

The Independent Press.

DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, THE ARTS, SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, NEWS, POLITICS, &c., &c.

TERMS—ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM.)

"Let it be instilled into the Hearts of your Children that the Liberty of the Press is the Palladium of all your Rights."—Junius.

[PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.]

VOLUME 3—NO. 31.

ABBEVILLE C. H., SOUTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1855.

WHOLE NUMBER 138.

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT ABBEVILLE, S. C.,
AT ONE DOLLAR A YEAR,
HAS a circulation of nearly one thousand in Abbeville District, and is constantly increasing. Its circulation in this State is about fourteen hundred, and its entire list of subscribers numbers over sixteen hundred. It is therefore offered to the mercantile and business community generally as the best advertising medium in the up-country of South Carolina.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 3 months	\$ 4 00
1 square 6 months	6 00
1 square 12 months	10 00
2 squares 3 months	6 00
2 squares 6 months	10 00
2 squares 12 months	15 00
3 squares 3 months	8 00
3 squares 6 months	12 00
3 squares 12 months	20 00
4 squares 3 months	10 00
4 squares 6 months	15 00
4 squares 12 months	25 00
5 squares 3 months	12 00
5 squares 6 months	18 00
5 squares 12 months	30 00

Advertisements inserted for a shorter period than three months will be charged 75 cents per square (12 lines or less) for first insertion and 75¢ per square for each continuance.
Any one advertising by annual or semi-annual contract can change his advertisement monthly, if he desires.
Subscribers to the paper who do not pay their subscriptions within the year will be charged \$1 50.
[April 20, 1855]

Depository,

18 and 20 Hayne Street,
Rear of Charleston Hotel.

STANDARD Religious Works, especially the Publications of the Methodist Publishing House, Hymns, Testaments, and Bibles, of every description.
Sunday School Requisites and Books, at Publisher's prices.
Standard Miscellaneous Works, suitable for the Young and for Private and Public Libraries. The attention of Booksellers throughout the country is called to the stock of Books suitable for their trade.

Blank Books, Stationery, Pencils, Pens, Ink, Slates, Envelopes, and a general assortment of Requisites for School and Mercantile purposes.
School Books supplied to Merchants and to Schools and Colleges, upon reasonable terms as can be afforded in the South.

Orders with satisfactory references will be attended to promptly by J. W. STOKY, to whom communications are to be directed.
Oct. 28, 1855

NEW TAILOR SHOP

AT
LOWNESVILLE, S. C.

THE Undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of Lownesville, and Abbeville and Anderson Districts, that he has opened a Shop for the purpose of carrying on the

TAILORING BUSINESS.

He will receive orders from town and the surrounding country thankfully, and will spare no pains in endeavoring to please his customers, both in the quality of his work and prices. Having been at the business some time, and a portion of that time working in some of the most fashionable shops in the city, he is prepared to finish off work in the most fashionable style, at the shortest notice.
By strict attention to business, and good work, he hopes to receive a liberal share of patronage. His motto is, "No fit, no pay."
R. M. CARPENTER.
Oct. 17, 1855

The Mills House.

THE Proprietor returns his hearty and sincere thanks to the many friends who have favored him with their patronage, since the addition of his new and thorough furnished house to the first-class Hotel of Charleston. He takes pleasure in announcing that the Mills House, although new and in good order, has been re-furnished with the demands of taste, comfort and convenience. The arrangements of the House, in the future, will be continued, with scrupulous regard to the wants of the traveler, and the traveling public are assured of all the accommodations of a first-class Southern Hotel, at the usual and established prices. The constant personal attention and care of the proprietor, who resides on the house, and is aided in all departments by the well-trained and approved staff, have made themselves favorably known to former patrons.
THOS. S. NICHOLSON,
Charleston, Sept. 21, 1855.

FULLER'S HAT STORE.

IN calling attention to my Styles for the FALL AND WINTER, I return my thanks at the same time to my friends and the public generally for past favors, and I shall endeavor to merit a continuance.
The same moderate charges will prevail that have made the establishment so popular throughout the State.
Fine Molekin Hats, \$4.
Oakford and Son's (of Philadelphia) Fine Hats, and Genn's (214 Broadway) will be \$4 50.
No departure from these prices.
Terms exclusively Cash.
Sept. 6, '55.

FOR SALE.

THE Undersigned offers for sale his valuable Plantation in Abbeville District, situated on both sides of the Carolina and Georgia Railroads, with his House and Lot in Cokerbury. A Bargain can be had by applying soon.
H. W. BROOKHUISER,
Oct. 6, 1855.

PROSPECTUS OF THE SOUTHERN LIGHT.

A RELIGIOUS JOURNAL,
EDITED BY
E. L. WHATLEY.

INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING—NEUTRAL IN NOTHING, AND SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF WHAT-EVER WILL STAND THE TEST OF REASON, SCIENCE AND THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

"Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

Terms, \$2 00 per annum in advance.
W. F. DURISOE & SON, PUBLISHERS,
EDGEFIELD C. H., S. C.

SUCH is the name and style of a Monthly Periodical, the publication of which we purpose, the Lord willing, to commence on the first Monday in January next. The main design of this Journal is for the discussion of all subjects pertaining to Christian faith and practice. Additional objects are to refine the taste and elevate the sentiment of the reading public. Politics also, considered as a science, and as affecting the principles of Law and Government, and more especially the mighty movements of the nations, as they work out the designs of God, will claim due and proportionate attention. But Politics degraded to the squabbles of demagogues and factions, will be utterly eschewed and repudiated.

As respects matters purely religious, we shall, of course, advocate the principles of the Baptist Community, derived from the Scriptures, and republish from standard and other respectable works, articles pertaining to our own Literature; but our columns will be

Open to all of Every Name.

For the defence and advocacy of their principles, claiming only the right to judge of the suitability of all articles for insertion, and to make such criticism on them as may be deemed expedient.

In this undertaking we have the satisfaction of announcing that several gentlemen of eminent ability and attainments have kindly engaged to render us occasional assistance. The Journal will contain FORTY PAGES of reading matter, and such advertisements as our friends may favor us with, not inconsistent with the character of the work, making at the end of the year a neat volume of 480 pages, suitable for binding in book form.

With regard to the mechanical execution of this work, we deem the announcement, that this will be under the direction of the Messrs. DUNSON, a sufficient guarantee for its faithful and tasteful performance, and without further words, encouraged by the expression of good will and promises of substantial aid from many friends, we throw the matter before the people with an assurance of every effort to render satisfaction for the support that may be extended to us, and respectfully ask them to let the "LIGHT" shine.

Our terms of subscription are Two Dollars per year, in advance, on receipt of the first number. Ministers of the Gospel, of every denomination, who may be unable to comply with the terms, will be supplied with one copy each, on application.

A list for the signatures of all who wish to encourage the work, may be found at the Post Office, and also at the "Advertiser" Office. All letters or communications addressed to the Undersigned will receive prompt attention.
E. L. WHATLEY.

Just Receiving

AT H. W. LAWSON'S
TIN MANUFACTORY

CRANKED PATTY PANS;
TEA POTS; Box GRATERS;
Potato do.; Japanese TRUNKS,
all sizes; Round Sugar BOWLS;
Cake do.; Cash do.; Toy CUPS
& PAIRS; Egg WHIPS; Foot TUBS;
Foot STOVES; Molasses CUPS; Can-
dle STICKS; CULENDERS;
Pepper BOXES; RATTLES;
CANNISTERS; Knife BOXES;
English Tea KETTLES; Russia
Iron SCOOPS; French SKIM-
MERS; Dressing CASES; Egg-
half-Water BOWLS; Dust PANS.
I have also a large assortment of WARE on
hand of my own manufacture, consisting in
part of:
5,000 Coffee POTS, different sizes;
Covered BUCKETS, all sizes; BALE
do.; CULENDERS; Punched LAN-
TIRNS; Water DIPPERS; CUPS,
all sizes; Cake PANS; Milk do.;
Wash do.; Dish do.; Tea POTS;
Stew PANS; TRIPLES; GRA-
TERS; W-cup POTS; and several
other different articles, which I will sell on
reasonable terms, wholesale or retail.
Every article warranted.
Abbeville C. H., S. C., Sept. 21, 1855.

Sign of the Two Large Watches.

WATCHES, CLOCKS,
—AND—
JEWELRY.

AT NEW YORK PRICES, FOR CASH!

MERCHANTS and Dealers will do well to call and examine the stock of WATCHES, CLOCKS and JEWELRY, at
240 King Street

before they purchase elsewhere. Every article warranted.

A stock always on hand, peculiarly adapted to country dealers.

Save twenty per cent. by calling on
WM. MASTERMAN,
249 King-st., Charleston,
Four doors from West-work street.
October 6, 1855

Kersey's, Osnaburgs, Tickings, &c.

BALES best KERSEYS, at low cash prices;
OSNABURGS;
BED-TICKING, offered very low.
208 Pairs Negro Blankets;
PLAIDS for Children and house ser-
vants; Calicoes; Cotton Hdk's; Sheetings and
Shirtings; German Laces, &c., all of which
are offered for sale, by
J. E. & K. KERSEY,
Oct. 18

MISCELLANY.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Nov. 27, 1855.

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

You have resumed the discharge of your constitutional duties under the most encouraging circumstances. The pecuniary pressure which, at the beginning of the year, bore so heavily upon all classes of society, has happily passed off without its anticipated disasters. Commerce continues to prosper and widen her domain; Agriculture rejoices over full harvests; and Labor of every description feels the stimulus of remunerating prices. The year has been one of unexampled health, and our people, in quiet and security, have successfully devoted themselves to their various vocations. Representing a Commonwealth thus blessed, you will unite with me in offering to the Giver of all Good the homage of grateful hearts, and devoutly supplicating a continuance of His favors.

In the discharge of the duty imposed on me by the Constitution, I shall recommend to your consideration various measures which I think important to the public weal. Your intelligence will enable you to select, and your patriotism will prompt you to adopt, such of them as will advance the interest and promote the general prosperity of our common constituents. The public good, especially committed to your keeping, cannot, in my judgment, be more certainly attained than by a steady adherence to the long-settled policy of the State. New engagements, and modifications of existing laws, are sometimes required to suit the varying circumstances of our condition; but legislation which seeks to break down the forms and usages to which a people have long been accustomed, should not be resorted to except under the exacting pressure of necessity. The people of South Carolina have great reason to rest content with their Constitution as it stands. It is far better that its immaterial defects should be borne, than that we should begin the hazardous work of constitutional reform. All of the old States of the Confederacy, except our own, have at different times made fundamental changes in their Constitutions. These changes may have served for the moment to captivate the populace; but I have not been able to discover that those for whose especial benefit they were introduced have been distinguished by a higher elevation of sentiment, or been rewarded with greater prosperity than our own people, who still cling with confidence to their old forms, and gather hope for the future from the encouraging recollections of the past. Continue, then, by your example and policy, to teach your constituents not to lean on government, but to rely on their own energies to work out their destiny. A people thus trained will be more jealous of their rights, and when assailed will stand up more manfully in their defence, than if their minds are bewildered and their time wasted in fruitless efforts to better their condition by periodical changes in their organic law. The privities of the age are, to my mind, ominous of any thing but good to the cause of true progress. In certain sections of the country doctrines have been avowed and scenes enacted which, in the better days of the Republic, would have consigned their authors to lasting infamy and execration. The advocates of a "higher law" sit in high places; fanaticism rules triumphant in the land of Hancock and Oatis; and mobs and riots are so common that the misguided masses are fast acquiring a taste for blood. In view of the hideous phases which Radicalism has elsewhere assumed, and the bitter fruits of its triumphs, Conservatism may confidently appeal to the patriotism of the reformers of a milder latitude to postpone their labors to a more auspicious period. There is wisdom and safety in the injunction of Holy Writ: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." I commend to you the preservation of our Constitution in all its integrity. It has served us, and we owe it to ourselves to transmit it intact to our posterity.

First in order, and highest in importance, I invite your special attention to the financial condition of the State. The right to tax your constituents—the most responsible and delicate of all your trusts—cannot be wisely exercised without constantly keeping in view the amount of our obligations, and properly estimating the resources with which they are to be met. How fast it may be prudent to increase our indebtedness, and in so doing create, at no distant day, a necessity for increased taxation, it will be for you to determine. Our people are patriotic, and I am satisfied would make as heavy sacrifices as any people to preserve inviolate the public faith; but it must be borne in mind that they cultivate exhausted lands, and they will form an exception to the rest of their countrymen, if, with the prospect of onerous taxation before them, they do not emigrate to more favored regions, where, if they have high taxes to pay, they will have rich harvests on which the contribution would be levied.

The following statement exhibits the public debt of the State, as it appears on the books of the Loan Office, on the 30th day of September, 1855:

When contracted.	Amount outstanding.	When due.	Rate of interest.	Amount of annual interest.
December, 1794.	\$108,674 34	At will of State.	3 per cent.	\$3,110 23
1838.	36,479 43	January, 1880.	5 per cent.	1,823 97
1839.	1,011 11	January, 1862.	6 per cent.	60 66
1839.	768,219 56	Half in 1870 and 1870.	6 per cent.	46,093 17
1838.	927,177 79	1868 and 1868.	5 per cent.	46,388 88
December, 1833.	250,000 00	January, 1871.	6 per cent.	15,000 00
1854.	200,000 00	1875.	6 per cent.	12,000 00
	2,287,156 23			124,476 01

To the above sum of \$2,287,156.23 must be added \$800,000, the amount of State subscription yet to be called for to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company. This will give us, in principal, \$3,087,156.23, and an annual interest of \$172,476.61. If to this is added the sum of \$1,000,000, the amount of bonds of said Company to be endorsed by the State, bearing seven per cent. interest, the entire debt of the State may be set down at \$4,087,156.23, with an annual interest of \$242,476.61. When this sum is increased, as it most probably will be, by another million for the completion of the State Capitol, the whole debt will be \$5,087,156.23, with an annual interest of \$302,476.61.

As the gross profits of the Bank for the last year were only \$273,050.92, it is apparent that unless these are largely increased for the future, a large portion of this interest must fall on the State Treasury, and be met by an increase of our annual taxes. In view of this exhibit, I think it must be admitted that we have made sufficient progress in the way of getting into debt to justify at least a temporary pause. You will certainly not offend the tax-paying portion of your constituents by declining to embark in any new projects requiring new loans to any considerable amount.

In enumerating the items of the public debt, I have omitted \$1,051,420.09, the amount of surplus fund deposited by act of Congress, because I have no apprehension that the State will ever be called upon to pay it. The public debt, so far as it respects the payment of the interest, is divided into three classes:

1. That, the interest of which is chargeable upon the Bank. This consists of the 5 and 6 per cents of 1838.
2. That portion of the debt the interest of which is chargeable on the sinking fund. It consists of the 3 per cents of 1794, and the 5 per cents of 1838, redeemable in 1859.
3. The new debt, the interest on which is payable out of the current funds of the Treasury, viz, the bonds issued to provide for the erection of the new State Capitol. The amount issued is \$250,000; interest \$15,000. The bonds issued to provide for the payment of the State subscription to the Blue Ridge Railroad Company. Bonds to the amount of \$200,000 have already been issued, the interest on which will be \$12,000. There must be during the ensuing year a further issue of bonds to provide the means for carrying on both these works.

The resources of the State to meet the public debt consists of stock in her various railroads, and the surplus assets of the Bank. The nominal value of these stocks is \$1,542,300; their present value in market is \$771,160.

The surplus means of the State in the Bank, over its liabilities, is \$3,922,320.64. On reference to the Report of the Comptroller General, it appears that the payments for the year 1855 were \$251,692.93, and the receipts at the Treasury were \$440,142.89.

My predecessor called your attention to the claim of Mr. Anthony Hyde, for commissions as agent of the State for claims on account of losses in the Florida war; but on reference to your journals I find that no action was had on the subject. Shortly after your adjournment, Mr. Hyde urged on me the payment of his claim. Upon examining the papers in my department, I found that the late Governor Seabrook had appointed Mr. Hyde agent of the State, with a stipulation on the face of the power of attorney that Mr. Hyde was to receive as his compensation five per cent. on all sums collected. Out of the \$1,583 to the credit of the State at the United States Treasury, I have paid him his compensation at the rate of five per cent. and small disbursements for copying, &c., &c. He has been unable to live up to the contract, and for his

services. How much equity there is in his claim you will be enabled to determine by an examination of the papers and correspondence which are herewith transmitted. The balance, after deducting brokerage, amounting to \$600.59, together with \$17,786.05 previously received, I have deposited with the Treasurer of the Upper Division.

A Report from the Commissioners of the New State Capitol will be found among the documents accompanying this message. In accordance with your instructions they have changed the site of the building, and modified their plans so as to remedy the defects in their former structure. The walls for the foundation have risen above the surface of the ground, and as more than one hundred and forty laborers are employed on the work, its further progress will be rapid and gratifying. It appears to me, though pretending to no skill in such matters, that the new masonry is very much superior to the old. The large regular hammered stone, arranged in horizontal layers of equal thickness, gives it a solid and substantial appearance, which forbids any fear of a catastrophe such as befel the former structure. The bonds of the State issued for this building have all been disposed of, and of their proceeds only enough remains on hand to meet the wants of the present year. Although the finances of the State demand the strictest economy and the most careful husbandry of our resources, as the Capitol has been begun by your authority, and is much needed by the State, I would suggest liberal appropriations for its progress and completion. There is no propriety in protracting the work for six or eight years, when it may be finished in three or four. The longer the time of building this structure, the greater will be the expense to the State, so that true economy will recommend its speedy completion.

The South Carolina College is in a more flourishing condition than it has ever been since its establishment. Its administration is able and faithful, and I am assured that the spirit of study has never been more general, nor the bearing of the students more manly. It is objected by some to the Institution that its advantages are confined to a particular class, and calculations have been made to show at what cost to the State these advantages have been enjoyed. I respectfully submit that its benefits are not to be estimated by the standard of dollars and cents. If its founders had made it a question of arithmetic, it would never have been established. And if it is to be judged by that standard, then perhaps it may be said to have failed. But if the spread of knowledge and a thirst for its acquisition—if the development and expansion of intellect—if pure morality, manly sentiment, refined taste, and elevated thought—if these are riches to a people, then has the Institution been a mine of wealth to the State—thus fully justifying the liberal policy which has always sustained it.

It is greatly to be regretted that President Thornwell's determination to withdraw from its government remains unchanged. I regard his retirement a public loss. He has discharged the arduous trust with unequalled ability and success, and in thus officially noticing his resignation, I feel that I pay but a merited tribute to uncommon worth and rare endowment.

On the 26th of January, that portion of the College buildings known as the East Wing and Centre Building of Rutledge College was totally destroyed by fire. The West Wing was saved, but in such a damaged condition as to render its continued occupancy extremely uncomfortable, if not positively dangerous. The inconvenience to which the College was subjected by this disaster was so great, and the demand for the reconstruction of the buildings so urgent, that a special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called, in the hope that some scheme might be suggested, by which the buildings could be replaced without waiting for a special appropriation from the Legislature. The evils to be apprehended from delay were numerous and grave. It would have kept the College for two full sessions in a condition altogether unfit for the accommodation of students; applicants would have been deterred from entering, or if they had been disposed to come, could not have been received. The students now in attendance would have been crowded together for a year longer, exposed to the temptations to idleness and dissipation, which such a state of things naturally engenders. The College at the time of the fire was in a condition of growing prosperity, and if it had been allowed to receive a shock, which would have been the case had no interest been manifested in its reparation, the consequences might have been permanently disastrous. The Board was so sensible of these evils, that it resolved to rebuild at once, and to pledge, as far as it was competent to do so, the faith of the Legislature. The case seemed too plain to admit of doubt. The Legislature could not suffer the College to lie in ruins. Besides, there was some apparent claim upon the State. By an Act of 1819, the Comptroller General was required annually to insure the College Buildings against fire. With the exception of two or three years, this Act was regularly executed, and in 1854 the Legislature decided making the College Buildings a part of the State property, and the annual

ought to be its own insurer. As then the Legislature had assumed, in some sort, the responsibility of an insurer, it was hoped that this would be an additional inducement for repairing the losses occasioned by an accidental fire. Confidently anticipating the friendly interposition of the State, the Board appointed a committee to make a contract upon the faith of an appropriation from the present Legislature. But the Committee found it impossible to execute their trust. No mechanic would undertake the work. With the deliberate opinion of such a body as the Board of Trustees before me, I did not scruple to regard this as an emergency in which the public interest demanded whatever appropriation could be made from the contingent fund, without prejudice to the customary drafts upon it. The assistance which I was able to render, enabled the Committee to make a contract upon very favorable terms, and the work has been completed within a shorter period than was thought possible. The College appears in renovated beauty, and the tide of its prosperity has had no ebb.

The entire cost of the new building is \$22,802 00. Of this sum I have advanced out of the contingent fund \$15,000. An appropriation of \$7,802 will be necessary to fulfill the obligation of the Board with the contractor, Mr. Cowner. I have paid for ordinary drafts on the contingent fund, \$1,020.54. There are certain rewards offered for the apprehension of fugitives from justice, by myself and predecessors, which may hereafter constitute a claim on this fund.

The Military Academies are most successfully conducted and continue steadily to grow in public estimation. Though but for a few years standing, their fruits are already felt in every district of the State, and under your fostering care, the harvest in time will be rich and abundant. They will be found to be stronger safeguards than forts and fortifications. The indigent young man who finds himself thus generously trained by his State for the duties of life, can never forget that he has a State to live for—he will always feel that she has a claim upon him, and in the hour of her trial, will regard no sacrifice too dear in defence of her institutions. Wise policy dictates that their capacity for good should be enlarged to the extent of our means. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Gen. James Jones, Chairman of the Board of Visitors, for the unselfish devotion with which he watches over and guards their interests. He has just reason to be proud of the success which has crowned his efforts, and the State may congratulate herself that the experiment was intrusted to the guidance of one so highly qualified for the task.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

[Correspondence of the Charleston Standard.]

From Washington City.

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 24, 1855.

All eyes are now turned to our City, and Washington is becoming decidedly interesting. Politicians are arriving from the North, South, East and West, and the great heart of the nation is beginning to throb with intense excitement. The political cauldron is in a perfect stew, while heterogeneous elements are still being pottered in. What's to become of it who can tell? The enquiry meets you every where—"What will be done?" Yes! what will be done, and who will win the stakes for which the most desperate mores are being made, I leave for time to determine.

It is amusing to see the plotting and counterplotting going on, and the schemes resorted to by interested parties to circumvent each other, and win at all hazards. The old party hacks seem to be bewildered in the strange confusion which now reigns here, and Young America has seized the reins.—Some of the veterans swear that these young blades will ruin everything—while they protest against all Old Fogey Captains. Fusion and confusion are beautifully blended, and diamond cut diamond is the order of day and night.

I hear from the administration leaders, that the Democrats will decline any bargain, trade or arrangement with either of the factions; while they refuse coalition they mean to avoid all responsibility.—Then comes the Southern Know Nothings, and cry their wares through the market, and at almost any price, as they are repudiated by the Northern wing of the mysterious, who, by a harmonious and natural union with the black republicans, hope to organize on the first day of the session, and sweep every office in the field. This, it is confidently believed, will be the result of the present strange state of affairs.

The Secretaries are all busily engaged in completing their reports for Congress. They will be generally of unusual length, and of very marked ability. Great anxiety is felt to see that from Secretary Dobbin, which will be at this time by his most interesting. A report is current by the associated press that the President had determined not to discontinue his message, this year in address of his delivery to the two Houses of Congress. This I am informed by one who has been in to answer. He has made no determination on the subject, and the report is entirely unfounded.