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PUBLIC LEDGER

By Whitmore & Co. LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION. MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1867. Fifteen Cents Per Week. VOL. V. MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1867. NO. 98.

PUBLIC LEDGER.

EVERY AFTERNOON, EXCEPT SUNDAY.

Under the firm name of WHITMORE & CO., No. 13 Madison Street.

The PUBLIC LEDGER is served to City subscribers by faithful carriers at FIFTEEN CENTS per week, payable weekly to the carriers.

RATES OF ADVERTISING: First Insertion... \$1.00 per square. Subsequent Insertions... 50c.

Notices in local column inserted for twenty cents per line for each insertion. Special Notices inserted for ten cents per line for each insertion.

Whitmore & Co., Publishers and Proprietors.

France makes thirty-five million francs worth of watches and clocks annually.

Lucy Stone said: "There is cotton in the ears of man, and hope in the bosom of woman."

The notorious Judge Hurst, of McNairy, has declared the sixteenth section of the franchise act unconstitutional, and ordered the impalement of a negro jury, in order to acquit a negro criminal.

The proceedings of a public meeting in Pittsburg, Pa., praying that reparation shall be made by the British Government for the imprisonment and murder of American citizens, have been laid before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Engineer Department has received information that the channel of the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi has been excavated to a depth of 18 feet by a dredging machine.

A negro boy was arrested at St. Joseph on the 5th inst. for setting fire to the house in which he was employed as a servant.

A Nashville dispatch of Saturday says: "Dr. Brien, son of Judge M. M. Brien, and a member of the City Council, got into a difficulty this morning with J. Cramer, also a member of the City Council, which resulted in Brien drawing his pistol and shooting at Cramer, after which he fled, pursued by Cramer. No blood was shed."

The Mobile Register says: "We are experiencing a state of affairs which is altogether irregular, abnormal and unaccountable. We are without capital, money is scarcely to be had; the price of cotton—our great staple—is distressingly low; and yet the cost of living is unreasonably, ridiculously high. Whatever is produced among us is cheap; all that we have to buy is dear."

The British army is very costly. In India it amounts to 250,000 men, at an annual cost of \$85,000,000. Elsewhere in the British empire it is 120,000 men, at an annual cost of \$75,000,000. The navy costs annually \$50,000,000. The total expenditure for army and navy amounts to \$210,000,000 annually, or twice the French expenditure for the same purpose.

From all that we can gather, says the Georgia Citizen, in a late trip southward, the most deplorable state of destitution and prospective bankruptcy stares the people in the face.

Planners, generally, are unable to pay expenses and the merchants will not be able to meet their liabilities. The smallest amounts cannot be collected from parties who have been accustomed to the luxuries of life, and we predict more suffering and distress, the ensuing winter and spring, among the poorer classes, than ever before witnessed in this section.

As to the colored race, the prospect is still more gloomy. Thousands will be thrown out of employment, while other thousands will not work if they can get work to do. They prefer to live some other way. What will be the end thereof, the Lord only knoweth.

Travels in Equatorial Africa. The following account of his travels through Africa, by Mr. Ed. Du Chaillu, is extracted from an address delivered in Louisville on the 21st:

In the country I always traveled on foot, and made large collections. I stuffed and brought out more than two thousand birds, of which sixty were new to science. I killed one thousand quadrupeds, of which more than two hundred were stuffed by me and sent home, with more than eight skeletons.

The greatest fall of rain I ever observed in the twenty-four hours was seven and a half inches. Two or three degrees of latitude make an enormous difference in the line of the rainy or dry season. Longitude also affects the seasons, although in a less degree. I think these differences of longitude and latitude have been rather overlooked in accounting for the supply of water to the Nile.

The gorilla was the wildest beast the lecturer said, which he had ever known. It lives in the wildest and most unfrequented jungles, and never visits the habitations of men, notwithstanding the tales to the contrary.

The average height of the male is from five feet six to five feet eight inches, and of the female, four feet five to four feet eight inches, the tallest males he ever saw not being over six feet two inches. The arms are very long, reaching to the knees, the legs short and the trunk very long in proportion to the human form.

At that time of the year, it remained even along the seacoast the sky, indeed cloudy and overcast, that is, in the months of June, July and August. Although I was now traveling near the equator, it did not by any means follow that the heat of the atmosphere was greater than in other countries more temperately situated.

Besides the study of natural history, I carefully studied the habits of the natives with whom I came in contact and association. What struck me first was the sameness of the population and the great number of tribes speaking different dialects and tongues.

South of the equator the tribes are of a peaceful character, usually. They have a sort of rude loom with which they weave an elegant species of cloth out of the fibers of the palm tree.

despotic form of government is entirely unknown. Polygamy, slavery, and witchcraft exist wherever I have penetrated. In this great forest and in the mountain recesses man is what we may call primitive. No trading caravan from the East or from the West, from the North or from the South, has come to him; no white man has been in his midst; no "fire-water" has reached him; he is shut out from the world around him, and has been left to the devices of his own untutored heart.

The religion of the prophet Mahomet has been unable to make headway against the impenetrable forest, and the savage inhabitants—all is primitive nature, where civilization is undreamed of and the white man and commerce are as yet strangers.

The lecturer concluded his very interesting narrative by referring to the gorilla. The gorilla was the wildest beast the lecturer said, which he had ever known. It lives in the wildest and most unfrequented jungles, and never visits the habitations of men.

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