

On our first page will be found portions of an interesting letter from W. B. Robertson, of Fairfield District, to the citizens thereof, by whom he has been nominated to the Convention. We omit the merely introductory parts of his letter, and quote those only which relate to what must or may be the object of the Convention. On this subject, we must venture upon a few cautionary remarks. Mr. Robertson is a conservative. He writes modestly yet suggestively. His views are in consonance, we believe, with those of Mr. Boyce and Gov. Perry; and regarding the required abolition of slavery by the States, as the imperative condition upon which they are to be restored to peace and relieved from martial law, he recognizes the necessity of compliance with the requisition, not as a measure of which he approves, but that the South may escape worse evils in the continued domination of the sword. And in this, perhaps, there will be found but little difference of opinion throughout the State. And, this done, the absolutely unavoidable duty of the Convention will really be at an end. But Mr. Robertson seems not willing that it should end here. He suggests the basis of representation in the State Legislature as a necessary duty, also, of the Convention. We do not see that this is at all necessary to the restoration of the State to the Union; and the introduction of the topic will be fatal, we suspect, to any desire which might be entertained for a speedy finish of the business for which the Convention meets. The Congress will really have nothing more to do with our State representation in the Legislature than with any other domestic interest; and how you can legislate upon parish representation in the Senate, without a census of the State, which shall give the parishes the right representation in the House, based upon numbers—white and black together—and with regard to the future apportionment of the taxes, is not so clear to any mind not heedless of what would be proper in the case, to enter upon and duly canvass these subjects is a work of time, and will prove the future career of the Legislature itself, after due advisement of the vital facts. We take for granted that the Governor's election will be given to the people, and have but the single objection that the measure will still farther tend to the deprivation of the popular morals. If they are wise enough to elect the legislators themselves, they are surely wise enough to elect the Governor. And we certainly approve, having ourselves long entertained the opinion that the dignity of the Governor's office should be lifted, by imposing upon him higher responsibilities and duties. So, also, with the Lieutenant-Governor, who is now only a sort of contingent official, depending for his uses upon possibility. The veto power can do no harm. Its uses are specially conservative. It does not legislate—only prevents legislation, and may thus save us from many an idiotic legislation. As for *viva voce* legislation, we object to it *loco colò*. But the argument on the subject is too abstruse for our moderate limits, and will require a very prolonged inquiry, requiring illustration from long periods of history, and the experience of men in all ages. There is one other subject—the repudiation of private debts, &c. But with this and some of the other subjects, the Convention has nothing to do. If that body is wise, it will seek to do only that which is absolutely necessary, and keep the other subjects in reserve for future agitation at a more auspicious period. If it attempts to agitate them now, nothing will be done. Let the members take heed of the maxim—never more applicable than now—"Sufficient for the

day is the evil thereof." We trust, also, that the good will suffice. Let our reformer friends hold their zeal in curb—keep their souls in patience, and be not too eager to seize a casual opportunity now for effecting old and favorite objects, in which, hitherto, they have been baffled. Each in its due season.

**PARDONS.**—To the 10th of August, but 500 pardons in all had been granted. So say the New York papers of that date. There is little chance that there will be any great number of those in the South sinning over the amount of twenty thousand dollars who will need pardon. There is not a vagrant in the country who does not point to the over-rich man and say, "Thank God, I am not like this rich publican and atrocious sinner. My industry, thrift, talent and enterprise will never bring me to shame."

**EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.**—It appears from foreign advices that the rush of emigrants to this country from the North of Europe is setting in with more than usual vehemence. Fifteen thousand Polish exiles are making arrangements with the Swiss Government for transportation to the free soil of the States. From Norway the exodus of the most valuable part of the population is so great as to excite the fears of the authorities, who are endeavoring to check it.

**JAMES B. CAMPBELL.**—The Charleston Courier publishes the following: "WASHINGTON, August 30.—I am not a candidate for the Convention; I do not wish to be elected, not that I desire to avoid any duty the people of Charleston may demand of me, as they have a right to my utmost services, but because I believe I can do more good out of the Convention than in it. Please, therefore, withdraw my name. Our position demands of each citizen his best services. We must decide either to participate in the Government, to which we have just renewed our allegiance in solemn form, or accept military control of indefinite duration. Gen. Johnston has stated our case with admirable precision. I believe our future prospects are within the scope of human wisdom. See that we are guided by it."  
"JAMES B. CAMPBELL."

**THE KORAN REPLACED BY THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES.**—It is worthy of notice that in the Koran, the Mahometan book of faith, there are not less than one hundred and twenty-seven commendations and endorsements of the Law and the Gospel as the word of God. The Old and New Testaments are called by a sacred name. The Koran admits the miraculous conception and birth of Christ—honors him as a prophet, and declares he will judge the quick and dead at the last day. A serious and growing religious movement is now going on in Turkey by the influence of a bold and vigorous reformer, whose own mind was first awakened by what the Koran said about the Christian Scriptures. Many heed his stirring counsel, which in all cases carry them to the Bible, and to Christian missionaries.

**SCOTCH EMIGRATION SOUTH.**—We see it stated that there has arrived in Washington a delegation representing a large emigration society in Scotland, having a capital of £75,000, which they propose to invest in Southern lands, if sufficient inducements are offered. The society is mainly composed of the industrial classes, and on the reception of a favorable report from their representatives in this country, will increase their capital to £1,000,000, and commence emigration immediately.

When an instance of crime occurs, or any case of depravity is brought to light at the South, how quickly it is clutched by designing men and paraded in the newspapers, to show for a purpose how unfit the South is to re-enter the Union; yet we scarcely ever pick up a Northern journal of any prominence or note but which unfolds crime in every conceivable shape.

The reason assigned by those who ought to know for the withdrawal of the names of Robert E. Lee and several others from the charge of conspiracy with Wirtz is that these persons are actually or constructively in the custody of the United States, but not on trial.

**White Labor Necessary for South Carolina.**

To the Editor of the Herald: As is known to you and to the Northern people, the slaves of the South have been emancipated, and they are no longer subject to the control and government of the white man in developing the resources and in the production of the great staples of the South—cotton, rice, tobacco, lumber, &c. It is very desirable that the South should continue to produce their staples, even in greater abundance than ever before. It is important to the government. By the production of these great staples in abundance, it is very clear that the United States must be the most formidable nation in the world. Because in all the other resources which give strength and greatness to a nation, she surpasses all nations on the globe, and possesses in a most eminent degree all those materials which constitute the greatness of a nation. In consequence of the entirely disorganized condition of the labor of the South, and the very great uncertainty as to whether the negro can be made profitable as a laborer, has caused many of the thinking men of this section to come to the conclusion that the production of the great staples of the South must to a very great extent cease, unless white labor can be obtained to work the lands in this section.

It is the universal desire of the land owners to employ white labor on their farms and as house servants. I am fully satisfied that ten thousand laborers would be immediately employed at fair prices in Abbeville District, S. C. This section of the State is very healthy, and the lands are fertile. There is no portion of the State more desirable to live in, or offering greater inducements to white laborers. The labor of the South must eventually be entirely white, if it would enjoy any degree of prosperity. In the immediate neighborhood of the writer, one thousand white laborers would be employed at once at high wages; in fact, there never has been such a profitable field for white emigrants. Mechanics of all kinds, as well as laborers, will be welcomed; and if a sufficient supply can be obtained, then the prosperity of the country must increase; while, if the negro is to be relied on to supply the wants, in these respects, of the country, then gradual but inevitable ruin is the certain destiny of the South. A railroad passes through almost every district of the State, and any portion of the State can be reached in forty-eight hours from the city of New York. With a prosperous South, the United States will certainly control the commerce of the world. But in the present thoroughly disorganized condition of labor, and the disinclination of the negro to continue to work, the prospect is indeed gloomy for the future. The supply of cotton, instead of being next year at the maximum, will certainly be far below the minimum of former years.

**A GREENWOOD (S. C.) PLANER.**

**DEATH OF THE CELEBRATED RACE MARE ALBINE.**—The celebrated thorough-bred mare Albine, we regret to say, died at the Laclede Association Training Grounds, near this city, on Saturday, from the effects of a strain or rupture received while moving in a slow gallop on Wednesday last. She belonged to John Cantey, Esq., of South Carolina, but during the passage of the Federal armies through that State, was confiscated by an officer and brought West. By him she was passed to the temporary possession of Dr. J. W. Welton, one of our most active turf men, who began to put her in training for the coming St. Louis and Cincinnati fall meetings. At the latter city she was expected to enter the lists against Asteroid and other able aspirants for the Burnett House plate of one thousand five hundred dollars. Albine was a sorrel in color, and was pronounced by connoisseurs to be one of the handsomest animals in the world. She was of irreproachable blood, being sired by Jeff Davis, and grand-sired by Hero. In the seasons of 1859 and 1860, she made a brilliant record as a racer by beating Fanny Washington and the great Planet, in three and four mile heats. Mr. Cantey, her rightful owner, had been informed of her presence in St. Louis, and in good time would have recovered possession of his property.—*St. Louis Republican, 15th ult.*

Professor William E. Ayton, the well-known editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*, and son-in-law of Professor Wilson (Christopher North), the preceding editor, died on the 4th ult.

The Smithsonian Institute, a part of which was destroyed by fire last winter, is being rebuilt fire-proof.

**Europe.**

**THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN QUESTION.**  
It is now stated "that Baron von Werther had transmitted to Count von Menadorg-Pomily new proposals from Herr von Bismarck with regard to the Duchies. These proposals bear the character of a definitive decision on the subject."

The *Neue Freie Presse*, of Vienna, asserts that Baron von Werther and Count von Mendorf-Pomily had come to an understanding, in accordance with which the possession of the Duchies should continue on a new basis, and the present Commissioners should be replaced.

Herr von Beust was on a visit to Vienna on the question of the Duchies, and had been received by the Emperor.

A Berlin telegram says: It is stated on reliable authority that the opinion delivered by the Crown lawyers upon the succession question in the Duchies contains the following conclusion:

First: The Duke of Austenburg has no right of succession to the whole or part of the Duchies.

Second: The claims of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg are only valid with reference to the Gortorportion of the Duchies in virtue of eventual, reversionary rights.

Third: The rights of King Christian IX, recognized by the law of succession of the 31st July, 1863, having been published and duly introduced in the Duchies, His Majesty's right of succession must be considered as legally established, and these have been transferred by the treaty of Vienna to Prussia and Austria.

A Vienna paper states that if the new negotiations between Austria and Prussia should fail, Austria will immediately urge the Federal Diet to recognize the Duke of Austenburg as sovereign of the Duchies.

**THE RIGHT OF ENGLAND ACKNOWLEDGED TO THE ISLAND OF SOMBRERO.**

Nature, in its widest sense, is boundless in her resources. She furnishes all that contribute to the material convenience and welfare of mankind. When from an increased population and the advance of time, the huge forests had disappeared before the axe of progressive civilization, and when by the invention of steam a new source of supply was needed, from the depths of her bosom, she poured forth the hitherto hidden mines of coal, and thus responded to the demands of the hour and of improvement. And when the ordinary means of fertilizing the soil had proved insufficient, and agriculture for its products required new elements, small islands unfit for the habitation of man, and merely the wild resting place of the birds of the air, were discovered and found to contain upon their surface large quantities of a substance by the application of which worn-out or exhausted lands could be recuperated and fruitfulness restored.

Among these was the island of Sombrero, one of the so-called Leeward Islands, in the Caribbean Sea. It contained a vast and rich natural deposit of the phosphate of lime, one of the most valuable fertilizers of which we have any knowledge. American enterprises, in 1856, set afloat its ships and vessels, and in a short time over 100,000 tons of it had been imported into this country, and most of it used on our Southern lands.

It now appears that this island was first visited by a gentleman from England in the year 1814, and again in the year 1825, and that he then reported to the British authorities the benefits which would accrue to agriculture from taking advantage of its rich deposits, but that this met with but little encouragement, and was passed idly by. As soon, however, as the energy of our people had hewn out the way and begun to make it available, the British Government set up its protest and claim on the ground of prior discovery. An official correspondence has taken place between the two Governments, and the right of Great Britain to its possession conceded. The Royal Agricultural Society have had its adaptation for the purposes of increased production under consideration, and have announced its proprietorship as of great importance to the British farmer, and as acceptable to the agriculturist as it is likely to be valuable to the merchant and shipowner.—*Charleston Courier, 22d ult.*

Gov. Sharkey, of Mississippi, has issued a proclamation calling on the people to form two companies in each county, one of cavalry and the other of infantry, for the purpose of putting a stop to murders and robberies.

Page & Co.'s cotton factory at Memphis was burned on the 24th instant. Loss \$10,000.

Madame LeVert will soon publish a volume entitled "Souvenirs of the War."

**Local Items.**

Our readers are reminded that the election for members of the Convention takes place to-day. Comply with the law and poll your votes.

Messrs. Townsend & North are the agents in this city for the Charleston News. We are indebted to them for a copy. We are also under renewed obligations to the Southern Express Company for late papers.

Our readers are reminded that Mr. D. T. Harvey is running a daily line of four-horse post coaches between this city and the terminus of the Charlotte Railroad. As his teams are in fine condition and there are relays of fresh horses on the route, the trip is made in the shortest time. Mr. H. has made the necessary arrangements and is now carrying a daily mail between the two points, which is a matter of great importance to the entire community. Persons residing in that section of country desirous of obtaining the news from Columbia, can now do so by forwarding their subscriptions to the *Phoenix*.

**PROMISES OF THE PHOENIX.**—We have great satisfaction in announcing to our readers the safe return of our vigorous and enterprising publisher from New York, where he has succeeded in procuring such supplies of material—presses, fonts of type, varieties of letter and ornament—as will enable the *Phoenix* to take a still farther flight, on a still broader wing, surpassing all previous surpassings, and showing as proudly and gallantly in the air as any rival news organ in our atmosphere. *Stars*, and *Suns*, and *Eagles*, and *Banners*, *Couriers* and *Mercuries*, shall not soar or shine more proudly in the literary or political world; and, as an augury of the re-ascension, growth and future grandeur of Columbia, the *Phoenix* will steadily preserve her upward and onward course, until she becomes a first-class messenger of prosperity and triumph to our people. Let them take these assurances in good faith. In a little time, and all our promises shall be more than realized.

**NICKERSON'S HOTEL.**—Some sixteen wagon loads of furniture, for Nickerson's Hotel, which arrived on Friday, sufficiently assures our public that there will be no difficulty in providing lodging and all the comforts for the members of the Convention at the approaching session. Mr. Nickerson's well known energy is not lacking now, when it is so much needed. We have but to add that the members of the Convention and the Legislature need be under no apprehensions of a deficiency of shelter, food, meat and all the creature comforts in Columbia, whenever the public duties shall compel their appearance here. Nay, the luxuries will not be wanting with all those whose patriotism requires an external stimulus for action. Our "local"—we ourselves—the plural unit of the product—have been at pains to obtain the assurance from private housekeepers, that accommodations shall not be wanting. Venerable senators and seniors of the State have only to apply to us at the *Phoenix* office, and we will secure them good lodgment, in good quarters, under the management of fair housekeepers, who will make them forget that they are temporarily absent from the certainties and sweets of home. Let them take our assurances, and believe that we are fully competent to fulfill our words.

**DISTINGUISHED ARRIVALS.**—His Excellency Governor Perry arrived yesterday from Greenville, and has his quarters at the Shiver House. Generals Meade and Gillmore, of the United States army, have also arrived at the capital, and taken lodgings at the Shiver House. General Meade is on a tour of survey, inspection and examination throughout this military district, where he will have much to learn. These distinguished persons are met in conference upon the state of affairs in South Carolina, and there is much of evil to exercise and require the utmost wisdom, and no small will, for its correction. We hear of most atrocious outrages in many places, on the part of the black troops—outrages of a character too shocking to designate by name. For what good purpose these troops are kept in the country and scattered over it, it would be difficult to say. If a process were particularly required, for defeating all the hopes of the experiment, at converting slave into free labor, and for driving the white population to madness, no better one could be devised. We hope that those gentlemen, thus entrusted with the great and difficult work of carrying out a most novel experiment at once in morals, politics, society and labor—the most complicated problem, perhaps, ever submitted to a people—will bring to this conference a degree of wisdom, justice and conciliation, such as has not hitherto been very conspicuous in the management of our affairs. It is true that the people of the South are a conquered people; but we have been told and have assumed, that it is no part of the plan of the Government that they should be treated as such. It certainly is not the policy of the Government that it should be so. Yet so it certainly is at present.

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning: Gibbes & Co.—Barque for Liverpool. Conner's United States Type Foundry. Lawrence, Baldwin & Co.—Brokers, &c. The Misses Henry—School Notice. Morse & Orchard—For Public Benefit. Mordecai & Co.—Com. Merchants, &c. Jas. A. Black—Comptroller-Gen.'s Office. Nomination of Dr. Geiger. Box 88, Newberry—Drug Store for Sale. Shelton, Calvo & Walsh—Shoes, &c. Regular Meeting Fire Department.

Several persons have been arrested in San Antonio on charges of making away with public property and money embraced in the terms of surrender.

The work on the Mississippi Central Railroad progresses rapidly, and it will probably be completed and in operation by October 1.