The Charleston Daily News.

VOLUME VII.---NUMBER 1092. CHARLESTON, S. C., SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1869. SIX DOLLARS PER ANNUM

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

CHARLESTON BIBLE SOCIETY—COOSAWHATCHIE COUNTY—TWO THOUSAND WINCHESTER RIFLES NO ADJOURNMENT.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DAILY NEWS.]

COLUMBIA, February 26.—IN THE SENATE, the following received a third reading, were passed and sent to the House: A bill to recharter Younginer's Ferry; a bill to incorporate the Town of Pickens; a bill to alter and amend the charter of the Town of Greenville.

The following had a second reading and were ordered to be engrossed: A bill to amend an act establishing quarantine at Georgetown, Charleston, and Hilton Head; a bill to repeal an act preventing persons holding certain offices of emolument from leaving the State; a bill to renew the charter of the Charleston Bible Society; a bill to incorporate the Charleston Loan Company; a bill to further define the duties of State Treasurer; a bill to incorporate Carmel Church, in Picken's County; a bill to prevent and punish duelling; a bill to amend an act to regulate the manner of drawing jurors; a bill to establish a magistrates' lien.

Wright introduced a bill to create the County of Coosawhatchie.

Donaldson introduced a bill to incorporate the South Carolina Plantation Company, and gave notice of a bill to regulate the mode of celebrating marriages.

Cain gave notice of a bill to incorporate the Homestead Building and Planting Mutual Association.

IN THE HOUSE, Whipper reported favorably on the bill to determine the value of contracts made in Confederate States notes or their equivalent.

The bill from the Senate to change the county seat of Barnwell County to Blackville, was read a second time and ordered to be engrossed.

Hayne introduced a resolution authorizing the Governor to purchase two thousand Winchester rifles and necessary ammunition. Referred to Military Committee.

Shrewsberry introduced a resolution that all pending bills to aid railroad and private corporations be postponed to the next session. Tabled, yeas seventy-three; nays twenty-three.

A resolution to adjourn March 19th was tabled by a vote of fifty-six to nineteen.

The Educational bill was discussed to the hour of adjournment.

The Governor has approved the following acts: An act to incorporate the Union Star Fire Engine Company as part of the Fire Department of the City of Charleston; an act to incorporate certain fire engine companies of Charleston; an act to amend an act to organize the Circuit Courts; an act to incorporate the Rocky River Baptist Church in the County of Anderson; an act to regulate the practice of medicine in this State; an act to lease the State Road in Greenville County; an act to incorporate the Sumter Fire Engine Company; an act to incorporate the Vaucluse Manufacturing Company; an act to incorporate the Home Insurance Company; an act to renew the charter of the Stony Bluff Ferry; an act to incorporate the South Carolina Phosphate Company; an act to renew the charter of the Charleston Ancient Artillery Society.

CONGRESSIONAL.

THE ARMY BILL—THE DEFICIENCY BILL—PAYING SOUTHERN SENATORS—THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

WASHINGTON, February 26.—IN THE HOUSE, the Military Committee reported the evidence in regard to the army, showing that the Quartermaster-General has 14,000 men under his control. The committee recommends that the staff should receive orders from the General, instead of from the Secretary of War.

The consolidation of the quartermaster's, pay and subsistence departments, also of the ordnance, artillery, engineer and signal corps, was recommended.

The Deficiency bill was again considered. It now amounts to $20,000,000. The appropriation for the pay of Mr. Harvey, minister to Portugal, was again erased.

IN THE SENATE, the bill for paying Southern senators in full was postponed.

The report on the suffrage amendment was discussed until recess.

The discussion will be resumed to-night.

WASHINGTON.

GRANT DISCLAIMS ALLEGIANCE TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY—NATURALIZATION TREATY WITH MEXICO—LOBBY IN DESPAIR—GEORGIA AND LOUISIANA COUNTED OUT—THE TORTUGAS PRISONERS—LIEUTENANT BRAIN.

WASHINGTON, February 26.—The naturalization treaty with Mexico provides reciprocally that five years' uninterrupted residence shall secure alienation and citizenship. The declaration of intention will not secure the rights of citizenship, and naturalization will be voided and original citizenship renewed by two years' residence in native country. The extradition treaty of 1861 remains in force.

The lobby has lost all hope of any action on private bills this session.

It is understood that the Senate will amend the Memphis and El Paso Railroad bill so as to require the road to be finished within a given time.

General R. S. Granger has been ordered to report to General Stoneman.

The following is one of many versions of Grant's reply to McClure, of Pennsylvania, who ventured to advise him in regard to choosing a Cabinet officer from Pennsylvania: "I am not the representative of a political party, although a party voted for me." McClure replied: "Then in my conversation on the subject of your administration I have spoken from a mistaken standpoint, and my remarks have been illogical to you. I have nothing more to say on the subject."

General Sherman has arrived.

General Clingman, of North Carolina, visited General Grant to-day.

The Clerk of the House excludes Louisiana, Georgia and other contested seats from his initatory roll of the next House.

Naval Paymaster Winslow, son of Commodore Winslow, died to-day of malignant scarlet fever.

The application for *habeas corpus* for the Tortugas prisoners was argued to-day. Philip Phillips for the prisoners; the Assistant and Attorney General contra.

A delegation of Baltimore ladies visited the President to-day in behalf of Lieutenant Brain. The President's reply is considered favorable.

EUROPE.

CHURCH INTERFERENCE IN SPAIN—COURSE OF SERRANO AND THE MINORITY.

MADRID, February 26.—The ministry has made an important statement of the motives for their interference in religious matters. The St. Vincent Jesuit College was suppressed because the members conspired against the government. The civil authorities were ordered to take charge of certain church property, because the conduct of the clerical party exposed the objects of art in the churches to destruction.

Serrano, in view of the firmly rooted and inexorable principles held by the majority, has advised the minority to pursue a conciliatory policy. As for himself, he promised them loyalty, patriotism and abnegation.

BULLION—THE SULTAN GRATEFUL.

PARIS, February 26.—The bullion in the Bank of France has increased 11,000,000f.

The Sultan has issued a circular thanking the Great Powers for the attitude taken in the late conference.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

RODA THE CAUSE OF EXCITEMENT—NON-ARRIVAL OF THE CRICKET—CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AT CIENFUEGOS.

HAVANA, February 26.—The announcement that Roda is to supersede Dulce occasions excitement here.

The steamer Cricket which left Charleston for this port on the 9th has not arrived. It is supposed that she has landed provisions on the coast.

The government has ordered all available troops to Cienfuegos and other menaced towns.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

A spanish man-of-war is watching the Peruvian monitors at Key West.

The Arkansas House of Representatives has passed a bill outlawing members of the Ku-Klux-Klan.

The Legislature of West Virginia has passed a bill fixing the capital of that State at Charleston, in Kanawha County.

Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, denies having either written or telegraphed to Grant about Cabinet appointments.

Thomas E. Wilson, senior partner of the firm of Wilson & Joler, druggists, of Louisville, Ky., committed suicide yesterday, at the age of sixty-one.

Senter, speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, has been inaugurated Governor of that State, *vice* Brownlow resigned. His inaugural foreshadows no policy.

RESUMPTION OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS.

In some remarks made by us we have taken for granted that the paper currency of the United States is redundant. The extent of the excess can only be reached by approximation. Those who have made this subject one of close examination have taken the increase of the population as the basis of calculation. Mr. Wells, the Special Commissioner of the Revenue, in his recent able report, has assumed $10 *per capita* of the whole population as sufficient for the currency of the United States, including both paper and specie. The next enumeration in 1870 will show 42,000,000. This multiplied by 10 would give $420,000,000 as the proper limit of the currency of the United States. Mr. Morton, in his late speech in the United States Senate, has made the extravagant assumption that our currency is not redundant, being between $600,000,000 and $700,000,000, which at $10 per head, including paper and specie, would make the excess between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000—$15 per head for the whole population.

We have stated that this subject cannot be intelligently discussed, unless in connection with the public expenditure and the state of our foreign trade.

1. *The public expenditure.* Mr. McCulloch, in his late report, states that the expenditures of the government ought to be reduced to $250 000 000. He estimates the revenue from the two principal sources—the customs and the internal revenue—at $300,000 000—a saving of $50,000,000, which he would apply to paying off an equal amount of the *funded* debt. Mr. Morton's proposition is to apply any saving made by diminished expenditure or addition to revenue, to the extinguishment of the *floating* debt, in which, we have said, we agree with him.

2. *The state of our foreign trade.* This is an element of great importance, of which little notice is taken in the remarks made on this subject. Mr. Morton speaks of accumulating gold by selling our bonds in Europe and bringing the proceeds to this side of the Atlantic; but appears to omit the consideration that we must reduce the volume of our currency to the specie standard before we can sell our bonds in Europe at their par value. He overlooks entirely the influence of a favorable balance of trade. Our export of cotton for 1869-70—2,500,000 bales—at the moderate average of 20 cents, in gold, (10d. in England), 450 pounds to the bale, will yield in money value the sum of.....$225 000,000

The crop of 1870-71 (the high price in Europe stimulating the cultivation in the United States), will produce 3 000 000 bales, supposing the season favorable and, assuming the price reduced to 16 cents per pound, in gold, (8d. in England), will yield a money value of..... 216,000,000

$441,000,000

If, therefore, we have a favorable season we will have, when we add the other articles of export, tobacco, naval stores, petroleum, &c., at least $500 000 000 in value of exports on the credit side of the account, as the aggregate money value of our productions for the years 1870 and 1871.

A no less important element, however, is the aggregate amount of our imports. The balance of commercial debt has been against us, because in 1865 and 1866 we imported in value more than we exported. The cheapness of money stimulated the consumption of foreign fabrics our imports were greatly above our ability to pay, and we were compelled to send our gold and our bonds to redress the balance of trade against us. The contraction of the currency—in other words, reducing the volume of our paper money by paying off a portion of the floating debt—will have the effect of lessening the consumption, and consequently the importation of foreign fabrics. This, co-operating with the increased value of our exports, will soon bring about an equilibrium between our imports and exports, and, perhaps, produce a balance of trade in our favor. If Congress would have the moral courage to reduce the expenses, and simultaneously reduce the public floating debt, we would be able to resume specie payments on or before the first of January, 1872.

It is on these expectations we rely; for it would greatly assist the object in view if that body would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to cancel legal tender notes to the amount of $50,000 000 annually, as they are paid in for taxes, which would be at the rate only of about $4 000,000 per month. If the revenue from customs, which is receivable in gold, and which, according to all reasonable calculation, will amount, on an average, to $150,000,000, is applied only in the proportion of one-third, say $50,000 000, to the extinguishment of another $50 000 000 of the floating debt, we would have $100,000,000 applicable to that purpose. This sum, in three years, will reduce the floating debt from its present amount to $350,000 000, or, in other words, so improve our paper currency as to bring it to an equal value with gold. That it would not embarrass the Treasury by leaving a surplus of gold of about $50,000 000 to pay the interest on the national debt, instead of $80,000,000 or $100,000 000, we feel assured.

We sum up our reasoning on this subject as concisely as possible as follows: 1. That our paper currency is redundant to an extent that brings it to about $15 per head for the whole of our population, instead of $10 per head—its normal proportion before the war—say in 1862.

2. That until we reduce this plethora of paper money, we can never return *permanently* to specie payments; for if we should have a balance of trade in our favor and an influx of gold, it will be exported as *merchandise* to find a better market, according to that law of currency by which a better currency cannot circulate in company with an inferior circulating medium.

3. That an indispensable preparatory step to this end is to reduce the floating debt; in other words, cancel or redeem $100,000,000 per annum of this debt; and that for this purpose there should be a reduction of public expenditure to at least $50,000 000 annually, with the application of another $50 000,000 of the gold surplus in the Treasury to the payment of the *floating* debt, leaving the *funded* debt, as the lesser evil, to more propitious circumstances.

J. N. C.

THE SOUTHERN PRESS CONVENTION.

Report of the Proceedings.

AIKEN, S. C., February 25.—Had the Press Convention, which met in Mobile on the 17th instant, been poorly attended, or had the members frittered away their time in nonsensical discussion, I should not have desired to publish its proceedings. But, as it is, I am happy to give them the widest possible publicity as a matter of practical interest to every newspaper man in the North, West and South, and as an evidence that the public presses of the Southern States, which have hitherto fought the common enemy in guerilla fashion, are now united and ready to wage war in a body, according to strict business principles.

The following papers were represented in the Convention:

NORTH CAROLINA.

Wilmington Daily Journal, by Major J. A. Engelhard.
Wilmington Post, by Mr. J. Y. James.
Goldsboro' News, by Mr. G. W. Stickney.
Goldsboro' Messenger, by Mr. G. W. Stickney.
Tarboro' Southerner, by Mr. Nelson.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON DAILY NEWS, by Captain F. W. Dawson.

GEORGIA.

Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, by Mr. P. Walsh.
Augusta Constitutionalist, by Mr. James R. Randall and Colonel James Gardner.
The Banner of the South, Augusta, by Mr. P. Walsh.
Savannah Morning News, by Mr. W. T. Thompson.
Savannah Republican, by Major Clisby.
Columbus Sun, by Colonel A. R. Lamar and Mr. T. DeWolf.
Macon Journal and Messenger, by Mr. A. W. Reese.
Macon Telegraph, by Major Joseph Clisby.
Atlanta Intelligencer, by Major J. H. Steele.
Albany News, by Mr. C. W. Styles.

ALABAMA.

Mobile Daily Register, by Col. John Forsyth and Mr. T. C. DeLeon.
Mobile Daily Tribune by Captain J. R. Eggleston and Mr. A. G. McGuire.
Wilcox News and Pacificator, by Mr. W. B. H. Howard.
Wilcox Vindicator, by Mr. W. B. H. Howard.
Talladega Mountain Home, by A. B. S. Mosely.
Alabama Beacon, by Mr. James G. Harvey.
Montgomery Advertiser, by Mr. W. W. Screws.
Marion Commonwealth, by Mr. Wooten.
Selma Times, by Mr. M. J. Williams.

MISSISSIPPI.

The Mississippi Press Association, by Mr. P. K. Mayers and Mr. J. Calhoun.
Vicksburg Times, by Mr. John Armstiong.

TENNESSEE.

Memphis Appeal, by Mr. O. Woodson.
Memphis Avalanche, by Mr. O. Woodson.
Memphis Ledger, by Mr. O. Woodson.
Memphis Daily Sun, by Dr. Y. A. Carr.
Knoxville Press and Herald, by Mr. W. J. Ramage.

KENTUCKY.

Columbus Dispatch, by Mr. R. Summers.

WEDNESDAY, February 17.

The Convention met at 12 M. The President Colonel A. R. Lamar in the chair.

The members present enrolled their names. A committee to prepare business was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Dawson, DeLeon, Engelhard, Woodson, Thompson and the President, and the Convention adjourned to to-morrow at 10 o'clock A. M.

THURSDAY, February 18.

The following report from Mr. M. W. Barr, the Washington Agent, was submitted by the President, and read by the Secretary:

WASHINGTON, February 4, 1869.

Colonel A. R. Lamar, President Southern Press Association:

DEAR SIR—In making my third annual report, I have the pleasure of assuring you of the continued and persistent disposition on the part of the New York Associated Press and the Western Union Telegraph Company to meet the views and advance the interests of the papers of the south.

The growing commerce and production of the South have compelled me to increase very largely the commercial at the expense of the news reports.

It has been found impossible to follow the suggestion of your last convention relating to an earlier transmission of the report, which is now and has always been filed at half-past eight o'clock. The Telegraph Company will not consent to an earlier hour, and besides, the change would involve to you the loss of much vital commercial matter every day. It would be impossible, I fear, to obtain closing Western markets at an earlier hour than half-past eight with satisfactory regularity. Indeed, I could make the dispatches more interesting to your readers, valuable to your merchants and satisfactory to yourselves, if your office economy would allow a later hour than at present for filing the evening report.

I have but one suggestion to make, which would relieve the Virginia cities and New Orleans and Mobile, and greatly benefit all other points. I would like to be allowed, say one hundred words per day, extra, to be sent only to what I class the middle district. This arrangement would enable me to keep the middle district well up in the news and save other districts from dead matter. This concession would, I think, make the system as nearly perfect as possible under present telegraph facilities.

Our present resources are 200 words at 1 o'clock; 500 words at 8½ o'clock; (for New Orleans and Mobile), 300 words at 10 o'clock; and all dispatches originating at the south, addressed to and paid for by the New York Associated Press, not including Tennessee and Arkansas. News from the last named States reaches you via Washington, and is included in my allowance.

DISTRICTS.

1. Richmond; 1, Norfolk; 1, Petersburg; 2, Raleigh; 2, Wilmington; 2, Columbia; 2, Augusta; 2, Charleston; 2, Savannah; 2, Macon; 2, Columbus, Ga.; 2, Knoxville; 1, Lynchburg; 2 Jackson; 2, Vicksburg; 2, Natchez; 2, Atlanta; 2, Chattanooga; 3, Mobile; 3, New Orleans; 2, Selma; 2, Montgomery.

The importance of having an additional allowance for the middle district, marked 3, will be seen from the above list. The first district, marked 1, receives the Baltimore and Washington papers of the current day. The third district, marked 3, receives a dispatch of 300 words at ten o'clock (it will be seen that all matter not made up by half past eight, (the time for filing the report) of sufficient interest to be sent next morning to the second district is dead in districts 1 and 3, and, besides, Western markets are of no consequence in the first district and are telegraphed to the third district, very full, by way of Louisville.

The 100 words extra for the middle district would enable me to make the service much more acceptable.

M. W. BARR,
Washing on Agent.

The report of the Committee on Business, as far as it proposed to amend the constitution so as to give one director to each State, and to give the President the power of appointing an Executive Committee, and to give the directors the power of appointing a managing director, was agreed to, as was also the following recommendation:

That the convention urge and advise the Southern press to require subscriptions to be paid invariably in advance, and to require, as far as may be, cash payment for all advertisements.

The following resolution provoked, as it was intended by the committee to do, a long discussion:

Resolved, That a special committee of five be appointed who shall prepare and report to this convention a detailed plan of telegraphic news service for the Southern Press Association.

Mr. Clisby did not want an independent news association, but thought it best to negotiate with existing associations.

Mr. DeLeon said the Southern press was strong enough, and in any negotiation an association of all the papers would, no doubt, be able to effect more favorable terms than individual newspapers.

Mr. Randall said it appeared that there exists a regular combination against the Southern press, and that it was time, and it behooved us to make some organized effort to rid ourselves of this tyranny, and better our condition.

Mr. Dawson asked for information in regard to Mr. Barr, and whether he was the agent of this association.

The President of the Convention, who had been recently on a visit to Washington, stated that while in that city he had occasion to send some dispatches to his paper, and delivered them to Mr. Barr, who promised to forward them. Later in the day he called upon Mr. Barr and asked if the dispatches had been sent as they were written. He appeared somewhat confused, and stated that his MsS. and dispatches were subjected to supervision, and the dispatches in question had not been sent in their original form.

Mr. Dawson said that Mr. Barr was paid by the New York Associated Press, and was only a nominal agent of the Southern Association; that what we want is an agent in Washington who will faithfully attend to his business and send news for the benefit of the whole Southern press, and not in the interest of any Northern newspaper or association.

Mr. Engelhard said his experience with the New York Associated Press was a very hard one. In 1866, his paper and another, established at that time, paid $20 apiece for dispatches. In the summer months the editor of the paper, the Wilmington Dispatch, ceased to take the telegrams, and until the latter part of October, he was compelled to pay $40 per week. At this time, business having sprung up somewhat, the other paper again took the dispatches and was allowed to do so without paying any bonus. A short time after the paper was changed from a morning to an evening, and the dispatches were furnished to it at the rate of $12, and his tolls increased to make up the difference. He was opposed to being the foot-ball of the New York Telegraph Associated Press, that he would prefer to give more than is now being paid rather than depend upon the association. Another complaint he had to make was that the press agent in his city is the publisher of a paper, and that he makes use of the New York Associated Press as an advertising medium for his paper.

Mr. Clisby submitted the following substitute for the resolution offered by the committee, which, after being amended by Mr. Dawson, was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of five members of this association be charged with the duty of making such arrangements for telegraphic news as to them shall appear most economical and expedient, and report to the meeting.

On motion, the chair was authorized to telegraph to the President of the Union Telegraph Company for the purpose of ascertaining if they will negotiate for news.

Mr. Dawson offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the newspapers now represented in this association, whose assessments are in arrears, be notified of the fact by the treasurer, and that if their dues be not paid up in thirty days from the date of that notification, that they be stricken from the roll of the association; also, that a roll of the members be published when the said thirty days have expired.

Major Steele introduced the following resolution, prefacing it with a few eloquent remarks, which was laid on the table for the present:

Resolved, That the President of this association appoint a committee of three to report upon the political condition of the South and especially upon the attitude of the Southern States, and their return to the Union; whether such event be the result of congressional dictation, or "under the constitution."

Mr. Screws submitted the following resolution, which, after being amended by Mr. DeLeon, tendering the thanks of the convention to Mr. Meriwether, for his courtesy, was adopted:

Resolved, That Mr. C. G. Meriwether, Superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company, be invited to a seat on the floor of the convention, and receive the thanks of the convention.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Thompson, was adopted:

Resolved, That the establishment of a paper depot at Augusta or elsewhere, as contemplated by the resolution adopted at the last convention of the Press Association, is inexpedient, and calculated to interfere with the business interests and enterprise of publishers.

FRIDAY, February 19, 1889.

Colonel Gardner, Chairman of the Committee on Press News Service, submitted the following report, which, after a short debate, participated in by the President, Colonels Forsyth, Styles and Clisby, Major Steele, Messrs. DeLeon, Randall and Dawson, was adopted:

The committee, to whom was referred the consideration of the whole subject of telegraphic news service, report the following as among the chief objections to the system now in force:

1. The territory represented in the convention pays about $50,000 annually to the New York Associated Press for telegraphic news, which is not in any way controlled by the Southern Press Association, but is collected and remitted by the local agent of the New York Associated Press.

2. The New York Associated Press claims the right to admit, and has admitted, papers to the benefits of the Southern news system, without the consent of the Southern Press Association or of the Southern Press.

3. This association has no control whatever over the appointment of local agents.

4. The press dispatches of members of this association may be cut off at any time at the arbitrary will of the New York Associated Press.

5. The assessments or tolls may be, and have been, increased at will by the New York Associated Press, so that the Southern Press have been uncertain as to what would be the cost of their dispatches, and have been so subjected to unusual and unjust exactions.

Your committee, therefore, respectfully recommend:

1. That this Association contract as a body for obtaining the telegraphic news which its members require, and pay for the same through its financial agent or treasurer.

2. That the Executive Committee assess the amount, to be paid weekly, for telegraphic news by each member of this Association.

3. That this Convention protest against the exercise by the New York Associated Press of the assumed right to admit new papers to the privilege of receiving its Southern telegraphic news, and claim that this right belongs exclusively to the Southern Press Association.

4. That the Southern Press Association claim the right of nominating the local telegraphic news agents within its territory, and that the power of appointing them be vested in the Executive Committee.

5. That the Executive Committee be authorized and instructed to negotiate with the New York Associated Press, or with the Western Union Telegraph Company, or with other companies, and to contract for the supply of telegraphic news to this association, upon such terms and in such a manner as will prevent the continuance of the glaring evils of which complaint is made.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES GARDNER, Chairman.
JOS. A. ENGELHARD.
W. W. SCREWS.
A. R. LAMAR.
JOSEPH CLISBY.
F. W. DAWSON.

The President read the following telegraphic dispatch in answer to one sent by him.

NEW YORK, February 18.

A. R. Lamar, President Southern Press Association:

This company is always ready to negotiate with the press, either associated or separately, for the transmission of commercial, political and general news for publication. WM. ORTON, President.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of officers, when the following were unanimously elected:

President.—Colonel A. R. Lamar, Georgia.

Vice-President.—Colonel M. J. Williams, Alabama.

Secretary and Treasurer.—Mr. A. W. Reese, of Georgia.

Directors.—Major J. A. Engelhard, North Carolina; Mr. F. W. Dawson, South Carolina; Colonel Jas. Gardner, Georgia; Mr. W. W. Screws, Alabama; Mr. W. J. Ramage, Tennessee; Mr. John Armstiong, Mississippi.

Major Steele asked leave, which was granted, to withdraw his resolution, submitted at the meeting of yesterday, in relation to the appointment of a committee of three to report upon the political condition of the South, and especially upon the attitude of the Southern press, in regard to the reconstruction of the Southern States.

Colonel Forsyth said he was requested by the Board of Trade to tender to the Convention an invitation to meet in Mobile next year, when they and the people of Mobile would be most happy to meet the gentlemen of the convention again.

Colonel Clisby then offered a resolution that the next annual session of the convention be held in Mobile.

The President took the floor and said, that himself, as well as every member of the convention, felt a profound gratitude for the kindness which prompted the invitation, and for the bountiful and most liberal manner in which they had been treated, but to accept the invitation would indeed be riding a free horse to death; that if left to his choice he would be only too glad to come back to Mobile, but it would be taxing generosity and kindness too much.

If for no other reason, he would like to visit Mobile again, as he had seen so much of the men and so little of the women. His feelings prompted him to come back, but his judgment was against the movement.

Colonel Forsyth, in reply, remarked that the first objection of the gentleman was not valid, as he could readily assure him that the "free horse" was not by any means tired, and that the people of Mobile would be delighted to have the convention meet here the next year, and the next, too; that in regard to his second objection, if the gentleman from Georgia hadn't seen enough of the ladies he was very sorry for him; he has only seen a few specimens, but we have a whole treasury of them, and when he comes back next year, we would show him all of them.

Colonel Clisby said that the members of the convention were under profound obligations for the extraordinary hospitality which had been extended to them by the people of Mobile, and that it would be a great pleasure for them to come back and note the prosperity, enterprise and growth of the city; that in his six years' experience attending press conventions, he had never met in any city such a hospitable reception as that extended him in Mobile; the convention could not, therefore, better itself, and the locality besides being favorable, he again moved that the invitation be accepted. After some further discussion, the matter was finally referred to the Board of Directors with an expression of the sense of the convention that it would be agreeable to the body if they should select Mobile as the place.

The following were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this association be tendered to the President, Colonel A. R. Lamar, as an evidence of their appreciation of the dignity, courtesy and ability with which he has discharged the arduous duties of his position.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be returned to the Secretary and Treasurer, A. W. Reese, Esq., for the rapidity, skill and fidelity with which he has discharged the difficult duties of his office.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Board of Trade, to the members of the Mobile Club, the Mobile Fire Department, and to the citizens of Mobile generally, for the exceeding kindness of their greeting, and for the generous and large-hearted hospitality with which they have entertained the members of the Southern Press Association.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be tendered the Western Union Telegraph Company for courtesies extended the members of this Convention in allowing the use of the wires for the transmission of social and family messages.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered the officers of the Wilmington and Weldon, Wilmington and Manchester, the South Carolina, Georgia, Atlanta and West Point, West Point and Montgomery, Montgomery and Mobile, Mobile and Ohio, Selma and Meridian, Selma, Rome and Dalton Railroads, for their courtesy in furnishing passes to delegates.

SATURDAY, February 20, 1869.

The Convention met at one P. M., the members of the Board of Trade being present by invitation.

The President of the Convention rose and said:

Mr. President of the Board of Trade.—The Convention over which I have the honor to preside, desire me to express their sincere thanks to you, and through you to the members of the Board of Trade and to the people of Mobile, for the manifold and munificent kindness, hospitality and courtesy which we have received collectively as well as individually. Nearly all of us came here strangers to you and your people, and we can only say we leave here adding another link in the grateful memories of our lives.

We recollect the history of Mobile in time past when she was justly styled the Queen of the Gulf, and no city stood higher for the liberality and hospitality of her people, and the enterprise, prosperity and energy of her merchants. We recollected in those dark and dreary days, where naught save a fishing smack or a government steamer, carrying supplies to the garrisons, appeared in your beautiful bay, save now and then during the darkness of the night, when a stealthy blockader would silently pass out carrying a few locks of the "Hoary King" to foreign parts. In those days we recollect, sir, how the people of Mobile banded together, and stood firm and faithful to their brethren of the South.

On the excursion yesterday down this same bay, we saw a portion of your merchant navy; and even when lighted up by the battle-fires from the fleet of the gallant Buchanan, the bay never shone brighter than on this occasion, being lighted up with the bright eyes of Mobile's fair daughters. I am deputed to make you a testimonial, and if we had presented you one in value proportionate and in keeping with our feelings and the hospitality which we have received, why, sir, it would bankrupt the whole Southern press.

Colonel Lamar here presented to Colonel Woodruff a pair of handsome heavy silver goblets, containing in the centre a Goddess of Liberty in medallion, surrounded by a wreath. They bore the following inscription:

PRESENTED TO THE MOBILE BOARD OF TRADE
By the
Southern Press Association.
Mobile, Feb. 20, 1869.
Commercial Independence and the Freedom of the Press.
In these signs we conquer.

Colonel Woodruff, in receiving the goblets, thanked the President for the complimentary manner in which he had spoken of Mobile and her people, and the convention for the testimonials, which will be retained by the Board of Trade as a remembrance of the meeting of the Southern Press Association in Mobile, which afforded him and the members of the Board of Trade and other citizens the opportunity of making the acquaintance of so large a number of the gentlemen of the Southern Press. He assured the President and the gentlemen of the Convention would carry to their respective cities and their merchants the highest regards and compliments of the Mobile Board of Trade; and in conclusion, wished the members of the convention a pleasant and happy return home.

Both Colonels Lamar and Woodruff were heartily cheered.

The convention then adjourned, having completed all the business brought before it.

In making up my report I have been under great obligations to the reports published by the Mobile Register and Mobile Tribune. D.

FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

The Charleston Election Bill Again—The Town of Beaufort Owned by the United States Government—Florence and Lancaster Railroad—Manchester and Augusta Railroad—The Methodist Episcopal Church.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

COLUMBIA, S. C., February 25, 1869.—The Charleston Election bill was doubly secured in the House to-day. An impression had been made that the action of the House last Friday was illegal for the want of a quorum, and it was determined to have it over again. So this morning the Speaker roused the excitement of the members by the announcement that the bill to confirm and declare valid the recent election for Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Charleston, ordered the title thereof to be changed to that of an act, and ordered the said bill to be enrolled.

The bill was then taken up for another second reading, and the question being taken on passing the bill to a third reading and ordering it to be engrossed, the yeas and nays were called and resulted as follows: Yeas 72, nays 19; absent or not voting 29. Agreed to.

The following papers were presented to be entered on the journal:

I vote "no" on the passage of the foregoing bill, as I do not believe it will permit the Mayor and Aldermen elect of Charleston to take their seats.

BURREL JAMES.

I vote "no," because I believe that the object sought to be obtained under the bill can only be gained through a decision of the courts, and in my opinion this bill will not only prolong and not stop litigation, but will involve additional constitutional issues, attended with great delay and vexatious litigation. R. C. DELARGE.

Elliott, from the Committee on Railroads, reported favorably on a concurrent resolution requesting the Congress of the United States to aid the construction of the Memphis, El Paso and Southern Trans-Continental Railroad.

Smalls introduced the following preamble and concurrent resolution, which, on motion of Rapsier, was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:

Whereas, The United States Government owns nearly or quite two-thirds of the taxable property of the incorporated Town of Beaufort, for which of course no tax is paid either to the State of South Carolina or to the Town of Beaufort, thereby burdening the people of said town much more heavily than would be the case if said property was sold to the tax-payers of said place; and whereas, said property is fast going to decay, uncared for as it now is; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of South Carolina, the Senate concurring, request the Congress of the United States to take such action as they may deem proper, through their direct Tax Commissioners or otherwise, as will place said property before the people of said Town of Beaufort for sale, and that our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to aid any measure which may be brought before the Congress of the United States having such purpose in view.

Holliman presented a memorial of the citizens of Timmonsville, for the removal of the county seat of Darlington County, from Darlington to Timmonsville. Referred to Committee on Internal Improvements.

THE HOUSE was engaged, up to the hour of adjournment, in the discussion of the bill to establish and maintain a system of public schools for the State of South Carolina.

IN THE SENATE, in the afternoon session, Leslie, from the Committee on Railroads, to whom was referred a bill to charter the Florence and Lancaster Railroad, reported back the same, with a recommendation that it do pass. Ordered for consideration to-morrow, and to be printed.

Leslie, from the same committee, to whom was referred a bill to charter the Manchester and Augusta Railroad, reported back the same, with a recommendation that the bill do pass. Ordered for consideration to-morrow, and to be printed.

A resolution was adopted appointing J. M. Allen, of Greenville, H. J. Lomax (colored), of Abbeville, and C. W. Montgomery, of Newberry, proxies to represent the interest of the State at the meeting of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company.

Donaldson gave notice that he will on to-morrow, or some subsequent day, ask leave to introduce a bill to incorporte the various Boards of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this State; also, a bill to incorporate the South Carolina Plantation Company.

AFFAIRS IN THE STATE.

Abbeville.

The Abbeville Banner in copying the testimony of Tolbert, says: "It will be apparent to every one, after a perusal of this testimony, that Tolbert has made many statements which have not the semblance of truth. But when he is in the hands of the State police, being tortured daily, no doubt, in order to extort such testimony from him for party purposes, after he had voluntarily surrendered himself to the constabulary forces of the State upon the faith of their promises of a pardon for his offences, it is not surprising that he has made so many gross misrepresentations of affairs in our district within the past twelve months."

York.

The Yorkville Enquirer notes the following sales of real estate: "On last Thursday, the 18th instant, Messrs. Thomson & Jefferys, assignees, made the following sales of lands belonging to bankrupts, at the courthouse in this place.

"One tract of 51 acres, belonging to the estate of D. E. Thomas, at $4 05 per acre; bought by J. A. Thomas. One tract of 240 acres, belonging to the estate of Samuel Black, at $10 95; bought by James M. Hope. One tract 130¼ acres, belonging to the same estate, $5 30; bought by S. G. Hemphill. Two tracts, belonging to the estate of S. L. Reid, one of 161¾ acres, at $6 00 and one of 39 acres, at $2 10; bought by S. L. Reid. One tract of 47 acres, belonging to the same estate, at $6 20; bought by R. C. Reid. At the same time and place, two shares of King's Mountain Railroad stock were sold at $8 50 per share."

Greenville.

The Enterprise says: "We think it due to a great many creditors in this and other parts of the State, that their liberal and generous course in compromising old debts should be commended as it deserves. We have heard recently of many instances of liberal settlements between parties, and we believe that the disposition to make them has decidedly increased of late. Parties have all become more and more impressed with the reasonableness of compromises, and a liberal scaling—public opinion of the people generally, and the advice of the lawyers, all favor them at this time. We have seen that in Anderson the juries brought in verdicts scaling old debts, and were sustained by the approval of the people and the bar. The feeling as to such debts will likely extend in every county 'according to circumstances.' A public meeting and sale-day is to be held at the courthouse in Greenville, in reference to this important matter."

BEHIND THE SCENES.

Glimpses of Theatre Management—Expenses and Receipts—"Paper" Houses—The Stage and the Company—Ballet Girls—The Compensation of Dramatic Authors.

A writer in the London Daily News gives some interesting details of theatrical management, from which we make a few extracts:

In a large, first-class West End theatre the nightly expenses average about £70 or £80, and the receipts vary from £30 to £300, according to the success of the entertainments. As a rule the receipts are below the expenses; the loss is made up by some lucky hit, when they are largely in excess. Christmas is the best theatrical season in the year. Summer is the worst, except when it is wet. In winter, however, every wet night costs the manager about £20. Nothing, however, is more deceptive than a full "house;" no one, except the manager and the acting manager, knows whether it is filled with money or "paper." Paper is the slang term for an order. As the general public dislike a void, if that void be not filled up with persons who have paid for their seats, it has to be filled with persons who have not paid for them. A large and by no means a poor lass never pay to go into a theatre; indeed, thoroughly to understand the parsimony of the human species, a man must have been the manager of a theatre. His table is covered every morning with letters asking for orders, on all conceivable pretexts.

THE STAGE.

Everything connected with bringing out a piece is under the control of the stage manager. In a first-class theatre the company consists of at least the following artists: One leading man, one light comedian, two old men, three walking gentlemen, two character actors, two low comedians, one leading lady, one old woman, one young leading lady, one singing chambermaid, one broad chambermaid, three walking ladies, utility men, male and female supernumeraries. Salaries of stock actors and actresses vary from £12 to £2. They are by no means easy people to manage. They live in a world apart, and their ideas of their own merits are frequently at variance with those of the stage manager. No part is too good for any of them, but few parts are good enough. Those who are "cast" in bad parts in a play usually announce their intention to leave rather than play them, but on reflection they generally think better of their decision. No one, however, will ever play a part a hair's breadth out of his own particular line. If a first walking gentleman were asked to play a third walking gentleman's part, he would be as indignant as an attorney-general were he called upon to defend a pickpocket in a police court.

Managers are often blamed because minor parts in a piece are badly played; they cannot, however, help themselves, because good actors will not play them. Actresses stand even more on their dignity than actors; their mutual jealousies exceed even those of fine ladies. Aud