THE CHRONICLE

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DOKIMASIA.

In the days of the old Greek commonwealths a usage existed well worthy the attention of all republics. Every man who held public office had at the close of his official term to submit to what was called a *dokimasia*. This was a thorough scrutiny into the acts of his official course by commissioners specially appointed for the purpose. If funds had been intrusted to him his accounts were rigidly scrutinized; if public improvements were placed in his charge the commissioners visited the places where they had to be executed and rigidly inspected the work; if he held a military appointment his dispatches were overhauled and the facts investigated to note how far the actual campaign accorded with the reports; if during his canvass he had made any pledges to his constituents, these pledges were compared with the performance realized in his public career; and on all these topics an elaborate report was grounded, which was pronounced upon by the great council of the State (in Athens it was the council of the Areopagus), and, if the office-holder was found delinquent in any of these items, various punishments were inflicted upon him, the most prevalent of which was *atimia*, which was nothing short of a disqualification for holding public office for a term of years or for life, as the case might be; and it should be noted that this *dokimasia* was not an exceptional procedure like impeachment, grounded on specific charges of malfeasance in office, but an ordeal from which no man who had once held a public office of trust was exempt.

Dokimasia, we opine, would be a salutary institution at Washington, in all our State capitals and our corporate cities. We have it not established by law and we are not likely to have it, for office-holders are the makers of our laws, and they are not likely to tie their own hands; but practically we have had something like a *dokimasia* voluntarily encountered by our various representatives since the final adjournment of the State Legislature. All our legislators have had something to say, either in public utterance or in print, in vindication of their action as representatives of the people of this and the adjoining counties. Messrs. Smith and Goodpasture have given an account of their stewardship in the open Court House before the solid citizens of the County Court, and so well has their action corresponded with the pledges made before election that the Areopagus itself would, we believe, have pronounced them *eudokimoi*, which may be translated *passed with credit*. Col. Brandon has made a speech of a similar character at Dover, and, having met with certain strictures at the hands of our able contemporary of the Dover Courier, writes a vindication in the columns of that journal which we will presently consider as a conscientious Areopagite. Mr. Garner makes a similar vindication in the Springfield Record in answer to some strictures of our own. We will give careful attention to both, bearing in mind that the true Areopagus before which they plead as well as ourselves is the people of Tennessee, who are to give judgment through the ballot box at our next fall election. We are ourselves in fact always on our *dokimasia*, and the sentence which inflicts *atimia* on us is summary indeed, being conveyed to us in the awful words, "stop my paper."

As Mr. Garner's vindication was elicited by some strictures of our own we will give him the first place. We give *verbatim* the whole of the article in the Springfield Record, which is published in reply to our remarks:

HON. A. E. GARNER AND THE CLARKSVILLE CHRONICLE.

The above journal, in a three-column article, lauds those members of the Legislature who were in favor of mortgaging the homes, energies and the muscle of the people to the bondholders, and of sinking the sovereignty of the State, and of putting it in the power of the bondholders to file a bill in the Federal Court and compel the Legislature to levy a tax to meet the interest of the debt, even if a war should be raging, a pestilence spreading over the land and crops should fail.

Then the Chronicle proceeds to charge our Senator, the Hon. A. E. Garner, with killing the compromise bill. The Chronicle charges that, "A bill had passed the House of Legislature to close with the compromise proposed by the creditors at half the face of the bonds with six per cent. interest, the coupons receivable as taxes. This bill had passed the House in all its provisions, and was on its second reading before the Senate, when Mr. Garner offered an amendment to strike out the clause making the coupons receivable for taxes, which passed the Senate by one majority. This, of course, killed the bill."

The above charge is, every word, untrue, as the journals of the Legislature will show. And this only illustrates the necessity of a public journal being careful as to the charges made against a representative of the people. We cannot believe for a moment that the Chronicle, if correctly informed, would have made the above charge. Yet its ignorance of the facts, when the truth was in its reach, is certainly culpable.

The facts are few and simple. No House bill for the settlement of the debt ever came to the Senate. A bill upon that subject originated in the Senate, proposing to settle, making the coupons receivable for taxes. This bill passed to its third reading, when Mr. Garner moved to amend the bill by striking out the coupon feature, which motion was carried by a vote of 16 to 8. Sixteen Democrats voted for said amendment, and five Republicans and three Democrats voted against it. This bill passed the Senate, after an amendment thereto grading the interest, and went to the House, and was there defeated.

Before the Senate bill had reached its third reading in the Senate, the House, by a majority of five, had struck out six per cent. interest and inserted four per cent. This action was taken on a House bill. When the Senate bill reached the House it was amended by making the interest 4 per cent. for 15 years and 6 per cent for 15 years, and then defeated by the House. The bill introduced by Representative Frierson was then taken up by the House, and amended by striking out after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the bill introduced by Representative Phelan, which was to compromise at 50 cents in the dollar, with interest all the time at 4 per cent., and which expressly stated that the coupons should not be receivable for taxes. The Phelan bill was thus adopted in lieu of the Frierson bill, and without putting the Phelan bill on its third reading, the House adjourned *sine die*, without ever taking another vote on the question.

For the truth of the foregoing facts we refer to the official journals of the Legislature, and we defy contradiction from anyone. Besides which, the senior editor of this paper was an officer of the Senate, and was personally present during the late extra session of the Legislature; and we state as a fact to which we were an eye-witness, that Mr. Garner labored hard and earnestly to effect a compromise of the State debt, and that the Senate bill was the only bill that would have passed that body. And we have it from high authority that the bondholders would have accepted its provisions and funded under it.

Now did Mr. Garner defeat the compromise? Did not the Chronicle's friends defeat it? Who will the people regard as their friend? Is it the man who asserted that the people were honest, and would stand by the settlement the Legislature made? Or the man who (by his acts) said that they were dishonest, and we must handcuff them for all time to come, for fear that they will not stand by the settlement? We suggest to the Chronicle that the people have *not too many friends*, and it is bad policy to attempt to murder what few they have left upon baseless accusations. When the people of this Senatorial District shall have understood the position and votes of Senator Garner upon this question they may differ very widely with the Chronicle and its friends. Now if repudiation shall come, certainly the conservative element with which Mr. Garner acted will not be responsible for it? Can the Chronicle and its friends escape the responsibility?

Will the Chronicle have the fairness to publish this article in its columns, in order that its readers may have the real facts as to this matter?

We give the Senator's own statement in full, and we will give him the further advantage of acknowledging our error in stating that the Frierson bill came up from the House instead of originating in the Senate, and will now add, that error corrected, Mr. Garner's amendment stands exactly where it did in our estimation as having killed the compromise bill by causing its authors to lose their interest in it as being no longer a fair acceptance of the bondholder's proffered compromise.

And now we will very briefly discuss the merits of Mr. Garner's amendment. He speaks of the proposal to receive the coupons in payment of taxes as a mortgaging of the property and labor of the people, as making the bondholders preferred creditors, and as giving them the right to file a bill in the Federal Courts to compel the Legislature to raise a tax, etc. It does none of these things; it simply places them upon the level of all other creditors. Other creditors have the right to balance the State's claims against them; a Comptroller's warrant is receivable for taxes, and why not a coupon for interest on a bond which is just as much a debt as the warrant.

What other debt is there, public or private, in which the just claims of both parties are not allowed as a set-off the one against the other? Where is the mortgage in this? Where is the preference? and what standing does it give the public creditor in the Federal Courts which he has not now? The truth is that the acceptability of the coupons for taxes is only a grievance against the people on the supposition that their intention is agree to the commutation of their debt for half the face of it, with the proviso that they intend no more to raise funds to pay the interest on this half debt than they did on the whole one; on any other hypothesis it is no grievance at all. If Mr. G. chooses to accept this hypothesis, then he has nothing to do but openly to take his seat among the repudiators, and a paragraph that his champion advances against the Tobacco Leaf (with whom, as with ourselves, he is in controversy) looks very much that way, for he says:

But, if that coupon feature had been enacted into a law, then this right of the people would have been very materially lessened and abridged; for the bondholders would then have been made *preferred* creditors, and about $740,000 annually to pay the *interest* to the bondholders would be wrung from the people in the shape of taxes, besides $700,000 that it takes to run the State Government.

Well! did you expect to issue the new bonds without paying the interest on them? If not, all that talk goes for nothing at all; you are in favor of raising the $740,000 for interest as much as we are; if you did, then in what sense are you a State credit man? Which horn do you take?

As for that trash about "people's friends," it is just on a par with the wretched repudiating slang which calls a man the people's enemy if he advises them to pay their debts, and themselves the people's friends for advising them to dodge those debts by any pettifogging stratagem that may present itself.

We have concluded to let Colonel Brandon and his hobby alone for the present. We have no expectation of inducing him to abandon that rather frisky animal, but we think that having ridden him out and made him cavort round to the astonishment of his fellow-citizens, he may be induced to keep him in the stable for a while, and devote himself to the work of advocating the bondholders' compromise before the people. The "relief warrants" are not really before the people; if they were we might give them a more serious consideration.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Since the collapse of the Turkish armies has become an accomplished fact, no question has been so frequently and eagerly asked as "What will England do?" And as many have looked to the opening of the present session of Parliament, called three weeks before the usual time, for an answer to the question we have thought it best to re-publish so much of the Queen's speech on opening Parliament as relates to the war in the East. It will be understood that the meeting of Parliament before its accustomed time gives to this session something of the character of an extra session, and the Queen's speech, always prepared by the Cabinet in council, corresponds with a Presidential message such as opens these extra sessions with us. The following is Her Majesty's speech:

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN: I have thought fit to assemble you before the usual period of your meeting, in order that you might become acquainted with the efforts I have made to terminate the war now devastating Eastern Europe and Armenia, and that I might have the advice and assistance of my Parliament in the present state of public affairs. You are aware that after having unsuccessfully striven to avert that war, I declared my intention to observe neutrality in the contest which I lamented, but had failed to prevent so long as the interests of my Empire, as defined by my Government, were not threatened. I expressed, at the same time, my earnest desire to avail myself of any opportunity which might present itself for the peaceful settlement of the questions at issue between the belligerent Powers. The successes obtained by Russian arms in Europe and Asia convinced the Porte it should endeavor to bring to a close hostilities which were causing immense sufferings to its subjects. The Government of the Sultan accordingly addressed to neutral Powers, parties to the treaties relating to the Turkish Empire, an appeal for their good offices. It did not, however, appear to a majority of the Powers thus addressed that they could usefully comply with the request, and they communicated this opinion to the Porte. The Porte then determined on making a separate appeal to my Government, and I at once agreed to make enquiry of the Emperor of Russia whether His Imperial Majesty would entertain overtures for peace. The Emperor expressed, in reply, his earnest desire for peace, and stated at the same time his opinion as to the course which should be pursued for its attainment. Upon this subject communications have taken place between the Governments of Russia and Turkey, through my good offices, and I earnestly trust they may lead to a pacific solution of the points at issue, and to a termination of the war. No efforts on my part will be wanting to promote that result.

Hitherto, so far as the war has proceeded, neither of the belligerents have infringed on any conditions on which my neutrality is founded, and I willingly believe that both parties are desirous to respect them so far as it may be in their power. So long as these conditions are not infringed, my attitude will continue the same.

But I cannot conceal from myself that should hostilities be unfortunately prolonged, some unexpected occurrence may render it incumbent on me to adopt measures of precaution. Such measures could not be effectively taken without an adequate preparation, and I trust to the liberality of my Parliament to supply the means which may be required for that purpose. Papers on these affairs will be forthwith laid before you.

My relations with all foreign Powers continue friendly.

It is evident that this speech does not answer the question "What will England do?" nor, in the nature of things, did we anticipate it would. The action of England must so entirely depend upon the terms proposed by Russia to Turkey, that until these terms are officially known it was evidently impossible for the Queen (or rather the Queen's Cabinet) to say what the policy of England is to be. The interests of England, so far as they can be affected by the settlement of the Eastern war, lie in the Dardanelles and the Isthmus of Suez; she will certainly not intervene to save the Turkish Empire in Europe from the destruction now impending. A good deal of misunderstanding has existed in this country as regards England's obligations in this matter. It has been urged that England, having led Turkey into the war, was bound in honor to extricate her from the consequences of her engaging in it. But England did not lead her into the war; she did the reverse; she advised her to accept the terms proposed by the Congress of European powers at Constantinople, and most distinctly intimated that in case of her refusal she was not to expect England's alliance in the war that might ensue.

That Turkey was encouraged in prolonging the war by the conviction that England *must* intervene in the end is no doubt true, but this conviction arose not from any assurances of the English Government, but from a most erroneous estimate put by the Turkish statesmen upon the views and feelings of the English people. An armed intervention in the Russo-Turkish war was never a possibility on the part of England; her people were almost unanimously in opposition to it.

There have been many curious parallels between this war and that between the Northern and Southern States on this continent, and this is one of them, that the Southern people throughout the struggle cherished the hope, always a baseless one, that England would be compelled to intervene in it by her need of cotton; and the anger of the South when it became manifest that she would not was as natural and as unreasonable as that of Turkey at her present immovable attitude.

PETITION.

Every Southern Man Should Sign it.

The following petition has been extensively circulated and signed in Kentucky and other adjoining States; it is not right that Tennessee should be behind in a matter so nearly affecting her interests and those of her neighbors. We believe nine-tenths of the whole population of this county would sign it if it were rightly placed before them, but who is to appeal to them? Our politicians about election time, when there is something to be got by it, know every person of influence in every district of the county, and know also how to get at them. Will they not, in a case where the interests of the whole South are nearly concerned, interest themselves in bringing the great Southern railroad scheme before the people. Our able representative, Col. House, is a member of the Standing committee which has this matter in hand and his hands would be much strengthened by a numerously signed petition from this county. Who will move in it!

TO JNO. F. HOUSE, M. C.—We, the undersigned citizens of your Congressional District, respectfully solicit and urge your active support and vote in favor of national aid to a bill to secure the early completion of the Texas-Pacific railroad as a competing Southern line of trans-continental railway to the Pacific coast, believing that this line will supply a great want now felt by the commercial interests of the whole country, and be an act of justice to the South in equalising the bounties of the National Government to such a limited extent only as is in accordance with the exigencies of the public service. A bill that will secure the completion of this great Southern project addresses itself at once to our minds as one that will not only stimulate and quicken industrial enterprise and commercial life in the South, but at the same time be in complete unison with an important interest of every citizen of the United States.

We direct your attention to the startling inequality of the Government bounties between the North and South; *one hundred and seventy-five millions of dollars* having been expended to build up and advance commercial and industrial interests in the North, while only *eighteen millions* of Government expenditures, for the same purpose, have been made in the South and West. And when we reflect that it is plain, under the proposition for national aid to complete the Texas Pacific road on the thirty-second parrallel, that no advance of public money is involved, but simply a Government guarantee of interest, to be indorsed on the bonds of the Texas Pacific Company, under restrictions that thoroughly protect the Government against any outlay for the principal or interest on said company's bonds, with the additional provision subjecting the earnings of the line to the regulating power of Congress, so as to secure to commerce the benefits and economy of the lowest rates consistent with the cost of the road, it is clear to us that no objection on any public ground can be made to this form of Government aid that will cost the Government nothing.

We think the south and Southwest could fairly lay claim to a more substantial form of national assistance in Government bonds to complete the Texas Pacific across our Territories to the Pacific coast, but when the Texas Pacific Company show that if the Government will endorse on its bonds a guarantee only of the interest, and retain a sufficient number of the bonds to protect itself against any outlay for its interest guarantees, if such a security will give the company access to capital, the disposition of investors to purchase such a bond at once establishes the fact that the Government is not asked to grant a subsidy; because, if such a security can be marketed, there can be no question that the Government will never be required to advance, much less lose a single dollar.

When we consider the fact that over ninety millions in Government bonds have been given as a subsidy to build the existing line to the Pacific coast, which is not only a monopoly, giving human selfishness the power to wield a despotic rule over the commercial interests of the whole country, and a subsidy of $15,000 per day to meet the interest on said bonds is continuously being paid by the Government for the construction of this line, which is located too far North to meet the wants of the South, or in severe winters, to meet those of North or South, any opposition to the proposed form of Government aid to the Texas Pacific line, the completion of which would vitalize the railway property, the industrial and commercial interests of the South, appears inimical to the prosperity of our section.

THE TOBACCO TAXES.

The taxes on tobacco are, we believe, heavier than those on any article produced in the United States. There are taxes on the raw produce, taxes on the manufactured article, taxes on buyers for exportation, in short our government has acted as if it desired to suppress the cultivation of the weed altogether. We notice that the great Eastern purchasers have been invited to discuss the question as regards manufactured tobacco before the Ways and Means Committee of the House and that they are in favor of putting as heavy a tax upon it as the nation will stand. Their reason for doing this is that it rules out the small concerns and leaves the purchase of manufactured tobacco a monopoly in the hands of a few great firms. It never seems to have occurred to Mr. Woods, and his committee to invite any of the producers of tobacco to give their views on the subject, they are certainly an interested party; but this is on a par with all commercial legislation in Congress; it is devised in the interest of those capitalists who in the the great Eastern cities manipulate our produce; the producers are never considered except as a source of profit to those who manipulate their crops on the way to markets.

The Kentucky legislature has taken measures to have the producing interest ventilated in Congress as will be seen from the following resolutions of Mr Hamilton:

WHEREAS. The tobacco crop of Kentucky amounts to about 150,000,000 pounds, and nearly one-third of the crop of the United States; therefore,

1. *Resolved*, By the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested to use their influence to have the law taxing tobacco in all its forms repealed, or so modified as to relieve the producers of tobacco from the heavy burden of tax imposed by the present law.

2. That they use their influence to repeal the law prohibiting the planter and farmer from selling leaf tobacco at retail directly to consumers or other persons than those who have paid a special tax as exporters, leaf-tobacco dealers or manufacturers.

3. That the Governor cause to be forwarded to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress a copy of these resolutions.

Is there no way for Tennessee to be also heard on this subject?

IN CONGRESS.

Since our last issue a great portion of the time of Congress has been taken up in matters ceremonial. Obituaries and presentations have given Senators and Representatives their opportunity of airing such rhetorical faculty as may be in them. Business of interest has been confined to the continued debate on the silver bill. Readers may skip a good deal here. Read the speech of Col. Bailey and you get substantially the argument on one side, which is repeated with varying degrees of incisiveness or prosiness by the various speakers in House or Senate, with a preponderance of the latter; Mr. Price, of Iowa, however, hits the nail on the head and drives it home. Look for argument on the other side and you will find only hard names, "repudiators, defaulators," etc.

The ritual performances have been a batch of commemorative speeches on the death of Senator Morton, chiefly characterized by extreme dulness. Morton's one record that gives a foundation for substantial eulogy is his record as the great war Governor of Indiana. The truth is that at the outbreak of the war things were lifted so completely out of the old ruts and routine that very few had any coherent ideas of the situation, and this was especially the case with the State Governors. Two of these and two only saw clearly what was required of them and did it; one for the North, the other for the South; and the names of these two were Oliver P. Morton, of Indiana, and Isham G. Harris, of Tennessee. The speakers were Messrs. Hanna, of Indiana; Wilson, of West Virginia; Brown, of Iowa; Hardenbergh, of New Jersey; Hunter, of Iowa; Garfield, of Ohio, etc., etc. The gentlemen quoted a good deal of poetry, which is always a sign that an orator is "gravelled for lack of matter."

The other ritual occasion was the presentation from the State of Maine of a statue of Governor King, the founder of that State, to be set up in the statue gallery of the capitol. One would have anticipated this as an occasion for historical reminiscence and decorous common-place, through which the House might have respectfully slumbered for an hour or two, and that then the counterfeit presentment in marble of Gov. King's bag wig and breeches would be set up in their resting place and never be thought of afterwards. But he who arrived at such conclusions would have to forget that Jas. G. Blaine was to be the spokesman. He who remembered that and was acquainted with the ways of that politician would be prepared to expect something in the way of racy and vigorous self-assertion, though the subject might be a eulogy of Queen Elizabeth or Solon of Athens; and so it turned out. Mr. Blaine, of Maine, has only one subject on which he can descant with real unction, and that is Blaine, of Maine; though how he was going to bring that pet subject into an encomium of old Gov. King did not seem easy to imagine, but he was equal to the occasion. The politicians of Massachusetts had resolutely opposed his nomination to the Presidency, and his subject gave him an opportunity of attacking the historical record of that State. He began with the differences between the Maine people and the Massachusetts State Government which led to the separation of Maine and its erection into a State; then he brought up the seditious and unpatriotic action of Massachusetts during the war of 1812, contrasting the highly patriotic course of his own State therewith. In short, he forgot altogether that he was there to eulogize Gov. King and appropriated the whole occasion to a virulent attack on Massachusetts and Boston. Messrs. Dawes and Hoar, the Senators from the State attacked, saw that work was cut out for them and as soon Mr. Blaine sat down, like gallant knights they placed lance in rest as champions for Massachusetts. Their warsteeds rather stumbled in their gait. Mr. Blaine had this advantage over them that he had posted himself up in the history, while they, not expecting to be called upon to speak at all, had made no preparation. Mr. Dawes floundered terribly in his history and never spoke to less advantage. It may be said, however, in his vindication that, if he had given days and weeks to the study of the matter, he could not have made out much of a case for the credit of his State, for the more thoroughly the subject is investigated the more thoroughly does it appear that the action of Massachusetts in 1812 was not only unpatriotic but treasonable, and, if not so, then the course of South Carolina in the days of Jackson and in those of Abraham Lincoln was perfectly justifiable and truly loyal. It would not do, however, for a Southern Senator to say so, and Mr. Blaine, for once in his career, has our thanks for ventilating the truth in that matter.

Mr. Hoar did not attempt much history in the matter, but gave blow for blow by assigning the personal motives of the Maine politician as originating neither in the days of Gov. King nor in those of the war of 1812, but in the events of the Cincinnati Convention of 1875, affecting Mr. Blaine's candidacy for the Presidency.

Southern men and Democrats of course took no part in this fray, but looked on as spectators, some surprised, some amused, and a good many disgusted.

LATEST—The silver debate continues. Senator Cockrell finished a powerful argument for remonetization on Wednesday. Mr. Randolph followed. He contended that bonds issued before 1873 were payable in gold or silver, but those after that date in gold only. (But the face of the bonds says distinctly that they are payable in legal coin of 1871.)

Mr. Conkling made a motion to cut off further debate and take a vote on the 24th, Thursday. It was not carried, and Mr. Thurman at last broke silence and laid down his judgment that it was both just and expedient to remonetize silver. He also protested against Conkling's attempt to gag the debate.

Senator Blaine has given notice of a silver bill of his own; it is a preposterous absurdity. He proposes to coin silver *ad libitum*, making it a legal-tender only up to five dollars, and to give the director of the mint authority to put more or less silver into it from time to time according to the fluctuations in the market price of silve. We will give the text of the bill next week, and a few comments on it. Every hour given to the discussion of it in Congress will be time wasted.

The Ways and Means Committee will not bring up its tariff bill before the 20th of February.

A TEN-INCH TRACK.

Some months ago the narrow gague railroad was earnestly discussed here in reference to our protected line from Clarksville to Princeton. Those who were interested in those days may like to read a description of a very narrow guage now in operation. We cut it from the Nashville Gospel Advocate:

From the Boston correspondence of the New York Express, we condense the following account of a narrow guage railroad from North Billerica to Bedford, Mass. It was devised, and an experimental section built by Mr. Geo. E. Mansfield: "To show how narrow a track may be, and be practical and safe, with his own hands he constructed a railroad having but ten inches width of track, from the elevated village of Hyde Park down to the depot. He also, with his own hands constructed the cars to run on the track. In these he carried in six weeks over 3,000 passengers from the village down to the depot without the slightest injury to anybody. There were several short curves on the way, and the track crossed the highway twice. The people of Billerica, wishing a road across through their town from Billerica, on the Boston and Lowell railroad, to Bedford, a distance of eight and a half miles, requested the projector to come and give the people a lecture on narrow-track railroads. Some said "It is a chimerical notion;" but others said, "This is of God and must prevail," and they gave a helping hand and secured a movement so far as to get a petition for a charter from the Legislature. The charter was allowed. Then the right of way was secured gratis the whole distance. Two very able men gave the way only because, as they said, it was only a visionary, crazy headed, scheme, and would never be accomplished or made pay. Then came the building of the road, which was completed by the first of September, so that cars passed with passengers over the entire route that day, and secured the right of way. There are eleven bridges over the route, one over 100 feet long. The rails way twenty-five pounds to the yard, which is strong enough; twenty pounds would do. The road is well equipped; one grade is 155 feet. The engine is placed behind the tender and next to the cars, so that when the train moves, the car next to the engine draws down upon and increases the adhesion of the engine to the track. Both engine and cars are constructed so as to be very near the ground, giving great advantage in regard to safety also very little oscillation. The cars have an isle with one seat on each side, in the same manner as ordinary cars have two seats. The length of the cars allow thirty seats, each person having a seat to himself. The cars are warmed with steam, are well ventilated, have closets, water tank, all the modern improvements, Westinghouse brakes, etc. They weigh but four tons and a half, ordinary cars on an average eighteen tons. Hence Mansfield will carry sixty persons with cars weighing nine tons while ordinary roads must draw eighteen to carry fifty-six persons. The engines are equally light and less costly than on other roads. The road cost $4,500 per mile. The trains run about twenty miles an hour. Engines weigh about eight tons, and draw two passenger and two freight cars twice per day each way, at a cost of coal only one fourth that of ordinary engines."

FROM DICKSON COUNTY.

EDITORS CHRONICLE: I begin to feel like this was a southern clime again, as the weather is very fair and bright to what it has been for several weeks. It seems though that everyone is out of something to do, or do not want to do anything, one or the other. The country never was so full of loafers. All the farmers are done stripping tobacco, and some have sold, but a great many will hold their tobacco for a higher price. It does not pay a man to sell his tobacco at the present prices, especially if he has debts to pay, as the debts were contracted when everything was high.

Our Dickson county oil wells have played out again, and the wells will have to be bored deeper to ever reach oil in inexhaustible quantities. The present wells are not more than one-third as deep as the deepest wells in Pennsylvania, and there is no doubt if the company bore deeper that they will make a paying business of it. The present company is a stock company gotten up in Dickson and Davidson counties, and are determined to find oil if it can be found.

I visited Montgomery county a few weeks ago and the picturesque little city of Clarksville. My visit was short but sweet, and I will ever remember it as one of the most enjoyable trips of my life. I was off for recreation and do not believe that I could have gone anywhere where I could have enjoyed myself better than I did with the young ladies and gentlemen of the south-side. I know of no neighborhood where there is more beauty and morality combined. Every young gentleman is moral, and every young lady a Christian and a model woman. The Dickson girls say that the young gentlemen here think that the South-side is Paradise, and really some of the boys have came to the conclusion that it is about as near that blessed place as they will ever go. We are having weddings here by the wholesale, there are four every week. One gentleman in this vicinity who came from Pennsylvania about four years ago, and whose wife died about four months ago, sent North and had a wife shipped to him. He met her at the railroad station and married her the next day. That is what I call business.

Our boss pig here, now ten months old, weighs 400 pounds and is still growing. I'll tell your readers when he gets grown. A great many of Dickson's boys have been going to Texas and the van is returning, some sick, and all strapped. Some bought through tickets and turned to a right shoulder shift before they got there. Others have gone into the fruit business, that is acting as traveling agents for the nurseries. I hope the boys will make some "tin" but I am afraid they would better have stayed at home and raised tobacco at five dollars per hundred. ALPHA.

Cumberland Furnace, Jan. 18.

ORGAIN'S CROSS ROADS.

EDITORS CHRONICLE: As an item of news, and as your very excellent paper has always enjoyed quite an extensive circulation in the neighborhood of this place, I concluded that you would be pleased to learn that we, through the kindness of our very efficient representative in Congress, the Hon. Jno. F. House, have succeeded in the establishment of a postoffice in Civil District No. 17 of Montgomery county, known as Orgain's Cross Roads. The contractor on the Clarksville and McAlister's route has already been ordered by the Postoffice Department to make regular trips by way of our office twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, which will enable us to receive the CHRONICLE and other mail matter before it becomes stale, as has so often been the case when we had any regular conveyance. From and after this date you may send our package by mail addressed to Orgain's Cross Roads. Although Uncle Sam has not as yet furnished us a mail key, we expect to receive one next week. In case of a failure, I will follow the mail to Pleasant Mound and get all mail directed to this office. No neighborhood news, only the measles are playing fog with our colored friends. A considerable number of deaths have already occurred, among which was that of old Dan Moody, last night, one of the most honorable and obliging colored men in the county.

DIST. No. 17.

Orgain's Cross Roads, Jan. 21, '78.

The New Tobacco Exchange.

The following committee is now prepared to receive proposals from property holders, for sale or gift, of a suitable site for the above building. Also plans and specifications from architects for the above building. The same to be of brick, and suitable size for the purpose intended.

M. H. CLARK, Chm'n.
P. C. HAMBAUGH.
IKE H. SHELBY,
R. D. MOSELEY,
THOS. HERNDON.

The Champions of the Red Cross.

A meeting of the Supreme Executive Committee of the Independent Champions of the Red Cross, is hereby called to meet in Clarksville, Tenn., on Saturday, February 2, at 9 o'clock, a. m., to transact important business. Every member of said Committee is earnestly requested to be in attendance.

W. R. FALL,
Corresponding Secretary.

MR. C. W. CROCKETT, of the Dover Courier, has this to say about his recent visit to our city:

We have just returned from a business trip to Clarksville, that is we went there on business, but really, it was so pleasant, in every particular, that we almost forgot what took us there. Without exception, the people of Clarksville are the kindest, most hospitable it was ever our pleasure to know. We are indebted to so many that we cannot individualize, but return our grateful thanks to all.

There is a negro in Glassock county, Ga., about fifty years of age whose face, hands and feet, and most of his body, have turned completely white. He was once black all over—said to have been very black. When a boy a white spot appeared on his body, and since then he has been gradually turning Ethiopian and Caucasian color. There is a similiar case in one of the counties of central Kentucky.

Death of H. H. Harrison A Veteran Steamboat Captain.

This pioneer boatman of the Cumberland is dead. Fifty years ago he began his nautical life as clerk on the Posbus. For more than a quarter of a century he has been an active business man in Nashville, and his white hair and gray beard had long been a familiar feature about the corner of Broad and front streets in that city. In 1830 he was appointed by the Government to the command of the United States snag-boat Hercules, and, in connection with Captain Shreve, ordered to remove the raft in Red river, a work which, however, he failed to accomplish. In 1834 he purchased the Native, and, as her master, ran her until 1838, when he was placed in charge of the New Orleans and Tennessee river steamer Tuscumbia. In 1839 he built the Bloom, and commanded for the Kanawha Salt Company their steamers Tide, Paul Pry and Pinia. In 1840, on his boat, the Rio, he carried the Tennessee delegation to the battleground of Tippecanoe. While in command of this craft he ran her into a cornfield near Palmyra, and grounded her. In durance vile there she remained with a load of pig-iron on board until the river rose and floated her. Having put in one year in that cornfield he proceded on his voyage without further delay. Successively he commanded the Live Oak, Emma, Hibernian, and Dr. Watson. In the Mexican war as an officer in the employ of Gen. Thos. Jessup, he was prominently connected with the transportation of our troops and military supplies across the Gulf. First commanding the United States transport steamer Gopher, then superintending the constructions at this city of the two sea-going vessels, E. A. Ogden and Ann Chase. Captain H. was in command of this last mentioned vessel when, in 1846, she was destroyed by a "norther" fifty miles south of Tampico. In 1853 he was appointed United States Local Inspector of Hulls for the port of Nashville. The present Inspector of boilers at Nashville, Samuel Montgomery Bell Harrison, is a son of the disceased. The writer first became acquainted with the subject of this sketch at Vera Cruz in 1847, and has known him intimately ever since.—*Buz, in Cin. Gaz.*

A Decision that Ousts the Republican Circuit Judges.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 22.—The State Supreme Court decided, today that Circuit Judges must be elected by ballot instead of *viva voce*. This decision ousts all the Circuit Judges elected prior to 1877 by the Republican Legislature, and retains Kershaw and Wallace, elected last year by the Democrats. It was a constitutional question involving the construction of the word "Ballot." The Supreme Court was divided, Associate Judges McIver and Haskell agreeing that the ballot was required, and Chief Justice Willard dissenting in favor of the *viva voce* vote, which was uniformly practiced by the Republicans. When the decision was anounced to-day, Judge Townsend immediately adjourned the Circuit Court.

Advertised Letters.

Remaining at the Clarksville, Tenn., Post Office, Saturday, Jan. 26, 1878. If not called for in thirty days, will be sent to the Dead Letter Office:

A—Anderson Wins.
  Anderson Miss Sarah B.
  Allensworth Milly.
B—Brodie Miss Sallie.
  Barnett James A.
B—Coal Miss Hattie P.
  Cole Miss Louisa.
  Cutter Andrew.
B—Dickson Miss Emma.
  Dryden Miss Agnes.
  Duncan Blanche.
E—Eliot Addie.
  Ewton James L.
F—Forest Miss Eliza.
G—Gilbert Emily.
  Grant Miss Sarah L.
  Grant Miss S. H.
  Gains J. A.
  Goodwin Miss Attie.
H—Hayes Mrs. Sarah.
  Half Miss Ellen.
  Hogen Wm. J.
  Hartman Fred.
  Howerton Miss Sarah.
J—Jenkins John F.
  Jackson Miss Eugenia.
  Jordan Mrs. Cordina.
L—Love, Ryan.
M—Marryweather, Miss Tabbie.
  Martin, Miss Mollie.
  McReynolds, Miss Cornelia.
  McClelland, R. H. (2)
  Marten, Charlie.
  Morrow, G. N. (2)
N—Neblett, Joe. N.
O—Orgain, West.
P—Perdue, James.
  Polk, John.
R—Rice, Miss Mellie.
  Rogers, Sam.
  Rogers, Monroe.
  Rouse, May.
  Ratcliffe, W. J.
S—Silverley & Bro., G.
  Shearon, W. J.
  Sleyden, Mrs. Francis.
T—Traine, Mrs. Mary.
  Tyler, Wanee.
  Thompson, I. H.
  Tutt, Jake (col.)
W—Whitfield, Miss Evaline.
  Williamson, Adela.
  Wilcox, Joseph (col.)
  Wade, Alonzo.

Persons calling for any of the above letters will please say advertised.

SAM'L REXINGER, P. M.

V. L. WILLIAMS

is NOW offering

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS

IN

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS,

CAPS, &c., &c.,

At his Store,

No. 25 Franklin Street.

Don't fail to see him before you buy. He will certainly save you money.

January 5, 1878-tf

NEW CAN GOODS,

Just received, and put up especially for family use:

White Heath Peaches,

Raspberries, Strawberries,

Green Gages, Green Peas,

White & Morella Cherries,

Extra Select Cove Oysters,

Pickled Oysters, Salmon,

Duckwall Tomatoes,

All of superior quality, and offered for sale by

Walter McComb & Co.

October 27, 1877.

J. J. CRUSMAN

OFFERS

NEW STOCK,

CONSISTING OF

NEW CROP RICE,

NEW CHEESE,

New Mackerel,

New Crop Red Top Seed,

New Crop Orchard Grass Seed,

New Crop Timothy Seed,

New Crop Blue Grass Seed,

NEW CANNED GOODS!

Teas, all grades,

GOLDEN SYRUP,

Old Government Java Coffee,

Laguyra Coffee,

ETC., ETC., ETC.

Corner of First and Franklin treets.

September 8, 1877-tf