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RUMORS of war between England and Russia are again rife, and a declaration of hostilities is not among the things improbable before the end of the year. It is to be hoped for the sake of humanity that such a war may be averted.

THERE is but one creditor of the old city of Memphis to settle with, and when this is done there will be no obstacle to the change of name from Taxing District to the city of Memphis. The accomplishment of this will doubtless be gratifying to the citizens of that prosperous and enterprising city.

PRINCESS BEATRICE, said to be one of the most beautiful and lovely women of this age, will soon be married to Prince Henry of Battenburg. Elaborate preparations are being made for the wedding, which will be solemnized at Osborne Castle. Queen Victoria will bestow the Order of the Garter upon Prince Henry prior to the marriage.

THE Florida Constitutional Convention is in session at Tallahassee. A majority of the convention committee a few days ago adopted the system of an elective judiciary, and unless a majority of the convention think differently there will be a change in that State from an appointive to an elective judiciary. The convention, and afterwards the people, will do well to consider the matter thoroughly before they make such a change.

IT IS amusing, to say the least of it, to hear Little Billy Mahone denouncing the Democracy as "a party conspiring for spoils." Billy went over to the Republicans under a "bargain-and-sale" arrangement, and got control of all the Virginia postoffices. The "offensive partisanship" of President Cleveland in taking away this patronage is what constitutes the "conspiracy" complained of by the little "Boss."

County Conventions.

The following counties hold their conventions and primaries on the dates mentioned:

Lowndes, convention, July 25th.
Jasper, mass meeting, July 25tu.
Carroll, convention, August 1st.
Lafayette, primary, August 1st.
Capiah, convention, August 4th.
Yazoo, convention, August 5th.
Tippah, primary, August 10th.

THE story told by a Greek refugee who survived the storm of the ill-fated City of Khartoum, is full of lurid light. When the city was betrayed he heard a hideous uproar of men shouting and yelling and of women wailing around about on all sides. "Men with frightful gashes on their faces and limbs came flying by and towards us, women with torn garments and disheveled hair—shrieking, 'Jesu Christo!'" Gordon, according to the Greek, was shot by an Arab in his palace, as he was reading the Bible; his head was cut off and carried about the city on a spear. Gordon's head was taken over to the Mahdi, a grim savage smile passed over his face. He gazed long at the countenance of his late enemy. "God be praised," he cried, "can this be he?" Horrible, indeed, was the scene in the bazar, where curtains and bright satins lay smeared and splashed with blood, making a strange contrast with the naked bodies of the numerous dead. "One corner was so full of corpses and dying that we could not get by. I had my hands tied, and fell several times in the road slippery with blood."

Concluded the Hearing of Testimony.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20.—The commission appointed by the court to make inquires into the mental condition of John McCullough, tragedian, concluded the hearing of testimony and adjourned until Wednesday next, when the jury will meet to consider the testimony and render a verdict.

Subscribe for the Commercial Herald.

The Cotton Levee Tax.

SUNRISE, BOLIVAR CO., Miss., July 19, 1885.
Editor Commercial Herald.

I have read an article in the Daily COMMERCIAL HERALD of the 14th on the "The levee question," and being one of a large majority of this district opposed to the cotton tax, I ask a little space in your paper, as this question is being agitated in this district and as yet no one in Sunflower has seen proper to appear in defense of our position.

It seems that the idea of the cotton tax party is that we must have a levee and that the money must be raised by a tax on cotton; that we must bow submissively to the dictation of interested capital. Now, sir, as this district has already issued bonds to the amount of half a million of dollars, the people are in favor of going on with the work.

We favor a speedy completion of the work but we oppose and will ever oppose the levying of any tax on cotton or any other product of industry. We are willing that an ad valorem tax shall be levied to cover all necessary expenses incurred to pay the interest on all the bonds, to provide a sinking fund for the liquidation of the bonds at maturity, and to fix a penalty to enforce the collection of taxes for this purpose, that the bonds may not be at the mercy of any one, but rest upon a secure and substantial basis.

The article says that there are fifty miles of "substantial levees," but there are yet fifty miles to build and repair before we are properly protected. Now the people are in favor of issuing bonds to build and perfect the whole line.

The writer says that "the name of Mississippi is proverbially bad in the money markets of the country insomuch that the name alone is sufficient to attach suspicion to any paper bearing it, that is offered," but did not explain how or why a bond issued upon real and personal property is worth less in the market than one issued upon the faith of something that does not exist.

He goes on to say that the levee commissioners pledged the district in every way that was then possible, that the enactment by the next legislature of a law imposing a cotton tax throughout the district would be procured." Now, sir, at our county convention, on July 2nd, I did not understand our commissioner to say he had pledged the county, but that he pledged his best endeavors to get the consent of the people of this county to submit to a tax on cotton.

This pledge he has fulfilled to the letter, and there the matter ends. It now remains for the people to say whether they will submit to it or not.

The question of a tax on cotton, I assert, has never been submitted to the people of this county, and no one has ever been clothed with authority, by any public expression of favor, to make any pledge for the people of this county. Any pledge made rests only upon personal responsibility.

If this question had ever been sprung before, the people of this county would have opposed it as they do now.

The people want a levee, but they want all, whether directly or indirectly interested, to share in the cost of its constructions, and all that is said and written about "pledges," "lack of appreciation of obligations," etc., etc., amounts to nothing.

The people are willing to do what is right and just, but they want each and every one interested to bear his proportionate share, and this can only be done through an ad valorem tax. It is said that capitalists will not lend money except on bonds based upon a cotton tax.

Now, sir, let us look into that a little. I understand that the charter under which the L., N. O. & T. Railroad was built through this district provided that as the State could not donate her land to a corporation, said corporation might enter as much State and levee board lands as desired at two cents per acre, and that said land and all railroad property should be exempt from taxation for State or county purposes for a term of years.

What a princely present this to a corporation of millionaires by the horny-handed plow boys of Mississippi. The L., N. O. & T. Company owns a large amount of this land which has grown to be very valuable, being held by the company, as I am informed, at $2.50 to $10.00 per acre.

Under the present levee law this property pays a tax of from nine to thirteen mills, but put the tax on cotton, and all this valuable property escapes any increase of taxation, and this is mainly, as I see it and as the people see it, why capitalists will not loan money except on the faith of a cotton tax.

And then sir, who is much benefited by the levee? The railroad of course.

The railroads want the levees built, not satisfied with the princely present made by the State of Mississippi in the company of hundreds of thousands of acres of land, they wish to force the people by intimidation, to protect their property.

The article says the railroad has shown no disposition "to avoid its proper share of the burden."

Now if this cotton tax is not an attempt "to avoid its proper share of the burden" then the people are too blind and too idiotic to be allowed a vote.

The article goes on to say, "But the cotton interest is of such vastly greater magnitude and of such vital importance, the additional burden it would have to bear so small in comparison with the benefits it will enjoy it could well afford to make the railroad a present of the difference." What a beautiful picture.

The plow-boys of the Delta, forming in line and marching up to the palatial residences of the railroad magnates, each with his little present, more than he can justly bear, earned by hard blows and the honest sweat of his brow. What a self-sacrificing people the writer would make of us.

Now, sir, I will say that we are opposed to this cotton tax on principle. It is unjust; it is discriminating; it is impolitic, and if such security as we are willing to give is not sufficient to ensure the sale of bonds, let the matter drop.

There is no individual in this district who cannot stand an overflow better than the Louisville, New Orleans & Texas railroad. If they can stand it we can, and if they want the levee built, let them come up like fair and just men and bear their proportionate share of the burthen, and they will find that the people will not flinch, nor try to evade their share of the expense incident to the construction and maintenance of a perfect levee system.

The people have seen enough of cotton taxation, they have had a painful experience in it and will have no more of it.

The ad valorem tax is easy of collection, being collected by the sheriff, but who can assess a growing crop? who is responsible, or can be made so for the faithful collection, particularly on the borders of the district? The cotton tax has never been fully collected, nor can it be.

If bonds so issued as to enforce their collection, based upon the lands of this most fertile section than which there are none richer on the earth, with all of their valuable improvements, splendid railroads and capacity for raising 91,000 bales of cotton with only one-fourth of its lands in cultivation, have no commercial value, we had as well make no attempt at building any levee at all. SUNFLOWER.

Don,t hawk, hawk, and blow, blow, disgusting everybody, but use Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

An Erroneous Statement.

Special Correspondence Commercial Herald.

JACKSON, MISS., July 19, 1885.

A statement in the last issue of the Lantern, a cartoon paper published here, to the effect that the penitentiary lessees were largely indebted to the State in consequence of the failure of Governor Lowry to require annual settlements, will be fully answered in a publication to be at once made by Col. J. S. Hamilton, who has been absent. The Lantern charges that no settlements were made for the years 1883 and 1884 and anticipated that no settlement will be made for 1885 and foots up an indebtedness to the State amounting to $118,260. It furthers says that its statement is "not based on conjecture but on the record." The statement is however entirely erroneous. The lessees made their settlements in full for all amounts due the State up to December, 1883, and also 1884, and the State treasurer's receipts have been submitted to your correspondent in proof. The next settlement is not due until December 1885.

* *

A Tonic in a True Sense of the Word.

Not all medicinal preparations called tonics are such. A mere stimulant of appetite, which gives a simple "fillip to Nature"—which removes no obstacle to her processes in the human system, is in no true sense a tonic. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters not only far transcends in purity the ordinary unmedicated stimulants of commerce, the cheap local bitters, and eye openers vended as tonics, but where they are powerless to do more than impart a temporary stimulus to appetite, the Bitters restores digestion, remedies biliousness and insures regularity in the habit of body. It is, therefore, a tonic in the true sense of the word, for does it not renew harmony of tone in the most important functions of the body, where all before was discordant, feeble and inharmonious? Besides this, its invigorating and regulating effects constitute it the best possible safeguard against malarial diseases. It conquers rheumatism, kidney complaints and nervousness.

Discouraging.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 20.—The Russian harvest prospects continue discouraging. The present outlook is that the winter and summer wheat crops will everywhere within the empire yield poor harvest.

Found Dead in His Cell.

JERSEY CITY, July 20.—John Gaunt, who was arrested early Saturday morning for the brutal murder of his wife, Emma, in Hoboken, committed suicide this morning by hanging in his cell in the county jail. He was found dead by the turnkey about 6 o'clock. The prisoner occupied a cell on the second tier alone. He drew out his bed cord and deliberately strangled himself with it, his feet touching the floor.

FROM SHREVEPORT.

The United States Court—The United States Attorney—The Shreveport and Houston Railroad Case—Shooting.

Special to the Commercial Herald.

SHREVEPORT, July 20.—The regular term of the United States court, Judge Boarman presiding, was opened this morning by Maj. A. C. Gibson, the new marshal.

M. S. Jones, the new United States district attorney will qualify next Wednesday.

In the case of Jno. R. Jones vs. Shreveport & Houston railroad, in which Capt. Simon Levy was appointed receiver by Judge Boarman on Saturday, the company, through their attorney, to-day filed a motion to rescind the order appointing a receiver. The bondholders also prayed for the same order. Jones filed an additional suit for $5,000 and H. Dreyfus & Son one for $3,400, joining in the prayer for a receiver. The case is set for hearing Wednesday. Much interest is manifested.

A young white man named Mat Moore, shot and killed his room-mate named Drury Fields, near Keochi, Saturday night. Fields got up in the night to adjust a window; and More says he took him for a burglar and shot. Moore has been drinking pretty freely lately and was suffering from nervousness. He killed a young man at a dance a year ago and was acquitted on the ground of self-defense.

FROM CANTON.

A Crusade on Retail Liquor Dealers by Ladies.

Special to the Commercial Herald.

CANTON, MISS., July 20.—There is considerable excitement in town this morning, particularly among retail liquor dealers, when it became known that a number of prominent ladies of the different religious denominations had begun a crusade against liquor traffic by getting up petitions to the authorities under the statute praying that no more license be granted for the sale of intoxicants. The ladies are being ably seconded by the men and it looks as if king alcohol is doomed.

Inspectors Decision in the Hanna Blanks and Warren Collision.

NEW ORLEANS, July 20.—The local inspector's decision in the Hanna Blanks and Warren Collision, lays the blame on the latter, and suspends W. A. Gibson, pilot of the Warren, fifteen days for unskillfulness.

Incendiarism.

Some months since the store house and contents of Mr. Joseph Keys at Modoc landing on Sunflower river, were burned under suspicious circumstances during the night, Mr. Keys barely escaping with his life. Suspicions were had at the time that it was the work of an incendiary but nothing was developed in the matter. Mr. Keys rebuilt his store and stocked it with ten or fifteen thousand dollars worth of stock. About the time he had done this he died. Mr. Alex Moss was appointed administrator and took charge of both the store and crop. At 2 o'clock last Tuesday morning, Mr. Moss was awakened from his sleep by the fire and had just time to get out himself without saving anything, the store and contents burning to the ground. He says there is no doubt but that it is the work of an incendiary. There was no insurance on any of the property. He had to go to Woodburn for provisions for the hands on his place. The impression prevails along the river that the same agency has been instrumental in both of these fires.

The Soldier's Must Have Patience.

KANSAS CITY, July 20.—A dispatch from Crossfield, Kansas, says thirteen hundred soldiers are in camp here tonight (Sunday). About one hundred miles nearly due south of us, on their own reservation comprising about one hundred miles square and on that which is known as the Old Cantonment, which is a well known Indian camp ground about seventy-five miles west, and slightly south of Fort Reno, are the most of the Cheyenne Indians, with a chief who will not come into Fort Reno for a powwow. The reason given by the Indians is that young bucks having insufficient rations are out hunting for game; then they will come in and powwow with Gens. Miles and Sheridan, until then the soldiers must have patience. Meanwhile stories arrive at headquarters that the Indians are insincere. They step out to hunt well mounted and finely armed. They come home with poor guns and with few ponies. They are securely hiding fire arms, ammunition and ponies west of their reservation. They have below 1,500 bucks. The arms they secrete are principally Winchester rifles.

Cattle Killed by Lightning.

STILL WATER, MINN., July 20.—Ten out of twenty-eight head of cattle belonging to Kerchoff & Wissel were killed by lightning here in yesterday's storm.

From Lake Providence.

Correspondence Commercial Herald.

LAKE PROVIDENCE, July 18, 1885.

The honorable eighth district court has been in session during the entire week and adjourned to-day until Monday, the twentieth instant. The weather has been quite trying on the court, the thermometer ranging daily from ninety to ninety-seven in the shade and the large criminal docket and disposition of the judge to clean out the jail has caused evening sessions to be held even into late hours of the night and it will be necessary to empanel a jury for the fourth week to try cases.

The principal cases on trial this week were two for murder; the first being that of the State vs. Henry Jackson, who was tried and a verdict of manslaughter rendered, with recommendation for mercy. Jackson killed one Joe Flood on the Live Oak plantation, in August, 1884, in consequence of the deceased and one Henry Davis, having induced his wife to leave his house by which his happiness was destroyed. Jackson in the heat of passion went to a house on the plantation procured a gun and secreting himself in ambush shot Flood while, he was hoeing in the field. Flood died six hours after. Jackson came to Lake Providence with his gun and surrendered, saying what he had done and was incarcerated in jail. Jackson was ably defended by Hon. J. M. Kennedy in a most eloquent, brilliant and exhaustive argument of three hours and the State was ably represented by District Attorney Joseph E. Ransdal. The jury was an intelligent one and the verdict is considered a satisfactory one. There were twenty-five witnesses in the case and the trial consumed two days. Sentence has not yet been pronounced on Jackson.

The case of Theodore Butler, colored, charged with killing a white man named Dunlary, on the Mounds plantation, in February, 1883, was tried to-day, resulting in an acquittal. Butler was arrested at the time, and has been in jail since until released to-day. He was ably defended by Hon. W. G. Wyly.

The cotton and corn crops continue to improve, but the worms have made their appearance on several plantations but done no damage, supposed to be second crop. No rain th j week.

SPECIAL.

Probably Fatal Assault.

About half-past 1 o'clock Sunday morning, four young white men, just verging into manhood, scions of respectable families in the city and county, entered Alderman Wesley Crayton's "all night house" saloon on Washington street, and although it is a colored saloon and rendezvous, after taking a drink insisted on playing a game of billiards. A number of negro men were in the saloon, and like the young men referred to, were drinking, and the consequence was they were loath to give way to the white men. The consequence was a row soon ensued and resulted in the probable fatal wounding of young Albert Richardson with a billiard cue, in the hands of a negro by the name Jessee Woodson. Officer Henderson, who was in front of the saloon when the row occurred, rushed in and arrived just in time to stop Richardson from striking Woodson. He took hold of Richardson and attempted to take him out, but as he passed the corner of the billiard table Richardson took hold of the table and held it. Woodson followed up with a billiard cue and attempted to strike Richardson, the officer held up his hand and caught the first blow on the back of it inflicting a painful wound, and before he could recover from the blow Woodson had dealt Richardson several heavy blows on the head Richardson fell and he had to ease him to the floor. He pulled his pistol and commanded Woodson to surrender but he ran out at the back door. He snapped his pistol four times but it would not go off and Woodson escaped in the dark. Officer Bruner came to his relief and in the dark some one snapped a cap at him. Richardson has been unconscious up to this time and at this writing, 12 o'clock Monday night, is thought to be sinking rapidly. There are a number of chapters to be written in regard to this affair and we only regret that we had not written them in time to prevent this sad catastrophe. The city police are more to blame than anyone else.

The Cholera.

MADISON, July 20.—There were 1,850 new cases cholera and 761 deaths in Spain yesterday, of these 356 were new cases, and 133 deaths reported from Saragossa. Cases have appeared at Puerto, the real province of Cadiz and the cities Valencia and Valladolid.

Presented With a Watch and Chain.

MONTREAL, July 20.—Hon. McClellan, minister of marine and fisheries, on behalf of Canada, presented Vincent, of Montreal, with a magnificent gold watch and chain, in recognition of eminent services in saving life. The inscription on the watch mentions him as having saved thirty two lives.

LOWRY'S WALK OVER.

The following is the Jackson Clarion's list up to the day it went to press, and Montgomery county added. The Clarion has been neutral in the campaign, and the figures may be relied on as accurate. It will be seen that Lowry has 87¾ to all the rest 22¼, which means his certain nomination on the first ballot:

	LOWRY.	BARKSDALE.	WILLIS.	PETTUS.	DARDEN.
Adams					
Alcorn					
Amite					
Attala	4				
Benton	2				
Bolivar	4				
Calhoun					
Carroll					
Chickasaw					
Choctaw					
Claiborne					
Clarke	2½				
Clay	4				
Coahoma	4				
Copiah					
Covington					
DeSoto					
Franklin					
Greene	2				
Grenada					
Hancock	2				
Harrison	2				
Hinds	3				
Holmes					3
Issaquena					
Itawamba					
Jackson	2				
Jasper					
Jefferson	3				
Jones					
Kemper					
Lafayette					
Lauderdale			4½		
Lawrence					
Leake					
Lee					
Leflore					
Lincoln					
Lowndes					
Madison	4				
Marion	2				
Marshall			6		
Monroe	6				
Montgomery	4				
Neshoba	2				
Newton					3
Noxubee	6				
Oktibbeha	4				
Panola					
Perry (doubtful)					
Pike (doubtful)					
Pontotoc					
Prentiss					
Quitman					
Rankin	4				
Scott					
Sharkey	2				
Simpson	2				
Smith					
Sunflower	2				
Tallahatchie					
Tate					
Tippah					
Tishomingo	2				
Tunica					
Union					
Warren	6				
Washington	6				
Wayne					
Webster			2		2
Wilkinson					
Winston					
Yalobusha (doubtful)					
Yazoo					
	31½	6	6¾		19

NOTE—Yalobusha voted down a resolution instructing for Capt. Darden.

The Vote in Democratic Conservative State Convention.

Each county is entitled to twice the number of Representatives in Legislature, as follows:

Adams	4	Lincoln	3
Alcorn	3	Lowndes	6
Amite	3	Madison	4
Attala	4	Marion	3
Benton	3	Marshall	6
Bolivar	4	Monroe	6
Calhoun	3	Montgomery	2
Carroll	4	Neshoba	2
Chickasaw	4	Newton	3
Choctaw	2	Noxubee	6
Claiborne	3	Oktibbeha	4
Clarke	2½	Panola	6
Clay	4	Perry	2
Coahoma	4	Pike	3
Copiah	4	Pontotoc	3
Covington	2	Prentiss	3
DeSoto	4	Quitman	2
Franklin	2	Rankin	4
Greene	2	Scott	3
Grenada	2	Sharkey	2
Hancock	2	Simpson	3
Harrison	3	Smith	2
Hinds	6	Sunflower	2
Holmes	3	Tallahatchie	3
Issaquena	2	Tate	4
Itawamba	2	Tippah	3
Jackson	2	Tishomingo	2
Jasper	2	Tunica	2
Jefferson	3	Union	3
Jones	2	Warren	6
Kemper	2½	Washington	6
Lafayette	4	Wayne	
Lauderdale	4½	Webster	2
Lawrence	2	Wilkinson	2
Leake	3	Winston	3
Lee	4	Yalobusha	3
Leflore	2	Yazoo	7
Total			240

ONE day a very pious clerical friend who had consumed an hour of his valuable time in small talk, said to James Harper, the publisher: "Brother Harper, I am curious to know how you four men distribute the duties of the establishment between you." "John," said Mr. Harper, good humoredly, "attends to the finances, Wesley to the correspondence, Fletcher to the general bargaining with authors and others, and, don't you tell anybody," he said drawing his chair still closer and lowering the tone of his voice, "I entertain the bores."

Postoffice Burned.

WASHINGTON, July 20.—The postoffice at East Sabin, Kan., was burned last night with all its contents. The sureties of the postmaster have telegraphed that there were suspicious circumstances connected with the fire and an investigation will be made.

The Weather at Chicago.

CHICAGO, July 20.—The hot weather of yesterday was overcome by the arrival of a northeasterly wind storm which made sleep possible. This morning intense heat again manifested itself. The temperature at 8 a.m. was 82; 9 a.m. 85; 10 a.m. 87.