

Department Reports.

We continue this morning our abstracts of the annual reports from the different departments and bureaus. The main facts of the Postmaster-General's report, are to be found in the President's message. The number of dead letters has diminished nearly a million, owing to the use of envelopes, with a request for the return to the writers of unclaimed letters, directly from the post office addressed. It is estimated that fully 50,000,000 of these envelopes were used during the year, the department supplying about one-third of the number. The sales of postage stamps and stamped envelopes amounted to \$12,988,134.32, leaving unsold in the hands of postmasters \$412,928.78. Experiments are in progress with a postage stamp, printed on embossed paper, which seems to afford good security against fraud. The fibres of the paper being broken, cancelling marks almost penetrate, so that they cannot easily be removed without destroying the stamp. The adhesive properties are also promoted.

The length of mail routes has been increased over the preceding year 22,324 miles, the annual transportation 7,144,875 miles, and cost \$1,705,812; to which add increased cost for railway postal clerks, route, local and other agents, \$241,171; makes an aggregate of \$1,946,973. The number of post offices established during the year was 1,885; number discontinued 6,111; decrease of offices 4,226; number of post offices in operation on the 30th June, 1866, including suspended offices in the Southern States, 29,389; total number in operation on 31st of June, 1867, 25,162 number of offices subject to appointment by the President, 837; number by the Postmaster-General, 24,326. A large majority of offices discontinued are in the Southern States, the service of which was suspended by the Postmaster-General in May, 1861, and were not in operation thereafter, but not regularly discontinued. These offices were reported by the auditor to the appointment office as having failed to make returns for five years, and their discontinuance recommended as necessary to enable that officer to close the accounts of the late postmasters.

The whole number of money order post offices now in operation is 1,221, of which 458 have been established since the last annual report. This increase has occurred mainly in the Western and Southern States, where the facilities of this system, for the transportation of money appear, at present, to be most needed. Excess over expenditures, \$26,260.61. The subject of connecting the telegraph system of the country with the postal service, has attracted public attention; and it received, to some extent, the consideration of the last Postmaster-General. It has recently transpired, that the telegraph system of Great Britain, has been put in charge of the British post office department. It is a matter of very great importance, and its propriety and practicability ought to be thoroughly investigated by Congress. The Postmaster-General then calls attention to the gross frauds perpetrated upon the department by violation of the franking privilege, in almost all parts of the country. The fac simile franks of members of Congress are freely used to circulate obscene books, lottery circulars, &c. He recommends that the written signature of the person entitled to frank, be required.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior gives a comprehensive summary of the results which were attained, during the last fiscal year, in the branches of the public service committed to the supervision of that department. During the last fiscal year, 7,041,114.50 acres of the public lands were disposed of. This quantity exceeds that disposed of during the previous year by 2,411,800 acres. The last soldier of the Revolution, who was on the pension rolls at the date of the last annual report, has since died. By special Act of Congress, two other veterans of that war have been placed on the rolls, at the rate of \$500 per annum. Of the widows of such soldiers, there are on

the rolls 997; of these, 119 were married prior to the 1st January, 1860. Of wars subsequent to the Revolution and prior to the rebellion, the number of pensioned widows and orphans of soldiers was 1,310, at the close of the last fiscal year. During the year, there were added to the number of pensioners of all classes 36,492; 7,982 were dropped from various sections, leaving on the rolls, June 30, 1867, 155,474. The total amount of pensions paid was \$18,619,946. During the year ending September 30, 1867, there were admitted 954 applications for bounty land warrants, requiring 148,960 acres of land to satisfy them. During the same period, there were 16,547 applications for patents; 11,655 patents were issued; 1,224 applications were allowed, but patents have not been issued thereon by reason of the non-payment of the final fees; 3,486 caveats were filed; 96 applications for extension were received, and 92 extensions of patents were granted. The remainder of the report is devoted to the Pacific Railroad, its earnings, &c.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture recommends that Congress adopt some plan for facilitating the early construction of a ship canal, for the transportation of Western products from the lakes to the ocean, or for the building of a double track railway, open to all, forwarding on equal terms and supported by an equitable system of tolls. He says that the unsettled condition of industry in the Southern States, requires the encouraging aid and friendly recognition of the Government, to restore the people to a state of prosperity and self-reliance, so essential to the development of the great resources of that section. He advocates that the cotton tax be rescinded, as it is disastrous and disheartening in the extreme. The introduction of Asiatics for cotton production, he says, is to be deprecated. Such labor is unskilled, and far inferior to negro labor, and will add to the complications induced by the jealousies and prejudices of races, widely differing in character and tastes.

The distribution of plants from the experimental and propagating gardens, from January 1 to May 1, 1867, amounted to 42,123; reaching every State and Territory in the country. The articles consisted mainly of the smaller variety of fruits, of which the grape has been in large proportion. The main purpose of the garden—that of testing the respective merits of new varieties—is still kept strictly in view, and all new varieties are procured as early as practicable, and the knowledge gained concerning them embodied in the department reports.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy states that during the year the naval force has been almost exclusively employed on foreign stations; but little remained for it in our own waters. The display of a naval force has been sufficient to suppress threatened difficulties; and in every quarter American interests have been respected and American rights observed during the year.

The aggregate naval force has been reduced to 40 vessels and 482 guns. The number of vessels in commission has been reduced to 12, and the number in squadron service is 13 less than at the last annual report. The total number of vessels in use is 103, and 898 guns. The Secretary urges an extension of the navy yards; says they are too circumscribed, and that the estimates for improvements are larger now than last year—owing to the omission of Congress to make any appropriation last winter. The experiments at the Charleston Navy Yard, in the use of petroleum for fuel under marine boilers, show that convenience, health, safety and comfort are against its use. These are about all the main points of general interest in the report.

FRESH NORFOLK OYSTERS. RECEIVED, THIS DAY, a small lot of those fine fresh Norfolk OYSTERS, at the Columbia Ice House. JOHN D. BATEMAN. Dec 8

Columbia Base Ball Club. THE MEMBERS will attend a regular monthly meeting, TO-MORROW (Monday) EVENING, at Palmetto Engine House, at 7 o'clock. By order of the President. C. A. CARRINGTON, Dec 8

Cotton Seed, Cotton Seed. PARTIES having COTTON SEED for sale, will find it to their interest to apply to FISHER & LOWRANCE. Dec 7

Beverly Nash and that Speech. The Winstboro News, of yesterday, publishes a communication, signed by J. A. Hinnant, to which several certificates (sworn to before a magistrate) are appended, in which the author asserts that on the 9th day of November last, he heard Beverly Nash make a speech at a barbecue given by the Union League in Fairfield District, near Jacob Bookman's mill:

"Nash said the negro never would get justice at law while the jury was composed of white men; that there had been already 210 negroes murdered in South Carolina, (meaning those that had been hung,) and Gov. Orr dare not carry into execution the sentence passed by the court of Pickens District, on the six negroes to be hung and eighteen to be sent to the penitentiary, for killing a boy fourteen years old. If he did, he would not remain in office six days after the Convention met. He told the negroes to wait and not contract yet, for there was better times ahead; and not contract at all for the third, for it was the little end of nothing; and if they would wait until the 1st day of February next, the white men would get down on their knees to them; the negroes could do better without the white man than he can without the negroes. He farther said that the white man had always been in power, and would always remain in power if they did not gain it at the ballot-box. If the Republican party failed in the coming election, rather than see the white man remain in power, he would shoulder his musket and see these hills bleached with bones and the gullies run with blood, rather than remain under the white man's power; and, pointing to the crowd around, asked 'would they follow him?' and the answer was 'yes,' 'yes.'"

As we published the first statement, with Nash's contradiction, we deem it an act of justice to copy the above.

DIRECT IMPORTATION. MAGENTROPHEN, so often called for, has at last arrived, per ship Gauen, from Bremen. The finest of LIQUORS, Segars, Pan-Oake Tobacco, etc., in the city. Baltimore LAGER BEER constantly on draft. Families supplied at \$1 per gallon, by JOHN STORK, Assembly street, near Post Office. Dec 8

BURNS CLUB. A MEETING of the Burns Club will be held TO-MORROW (Monday) EVENING, December 9, at 7 o'clock, at the Hall of the Hook and Ladder Company. A punctual attendance of the members is requested. All persons desirous of becoming members of the Club will please hand their applications to the President or Secretary, as this is the only meeting previous to the annual Festival in honor of Burns' birthday. By order of the President. GEORGE SYMMERS, Secretary. Dec 8

FURNITURE, FURNITURE. I HAVE just received a handsome lot of OAK and COMMON CHAIRS, consisting of Office, Cane and Wood Seat, Dining-room, Bed-room, Bar-room, Rocking, Nurse and Children's Chairs, with Cane and Counter Stools, which I will sell cheap, with a handsome variety of other Furniture. Anything in CABINET MAKING LINE done with neatness; also, REPAIRING. JEROME FAGAN, Opposite new Masonic Hall, Washington street. Dec 8

Patapsco Guano, THE MOST RELIABLE FERTILIZER NOW IN USE.

JACOB LEVIN, Agent for the PATAPSCO GUANO COMPANY, is prepared to furnish the Planters of South Carolina with the above named article, from ONE BARREL to 500 TONS. Circulars, explaining its properties, with quantity applicable to the soil upon which it is to be used—certificates of numerous Planters having used it in the culture of Cotton, Wheat, Rye, Corn, Tobacco, Potatoes, Grass, &c.—can be had at my office, corner of Assembly and Plain streets—North corner of new Market. 100 barrels now in store, and will be sent to any part of the State. Orders respectfully solicited. JACOB LEVIN, Agent. Dec 8

Cotton Plantation for Sale. I AM offering my PLANTATION in Jefferson County, Georgia, for sale. The place contains 1,309 acres, very productive, about 500 acres cleared and 150 acres fresh land, the balance heavily timbered and very suitable for a sawmill. A well finished Dwelling House, with six large rooms, large Gin House, fine new Screw and good out buildings, comprise the improvements. There is a COUNTRY STORE, now stocked with goods, on the place and a fine stand. From \$10,000 to \$15,000 worth of goods have been sold annually, for cash, during the past two years. The plantation lies within one mile of the Central Railroad. A new Plank Road to the station, No. 10, and the timber alone is worth more than I ask for the place. I will also sell, if desired, 2,000 bushels Corn, eight fine young Mules, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Oats, Fodder, Peas, Waggon, Carts, and in fact everything on the place. My residence being in Hancock County, fifty-five miles distant, where I have large planting and other interest, I cannot give this place the personal attention it requires, and offer it for sale for that reason and that alone. The place will be shown to those wishing to examine it by my son, or Capt. MULLALLY, now on the place. For further particulars address me at Sparta, Georgia. A. J. LANE, Dec 8

Cotton Seed, Cotton Seed. PARTIES having COTTON SEED for sale, will find it to their interest to apply to FISHER & LOWRANCE. Dec 7

OBITUARY. It has pleased the Almighty to remove from among us our beloved friend WILLIAM HITCHCOCK. Let us accept the consolation that our irreparable loss has been his eternal gain, and that he has been removed to another sphere "More nigh Jehovah's throne." Among the many noble qualities possessed by the deceased, he combined a warmth of heart and a sincere devotion to truth, overpowering all meanness or more selfish feelings—confering a tone of dignity and elevation to his character which rendered him beloved by all. The approach of death had no terror for him. No cloud overhung his future. He met his end with composure, and his pathway to the grave was lightened by the immortal hopes which spring from the Christian faith. May he rest in peace in his honored grave. Almighty God, 'tis right, 'tis just, That mortal man should turn to dust, But oh! the sweet consoling truth, The soul will live in endless youth. H. C. M.

MR. S. D. BOGGS, OF FAIRFIELD, will deliver an ORATION before the Euphrasian Society, on THURSDAY EVENING, December 12, in the University Chapel. The public are invited to attend. GEO. HOWE, Jr., President. Dec 8

FRESH ARRIVALS. 1,000 LBS. DAIRY CHEESE, fine, 500 lbs. Goshen Butter, choice, 3,000 lbs. Carolina Rice, prime, 250 lbs. Rio Coffee, middling, 100 " " " No. 1, 150 lbs. Java Coffee, Old Government, 30 gross Matchea, Parlor, 100 " Ale and Porter, English, 100 " " not English, 2 quarts Salt, at 5 cents, together with the usual odds and ends of a first class GROCERY, and which cost too much money to advertise. Call in. Dec 8

ADRISS GOODS, BLACK AND COLORED SILKS, Popline and Merinos, Plain and Fancy Roppa, All Wool Delaines, Black and Colored Alpaca, Laces and Gent's Handkerchiefs, Gloves and Hosiery, French Corsets, Hoop Skirts. C. F. JACKSON. For sale low by December 8

Superior Northern Cabbage, JUST RECEIVED, and for sale, by Dec 7 WM. MCGUINNIS.

Breakfast Bacon, &c. 2 BBL'S. CHOICE NEW PIG BACON STRIPS, Diamond Hams, Tongues, Spiced Beef, English Dairy and Factory Cheese, Kites new Mackerel and Shad Boes, Bbls. extra fine Mackerel, for retailing. Just received and for sale by Dec 7 C. H. BALDWIN & CO.

Hams and Breakfast Strips, FRESH and good, at low rates. Dec 7 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

No. 1 Mackerel, VERY fat. Dec 7 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

Extra Family Soap, AT LOW RATES. Dec 7 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

Tobacco, Tobacco, Tobacco. 50 BOXES various grades. Dealers will benefit themselves by examining our stock of TOBACCO and SEGARS, Solace, Crumbs of Comfort, and NUMEROUS other brands. Dec 7 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

Don't forget. The only sure cough cure is Stanley's celebrated Cough Syrup. Sold by Fisher and Heintah.

FLOUR, FLOUR, FLOUR. 400 BAGS Super and Extra Country FLOUR, 25 bbls. Virginia Family Flour. For sale very low for cash. Dec 7 E. & G. D. HOPE.

Breakfast Bacon and Hams. 2,000 LBS. Extra Breakfast BACON, 1,000 lbs. New Sugar-Cured Hams. For sale at reduced rates. Dec 7 E. & G. D. HOPE.

Seed Wheat and Oats. 50 BUSHELS Maryland Seed WHEAT, 200 bushels prime OATS. For sale by E. & G. D. HOPE. Dec 7

Tobacco, Tobacco, Tobacco. 50 BOXES Choice, Medium and low priced TOBACCO, 500 lbs. of the choicest brands Smoking Tobacco, for sale by E. & G. D. HOPE. Dec 7

DINNER HOUSE AT ALSTON. PASSENGERS on the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, can get DINNER at Alston, at 3 o'clock; ample time being allowed. Passengers for Spartanburg and Union Railroad can get BREAKFAST on the arrival of the Columbia train. MARY A. ELKIN & SON. Dec 6

Salt, Salt. EXTRA Large Seamless Sacks of choice Liverpool SALT, at \$2.75 per sack. For sale at retail, only, to consumers. Nov 7 J. & T. R. AGNEW.

OATS, OATS. 200 BUSHELS PRIME OATS for sale low. FISHER & LOWRANCE. Dec 4

Local Items.

Messrs. Duffie & Chapman have placed before us the January number of *Peterson's Magazine*. It is an excellent number.

Mr. Bateman, at the ice house, advertises prime Norfolk oysters—to the fact that they are good, we can fully testify, as we sampled them last night. Send for a mess, and give them a trial.

GUANO.—The attention of planters is called to the advertisement of this valuable fertilizer, of which Messrs. Willis & Chisolm are the agents. The certificates published are of the very best character, and prove satisfactorily that by the use of the "Rodunda," the crops will be materially benefited.

DIRECT IMPORTATION.—Mr. John Stork will accept our thanks for a bottle of the celebrated German preparation, "Magenbitter-Liquor," a small supply of which he has just received, together with other genuine articles in his line, direct from Bremen. Mr. Stork's present place of business is on Assembly street, directly in rear of his old stand.

JOB WORK.—Every description of book and job printing—pamphlets, bill heads, circulars, labels, posters, programmes, business, wedding and invitation cards, railroad receipts, checks, drafts, &c., promptly executed at the lowest rates.

We have been requested to state that the Independent Fire Company, in conjunction with the Masonic fraternity of Columbia, propose giving a fair on the 17th, 18th and 19th December—to wind up with a ball on the 20th—for the purpose of raising funds to assist in liquidating the debt contracted in the erection of their new hall and apparatus house. Ladies disposed to assist in the matter are requested to meet at Mr. McKenzie's store, on Monday morning, 9th instant, at 11 o'clock.

FILE—DESTRUCTION OF GIBBS' HALL.—This building, the very first one erected in Columbia, after the destruction of the city, was entirely consumed last night. About half-past 9 o'clock, smoke was observed issuing from the second story windows, and in a few minutes, the entire edifice was in flames. The lower story was used as a store, and contained a quantity of bacon, liquors and other inflammable material. The upper story was a hall, and had been occupied by the courts, as well as for exhibitions, ever since its erection. The building and stock of goods were valued at fully \$9,000—insured for about one-half. The firemen were promptly on the spot, and worked faithfully. The cause of the fire is unknown, as it is said there had been no fire about the premises in two days. A file of soldiers from the garrison assisted materially in removing articles from the burning building.

CHARLESTON, December 5, 1867. To the Editors of the Charleston Mercury.

GENTLEMEN: The extract of yours, copied from the Columbia *Phoenix*, of the 4th instant, in reference to Frank's Burlesque Opera Troupe and ourselves, we pronounce false and malicious. H. C. MOSELY, J. ROUMILLAT.

CHARLESTON, December 5, 1867. As one of the proprietors of Frank's Burlesque Opera Troupe, I fully concur in the above; Messrs. J. Roumillat and H. C. Mosely being also proprietors.

E. H. RODGERS, JR. The above we copy, by request, from the *Mercury*. The publication in the *Phoenix* was merely a telegraphic despatch from Messrs. Kingman and Morris to Chief of Police Radcliffe, of Columbia.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT—FOURTH CIRCUIT.—Hon. George S. Bryan, D. J., presiding.—December 7.

In Re Daniel Williams.—Petition for involuntary bankruptcy. D. Williams declared a bankrupt. On motion of W. R. Watson, attorney for creditors, ordered, that the time given to the Marshal for seizure of property of bankrupt, be extended to 16th of December.

In Re R. S. Moore.—Petition for involuntary bankruptcy. G. W. Williams, Pro. Pet. In Re T. S. Moore & Jas. Mason.—Id. Id. The petitions were read, and on motion of G. W. Williams, Judge signed orders of reference to W. J. Clawson, Register of 4th Congressional District.

FINE BEEF.—We are informed that to-morrow morning, there will be at stalls Nos. 4 and 12, a splendid beef, butchered in the Cosha style.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES THIS DAY.—Trinity Church—Rev. P. J. Shand, Rector, 10 1/2 a. m. and 3 p. m.

Presbyterian Church—Rev. W. E. Boggs, 10 1/2 a. m. and 7 p. m. St. Peter's Church—Rev. J. J. O'Connell, 10 a. m. and 3 p. m. Washington Street Chapel—Rev. T. G. Herbert, 10 1/2 a. m. Rev. E. G. Gage, 3 1/2 p. m.

Marion Street Church—Rev. E. G. Gage, 10 1/2 a. m. Rev. T. G. Herbert, 3 1/2 p. m. Lutheran Lecture Room—Rev. A. R. Rude, 10 1/2 a. m.

Baptist Church—Rev. J. L. Reynolds, 10 1/2 a. m. and 3 1/2 p. m. Christ Church Congregation—Theological Seminary Chapel—Rev. J. M. Pringle, 10 1/2 a. m.

African M. E. Church—Rev. Edward Arthur, 10 a. m.; Rev. A. Richardson, 3 p. m.; Rev. Henry Ridden, 7 p. m. Calvary Baptist Church—Rev. Samuel Johnson, 10 1/2 a. m.; 3 p. m., and 7 p. m.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The post office open during the week from 8 1/2 a. m. to 6 p. m. On Sundays, from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 p. m.

The Charleston and Western mails are open for delivery at 2 p. m., and close at 9 a. m.

Northern—Open for delivery at 10 1/2 a. m., closes at 1 p. m. Greenville—Open for delivery at 3 p. m., closes at 8 p. m.

FIVE CENTS.—The price of single copies of the *Phoenix* is five cents, and purchasers are requested to pay no more for them. We are informed that some of the news-boys charge ten. This is an imposition.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, published this morning for the first time:

Meeting Columbia Base Ball Club. C. F. Jackson—Dress Goods. Jacob Levin—Patapsco Guano. A. J. Lane—Cotton Plantation For Sale. H. E. Scott—Assignee's Sale. Jerome Fagan—Furniture. John Stork—Direct Importation. Jacob Levin—Auction Sale. Mr. S. D. Boggs—Orator. George Symmers—Fresh Arrivals. Meeting Burns Club. J. D. Bateman—Norfolk Oysters. Willis & Chisolm—Rodunda Guano.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

ALL PERSONS indebted to the late firm of G. M. THOMPSON & CO., are hereby notified to call on the subscriber and settle their accounts. Those failing to take advantage of this notice, may expect to incur costs. J. MEIGHAN, Imo* Nov 24

100 Reams Wrapping Paper, VERY STRONG, at low rates. Dec 7 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.

PLANTATION FOR RENT. A DESIRABLE PLACE, just three miles from Columbia. On it, there are 300 acres of Bottom Land and 150 of Upland, suitable for cultivation. Of the Upland land, there are 109 acres now in its virgin state, which will produce, without manure, fifty bushels of corn per acre. A part of this land yielded this year over two tons of grass per acre. These lands are as free from freshets as any lands on the river. The fences are in good condition, and there are houses suitable for twenty hands. For further particulars apply to Dec 6 B. W. TAYLOR.

To Publishers and Journalists. A LARGE amount of TYPE and JOB MATERIAL for sale, in lots to suit purchasers. Terms reasonable and cash. Also, a fine LAND PRESS, price \$250; an Adams Power Press, price \$1,500; and a Card Press, price \$100. Apply to F. G. DEFONTAINE, Columbia. Dec 6

SALT, SALT. LIVERPOOL SALT, at \$2.50 per sack. Dec 7 FISHER & LOWRANCE.

WOOD WARE, WOOD WARE. ROOMS, TUBS, KEELERS, BUCKETS, &c. Mats, Twine, Wrapping Paper, Matches, &c., cheap, for cash by Dec 1 FISHER & LOWRANCE.

WANTED, WANTED. 500 BUSHELS COW PEAS. FISHER & LOWRANCE. Dec 1

BACON. CLEAR SIDES, Clear Ribbed Sides, C Back-Bone Sides, Shoulders, for sale low, by FISHER & LOWRANCE.

CORN, CORN. OATS, FLOUR, for sale low for cash, by Dec 1 FISHER & LOWRANCE.

Drugs and Medicines, wholesale and retail, as cheap as any city in the world, at Fisher & Heintah's new store.

Pig Hams and Shoulders. CHOICE New York PIG HAMS and PIG SHOULDERS, just received by last steamer, and for sale by Nov 16 J. & T. R. AGNEW.

Copeland & Bearden HAVE ON HAND 200 bushels SEED WHEAT, 50 bags Extra Family FLOUR, 1,000 lbs. New Bacon HAMS, 10,000 lbs. Bacon Sides and Shoulders, Sugar, Coffee and Molasses, 20 bbls. Golden and Bee-hive Syrups, Bagging and Bale Twine, 200 sacks Liverpool Salt, 100 sacks Yarn. Nov 16

FOR SALE. A DESIRABLE building LOT, on North-east corner of Sumter and Taylor streets. If not disposed of at private sale, will be sold by public auction, first MONDAY in December next. Apply to F. W. McMASTER, No. 5 Law Range. Nov 13