns and counties interested in the route to the capital stock of the entire line from Aiken to London, Ky., and will open up one of the richest routes for agricultural and commercial sections of country in the South.—Correspondence Atlanta Constitution.

Things in Washington. The Republican Congressional Committee have already got to work and mapped out a plan of campaign. The South is to be fought for in every District where the census shows a negro majority. In the contest with the Democrats, in case of a Democratic minority in the next House, seats from our section of the country will be vacated by wholesale. It is necessary for the Democrats to carry the President and House beyond party prejudice, so that, incidentally, the Republicans may be balked in the design of appointing managers of elections with all the powers of a returning board. Confronted with such a danger, it is not surprising that the Democratic business interests of the country and risk a defeat that will put back twenty years. This practical view, the keynote of which sounds in every syllable of Henry Payne's speech, has made not a few tariff Democrats wince from a lunacy into which the Whiskey Ring had led them. It is thought here that Mackey, of South Carolina, has been given the patronage of the office of a delegate in the delegation in favor of Arthur in the next Presidential election. The latter has posed before the country hitherto as a civil service reformer, and his opinion of Southern Republicans has been expressed in a public manner which has been commended by the public. But recent events have placed him in a different light. The overwhelming majority of the decent people of Bamberg, white and black, petitioned that the widow of the deceased Republican postmaster be appointed to his place; but Mackey had determined upon a negro named Johnson, a member of the State Republican Committee, and that settled it with Mr. Gresham. The Republican party members went on the negro's behalf, and the widow lady, but in vain. She had no vote and did not run primaries. The Edgefield philosopher and statesman gave the Postmaster a public rebuke, and the result was that the widow of the deceased Republican postmaster was appointed to his place; but Mackey had determined upon a negro named Johnson, a member of the State Republican Committee, and that settled it with Mr. Gresham. The Republican party members went on the negro's behalf, and the widow lady, but in vain. She had no vote and did not run primaries. The Edgefield philosopher and statesman gave the Postmaster a public rebuke, and the result was that the widow of the deceased Republican postmaster was appointed to his place; but Mackey had determined upon a negro named Johnson, a member of the State Republican Committee, and that settled it with Mr. Gresham.

Fred Douglas Marries a White Woman. WASHINGTON, January 24.—Fred Douglas, the well-known colored leader, was married in this city, evening, Miss Helen M. Pitts, a white woman, formerly of Aron, New York. The wedding, which took place at the house of Dr. Grimké, of the Presbyterian Church, was a private affair, and no guests were present. The first wife of Fred Douglas was a colored woman, died about a year ago. The woman he married to-day is about thirty-five years of age. She is employed as a copyist in his office. Douglas himself was about seventy-three years of age, and has daughters as old as his present wife.

The Smith family occupies fifteen closely printed pages of the London Directory this year.

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"Whereas, and Whereas." DODGING THE TARIFF ISSUE BEHIND THE BLOODY SHIRT. WASHINGTON, January 23.—Senator Sewell, from the committee on military affairs, reported favorably the bill for the relief of Fitz-John Porter. Senator Sherman offered the following preamble and resolutions: Whereas, among the expressed objects for which the Constitution of the United States was established were those to establish justice and ensure domestic tranquility; And, whereas, the Constitution provides for the security to all citizens of equal civil rights and to all citizens the privileges and immunities laid down in the condition of citizenship, and that the right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude; and, further, that no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws; And, whereas, among the privileges and immunities inherent in citizenship are those of the right to vote, and the consideration of questions of State and National concern, and in safety to discuss the same, and the right to exercise the franchise in every State freely and without molestation or intimidation; And, whereas, a general election was to occur and did occur in the State of Virginia on the 6th day of November, 1883; And, whereas, it is alleged and currently reported in the public press, that on the 3d day of November, 1883, at Danville, in said State, a large number of peaceable citizens of the United States, and of said State, were violently assailed by an organized body of men and fired upon, and several of them killed, by said men, conspiring to do so with the purpose of affecting the result of said election, and of so doing by creating, by means of such unlawful violence and homicide, a state of alarm and terror, and of so doing to induce them to refrain from voting, or vote differently from their previous intentions; And, whereas, it is alleged that all the voters of said State were so intimidated and of one political party and all their assailants of another; And, whereas, it is alleged that the authorities of said State of Virginia have not brought any of the persons concerned in the said conspiracy before the courts of justice for examination or trial, whereby the equal rights of citizenship and the equal protection of the laws have not been secured to all the people of said State; And, whereas, a general election was to occur and did occur in the State of Mississippi on the 6th day of November, 1883; And, whereas, it is alleged and currently reported in the public press, that prior to the said election in the county of Copiah, State of Mississippi, there was an organized movement by the members of one party to prevent the members of another party from voting at that election, and to do so by means of open discussion and expression of political opinions, and this purpose was carried into execution by organized plans of terror and violence; and the means used for that purpose were by lawless and organized violence, and by means of assaulting and, in some cases, killing lawful voters with the view, by terror and fear of violence, to deter others from voting. 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