THE WEEKLY HERALD

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1870.

[From the Workingman, Philadelphia.]

Building Associations—What are they?

These Associations, under honest management, have many advantages over Savings Banks, as they give a much larger interest on deposits, and enable poor men to get homes of their own at a cost little above what would be paid in rent during nine or ten years. In Philadelphia they have been very popular for a long time, and few instances of mismanagement or loss have occurred when organized under the present laws. Hundreds upon hundreds of houses are now owned by men in this city, who have only earned mechanics' wages, and they have been able to pay for them in monthly instalments not usually larger than a moderate rent.

In this State, Pennsylvania, these Associations are organized under special laws, and each one has to be incorporated. The number of shares is limited to twenty-five hundred; but this number is not always taken. Each share calls for a monthly payment of one dollar.

When, say, one thousand shares are subscribed for in a new Association, it goes into operation under a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and say nine Directors, who form a Board of Directors, in whom all the powers and immunities of the Corporation are vested for the direction and management of its busines,according to the provisions of its Constitution and series of By-laws.

And now for the practical working of an Association. You take, say, five shares, and pay regularly five dollars a month. If you get no loan, but simply go on paying for, say nine years, at the end of which time nearly all Associations wind up, you will receive two hundred dollars on each share, or one thousand dollars, although you have paid in only one hundred and eight dollars on each share, or five hundred and forty dollars in all. The difference is made up from the earnings of the Association, which come from the interest and premiums paid for loans, etc.

If you wish to buy a house, you can borrow from the Association two hundred dollars for every share you hold, less the premium for the loan, giving as security a mortgage on the house you buy. In this case, you pay ten dollars a month instead of five, the additional five being exactly *six per cent.* interest on the loan. This you continue to pay until the Association winds up, when your mortgage is satisfied, and the house is your own, though you have not paid at any time more than a fair rent.

At each monthly meeting, the amount of money on hand is put up to the highest bidder, and the premium paid is usually from thirty to forty per cent. on the sum obtained. From this premium comes a large part of the earnings of the Association, in which all share—those who borrow as well as those who do not.

The Jackson Pilot says that Dr. R. H. Walker has retired from the Republican of this city and from journalism. He will resume the practice of his profession (in a tinshop 7x9.)

We are glad to receive the South Land, an agricultural literary family paper, published at New Orleans. It is a handsome publication and will prove a useful auxiliary to the vital interests of the South.

We call the attention of our readers to the published statement of the condition of the North American Insurance Company. It shows a very satisfactory condition of affairs, and as these statements are made under oath, reliance can be placed upon them.

This Company has a capital of $500,000 paid up, with assets of over $800,000, and liabilities only $110,382. The names of such gentlemen as Messrs. Page & Theobald are still further guarantees of this Company, and all others with which they are connected.

Hon. A. Burwell, United States District Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, resigned his office some two weeks ago, and we understand his resignation has been accepted by the President, and a request has been forwarded here for a nomination of his successor.

Senator Revels' Advice to his Race.—Senator Revels, of Mississippi, lectured the other day in Baltimore to the members of a colored church, and among other things said:

Education was the great lever by which to raise and ennoble the African race on this continent. The colored people should be fitted mentally and morally for the duties awaiting them. The colored people should first pay attention to primary and then collegiate education, and select such schools as are best fitted for mental culture. To the young men he would say that intellectual and moral attainments depended much upon how youth was passed. They should spurn the thought that they would never succeed. The press, the church and political organizations, he said, ought to assist the colored people in elevating their race, and he advised the colored people to give their leisure hours to reading the newspapers, as they would keep them acquainted with the great issues of the day.

THE MAYORALTY.

Gen. Webber, the new Mayor, is in town, has assumed and is executing the duties of his office.

This appointment,by the Governor of Mr. Webber, to the Chief Magistracy of this city, is a matter worthy of the serious consideration of our citizens.

Have we forfeited our city charter, that the rights and privileges guaranteed by it are rudely taken from us? Is this community an incorporated municipality, authorized to select their officers, and through them to frame ordinances for the government of the city?

Is Governor Alcorn to appoint "Tom, Dick or Harry" to offices of honor and profit in the government of this city without regard to law, or the wishes of this community?

These are questions which deeply concern us as citizens. If we are to submit to such unauthorized encroachments in any one important particular, may we not look for other encroachments to follow fast? A precedent is a quasi law, and this instance, if allowed to pass unchallenged, will make it one.

There is only one place in the Constitution under which the Governor can claim any pretence of authority for making this appointment of our city officers. This is, as we have before said, sec. 6 of art xii: "The term of office of all county, township and precinct officers, shall expire within thirty days after this Constitution shall have been ratified, and the Governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, thereafter appoint such officers, whose term of office shall continue until the Legislature shall provide, by law, for an election of said officers; Provided, The present incumbents of all county, township, district and beat offices shall hold their respective offices until their successors are legally appointed or elected, and duly qualified."

Can any one see authority here for the appointment of city officers by the Governor?

Whether it was intended to include city offices in this section we cannot say and it does not matter. It is enough to know that there is no authority here for the Governor to appoint other than "county, township and precinct officers," and outside of this even so great a man as Governor Alcorn has no right to go.

If the appointment is made under the next section (Sec. 7), which provides for the appointment of officers not otherwise provided for in the Constitution, then it devolves upon the Legislature, who "may determine the mode of filling all vacancies in all offices."

But this is not the only ground of objection to this appointment. Take it for granted that Gov. Alcorn has the right to make this appointment then, we contend that he is compelled to appoint a qualified person which Gen. Webber is not.

Section four of the city charter says: "The Mayor and Council shall at the time of his or their election *be legal voters of said city and have resided in said city at least two years next preceding the election*, and the Councilmen shall reside in the respective wards for which they are chosen." The very purpose for which the above was placed in the charter holds good in case of an appointment as well as of an election. The government of this city is intended for the good of its citizens, and the laws and ordinances relating to it are also so intended.

The people of this city have declared who only shall be eligible to hold its offices. The very basis of all government authorizes and sustains this people in so doing.

Because incompetent and ineligible persons have stolen into office by the course of circumstances, it is no reason that such wrongs should continue. Unless law can be produced to authorize the appointment of General Webber as Mayor, and a *Mr. Gardiner as Councilman, and to show them eligible to hold these offices, then we urge the citizens to assert their rights in the matter, by a formal protest to the Governor against such action. We hope our citizens will take action in the matter.

Since writing the above our special dispatches from Jackson inform us that Foster has introduced a bill in the Legislature to provide for the temporary filling of municipal offices in towns and cities. This will be done in accordance with section 7 of article 12 of the Constitution to which we have called attention. In the meantime every act done by Gen. Webber as Mayor is null and void. Himself and Mr. Gardner are exercising their offices without legal authority to do so.

Corn is far above ground in Texas.

The small-pox in Natches is spreading.

S. C. has over 100,000 negro children at school.

REVELS' SENATORIAL DEBUT.

As a matter more of curiosity, we publish elsewhere the maiden Senatorial speech of Revels,United States Senator from this State. It was read from manuscript.

As a literary, or statesmanlike, effort there is little to say of it. When we remember that so many Congressional speeches are made to hand and learned by heart, we must be cautious about giving credit in this regard.

We have seen very wonderful dogs that, apparently, could do most anything but talk. We have been astonished by seeing them walk erect on their hind legs, shake hands, laugh, climb a ladder, etc. Now any *man* can walk erect, shake hands, climb a ladder, laugh, etc.; but the wonder was that a dog should do these things. We suppose this kind of reasoning will account for Senator Morton's extraordinary compliment of Senator Revels' speech, wherein the former says, "in Revels, as the occupant of the seat of Jefferson Davis, the country has lost nothing in intellect and gained much in loyalty." Great guns, that's a stunner! A speech that would do small credit to a white school boy might be thought very excellent from a negro man, and that race are very certain to receive all the credit they deserve for their intelligence and literary abilities.

The major portion of this speech of Revels is devoted to a vindication of his race. He is looked upon as a representative man of the negroes, and, as the only representative of their color in the national councils, will undoubtedly carry much influence among his race. His vindication carries with it much that is reasonable. The people of the South make no attack upon the negroes. They generally concede their faithfulness, and worthy behavior during the war, nor do the people of the South wish to abate one iota of the rights pertaining to the colored race, or deprive them of a single privilege, proper and necessary to them. If Revels is of sufficient discernment he knows this. Perhaps the Southern people might not have gone to work in the way the Radicals have done. Perhaps they would not have thought it best to have placed the reins of government and political representation in the hands of those whose only interest in the State's welfare reposed within the clasps of their pocket-books. Perhaps, the South might have thought intelligence and political experience desirable in statesmen, legislators and public officers. Perhaps it might have considered that a State should be ruled by men taken from among those who were the people of the State by domicile, inheritance and proprietorship. This might have all been so, but we insist that the South would have done the negro justice. As it is the negro deserts the South, arrays himself against her politically, rules over those whom he *knows* to be his superiors by everything that goes to make civilized and refined manhood, even holds within his hands power of life or death, and, after all, endeavors to represent himself as the object for the sympathy and fostering care of the country. Now for all this we, of the South, are not justified in holding the colored race wholly responsible, and we do not. We know they are but tools, willing tools perhaps, of others.

The Radicals of the South to gratify, first, their thirst for gain, secondly, their ill will, and third, their ambition, have made use of the negro to obtain these ends and have unwillingly had to give a little share of the rewards to their dark tinted co-laborers. This party cannot, in the nature of things, have perpetual power, and a day of general reckoning must come sooner or later. Until then, our people must continue to bear this odious and unnatural state of things, unless forced, sooner, to throw off the galling yoke of servitude. It may come to that, for we do not believe Southron's are yet devoid of courage, and history and battle fields tell they had it once.

We would say to Senator Revels and his race, that though they may pride themselves upon, and receive willing acknowledgments for their devotion to the Southern people during the war, can they feel a like sense of pride and conscientiousness for their conduct to that people since the war, and do they not sometimes think a day may come when they will be arraigned for their domineering opposition and insolence?

THE EXTRAORDINARY COMPLICATIONS OF THE YERGER CASE.

Never perhaps in the history of celebrated cases has the interest of the public been more concentrated or more intense than in this case. It is very easy to comprehend the outside influences which command this interest—such as the family association, social characteristics and public character of the accused—coupled with the fact that he killed, in a personal rencounter, a prominent officer of the United States Army; at a time when military dictatorship was substituted for constitutional law. But these circumstances could not in themselves keep alive the interest for so long a time. When we consider that the accused availed himself of the most eminent counsel in the State, aided by distinguished jurists at Washington, we are at a loss to understand the cause of the extraordinary delays which from time to time have been resorted to, and which, have greatly puzzled the public. Is that great bulwark of liberty, the writ of habeas corpus, a dead letter? Three times the prisoner has attempted to avail himself of its privileges, and as often has extraordinary interference from some quarter preventet a hearing. What is the meaning of this? Why have eminent counsel acquiesced in motions for delay, when it appeared to be the universal opinion of the Bar that the prisoner is entitled to bail, whilst many are of the opinion that he should be absolutely discharged.

Here comes the speculation of the public concerning the recent extraordinary escapade of Yerger, and his subsequent voluntary return to prison under an escort of armed men. It is very apparent he could have absented himself as long as he thought proper, and it is also very apparent that when he returned he did not intend to be arrested, which would have been a great triumph in certain quarters. There must be a reason for all this that does not appear on the surface, and notwithstanding the Clarion says the escape was "exceedingly foolish," "undignified," &c., we have too much respect for Col. Yerger's intelligence to regard it in that light.

We have been a sojourner at the Capital for a day or two. We have endeavored to fathom this mysterious case. We think we can safely say that the logic of these events will appear in due season. The attempt of Senator Shoup to deprive Circuit Judges of jurisdiction in *habeas corpus* cases outside of their respective circuits, was a bold attempt to revolutionize the judicial system of the State, and to throttle the liberties of the people. This is known to be one of the links in that chain of persecution which has bound the prisoner for nearly twelve months. Why, if he is entitled to bail, has he not been granted it? Why longer procrastinate and evade? He simply demands that he shall receive a fair hearing, unprejudiced and impartial, before the courts of the country. It is but fair to add that the most prominent and influential Radicals with whom we have conversed, denounce the action had in this case as prejudicial to the interests of their party and of justice. Had Yerger been a Northern man of Radical persuasion, we doubt not his case would long ago have been disposed of and he honorably acquitted, but being a Southern man, independent in his political principles, and jealous of his rights and honor, he is a fit subject for Radical persecution. We are glad to note, however, that the chiefest among his traducers and enemies, are for the most part, strangers to him and the country. Those of the Radical party who have conscientiously founded their faith upon the hope of a restoration of civil and constitutional liberty, have do such feeling.

We are sure that we echo the voice of the law abiding and justice loving people of the whole country, who feel that the prolonged imprisonment of Mr. Yerger, and the constant thwarting of his desire to obtain a hearing, is an outrage upon the individual, and a slur upon republican institutions.

Capt. Jasper Myers, who had the difficulty with Mr. Rohrbacker, is lying dangerously ill. His physician says he is not likely to recover. His skull was fractured by the blow he received, and he has been delirious most of the time.

SPEECH OF SENATOR REVELS ON THE GEORGIA BILL.

Mr. President—I rise at this particular juncture in the discussion of the Georgia bill with feelings which, perhaps, never before entered into the experience of any member of this body. I rise too, with misgivings as to the propriety of lifting my voice at this early period after my admission into the Senate. Perhaps it were wiser for me, so inexperienced in the details of Senatorial duties, to remain a passive listener in the progress of this debate; but when I remember that my term is short, and that the issues with which this bill is fraught are momentous in their present and future influence upon the well being of my race, I should seem indifferent to the importance of the hour, and recreant to the high trust imposed upon me, if I hesitated to lend my voice on behalf of the loyal people of the South. I therefore waive all thoughts as to the propriety of entering into this discussion, breaking through a generally understood etiquette of this body, when questions arise which bear upon the safety and protection of the loyal white and colored population of those States lately in rebellion. I cannot allow any thought as to mere propriety to enter into my consideration of duty. The responsibilities of being an exponent of such a constituency as I have the honor to represent, are fully appreciated (compassed) by me. I bear about me daily the keenest sense of their weight, and that feeling prompts me now to lift my voice for the first time in this council chamber of the nation: and sir, I stand to-day, on this floor, to appeal for protection from the strong arm of the Government for the loyal children, irrespective of color or race, who are of the Southern States, and particularly of the great State of Georgia.

I am well aware, sir, that the idea is abroad that an antagonism exists between the whites and blacks; that that race which the nation raised from the degradation of slavery, and endowed with the full and unqualified rights and privileges of citizenship, are intent upon power at whatever price it can be gained. It has been the well-considered purpose and aim of a class, not confined to the South, to spread this charge broadcast over the land, and their efforts are as vigorous to-day to educate the people of this nation into that belief as they were at the close of the war. It was not uncommon to find this same class, even during the rebellion, prognosticating a servile war. It may have been that "the wish was father to the thought;" and, sir, as the recognized representative of my down-trodden people,I deny the charge, and hurl it back into the teeth of those who make it,and who I believe have not a true and conscientious desire to further the interests of the whole South. Certainly no one possessing any personal knowledge of the colored population of my own or other States, need be reminded of the noble conduct of that people during the most trying circumstances in the history of the late war, when they were beyond the protection of the Federal forces. While the Confederate army pressed into its ranks every white male capable of bearing arms, the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of the Southern soldiers were left defenceless, and in the power of the blacks, upon whom chains of slavery were still riveted, and to bind those chains the closer was the real issue for which so much life and property was sacrificed. And now, sir, I ask, how did that race act? Did they in those days of Confederate weakness and impotency evince the malignity of which we hear so much? Granting, for the sake of argument, that they were ignorant and besotted, which I do not believe, yet, with all their supposed ignorance and cruelty, they, in their way, understood as fully as you or I that it was the presage of still heavier bondage. They longed, too, as their fathers did before them, for the advent of that epoch over which was shed the hallowed light of inspiration itself. They desired, too, with their fathers, to welcome the foot of the stranger shod with the peaceful preparation of good news. Weary years of bondage had told their tale of sorrow to the Court of Heaven. In councils of the Great Father of all they knew the adjudication of their case, albeit delayed for years, in which patient suffering had nearly exhausted itself, would in the end bring them a boon for which they sighed—God's most blessed gift to His creatures—the inestimable boon of liberty. They waited, and they waited patiently. In the absence of their masters, they protected the virtue and chastity of defenceless women. Think, sir, for a moment what the condition of this land would be to-day, if the slave population had risen in servile insurrection against those who, month by month, were fighting to perpetuate that institution which brought to them all the evils of which they complained. Where would have been the security for property, female chastity, and childhood's innocence? The bloody counterpart of such a story of cruelty and wrong would have been paralleled only in those chapters of Jewish history as recorded by Josephus, or in the still later atrocities of that Reign of Terror which sent the unfortunate Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette to the scaffold. Nay, the deeds in that drama of cold-blooded butchery would have out-Heroded the most diabolical acts of Herod himself.

I remarked, Mr. President, that I rose to plead for protection to the defenseless race who now send their delegation to the seat of government to sue for that which this Congress alone can secure to them. And here let me say further that the people of the North owe to the colored people a deep obligation, which it is no easy matter to fulfill. When the Federal armies were thinned by death and disaster, and somber clouds overhung the length and breadth of the Republic, and the very air was pregnant with the rumors of foreign interference—in those dark days of defeat, whose memories even yet haunt us as an early dream; from what source did our nation, in its seeming death throes, gain additional and new-found powers? It was the sable sons of the South that valiantly rushed to the rescue, and but for their intrepidity and ardent daring many a Northern fireside would miss to-day paternal counsels or a brother's love.

Again, I regret this delay on other grounds. The taunt is frequently flung at us that a Nemesis more terrible than the Greek personation of the anger of the gods waits her hour of direful retribution. We are told that at no distant day a great uprising of the American people will demand that these reconstruction acts of Congress be undone and blotted forever from the annals of legislative enactment. I inquire, sir, if this delay in affording protection to the loyalists of the State of Georgia does not lend an uncomfortable significancy to this boasting sneer with which we so often meet? Delay is perilous at best, for it is as true, in legislation as in physic, that the longer we procrastinate to apply the proper remedies the more chronic becomes the malady we seek to heal:

> "The land wants such
> As dare with rigor execute the laws.
> Her festered members must be lanced and tented;
> He's a bad surgeon that for pity spares
> The part corrupted till the gangrene spread,
> And all the body perish; he that's merciful
> Unto the bad is cruel to the good."

Mr. President, I favor the motion to strike out so much of the bill under debate as tends to abridge the term of the existing Legislature. Let me, then, as briefly as possible, review the history of the case which so urgently claims our prompt action.

In the month of November, 1867, an election was held, by the authority of the reconstruction policy of this Congress, in the State of Georgia. Its object was to settle by the ballot of her whole people, white and colored, whether it was expedient to summon a convention, which should frame a constitution for civil government in that State. A certain class of the population declined to take any part in the election. The vote cast at that election represented 30,000 white and 80,000 colored citizens of the State. It was a majority, too, of the registered vote, and in consequence a convention was called. A number of the delegates who formed that convention were colored. By its authority a constitution was framed, just and equitable in all its provisions. Race, color, or former condition of servitude found no barrier in any of its ample enactments, and it extended to those lately in armed rebellion all the privileges of its requirements. This constitution was submitted to the people of the State for ratification. Every effort which human ingenuity could call into requisition to defeat its adoption was resorted to. The loyal population of the State was victorious, and, notwithstanding the determination of some to defeat the constitution, that same class sought under its provisions to procure the nominations for all the offices within the gift of the people; a number were declared elected as county officers and members of the General Assembly.

Under the authority given by the act of Congress of June 25, 1868, the Legislature thus elected convened on the 4th of July of the same year in Atlanta. The act of Congress to which I refer re-affirmed certain qualifications which were demanded from all persons who were to hold office in the reconstructed States. After some delay, a resolution was adopted by the Legislature of Georgia declaring that that body was duly qualified; and thus began the civil government in the State. Peace and harmony seemed at last to have met together, truth and justice to have kissed each other. But their reign was of short duration. By and by the reconstruction acts of Congress began to be questioned, and it was alleged that they were unconstitutional. And the Legislature, which was elected under the constitution framed and supported by colored men, declared that a man having more than an eighth of African blood in his veins was ineligible to office or a seat in the Legislature of the State of Georgia. These very men to whom the Republican party extend all the rights and privileges of citizenship, when they were empowered, if deemed expedient, to cut off forever from such beneficent grants, were the men to deny political equality to a large majority of their fellow-citizens. In the month of September [illegible] twenty-eight members of the Legislature were expelled from that body, and upon the [illegible] of the strange and [illegible] as last mentioned, [illegible] to legislate in open violation of the constitution. That constitution required by its provisions the establishment of a system of free schools. Such provision was wholly disregarded, [illegible] a dead letter. [illegible] were established. The courts of law, at least so far as colored men were concerned, were a shameless mockery of justice.

And has an illustration, perhaps, will the better give point to my last remark. A case in which was involved the question whether or not a colored man was eligible to one of the county offices, was taken before the Superior Court, and the judge upon the bench rendered as his judicial opinion that a man of color was not entitled to hold office. I am told, sir, that the colored man in question is a graduate of Oberlin, Ohio, and served with honor as a commissioned officer in the Union army during the late war. Is any comment needed in this body upon such a condition of affairs in the State of Georgia? Sir I trust not.

And now, sir, I protest in the name of truth and human rights, against any and every attempt to fetter the hands of one hundred thousand white and colored citizens of the State of Georgia. Sir, I now leave this question to the consideration of this body, and I wish my last words upon the great issues involved in the bill before us to be my solemn and earnest demand for full and prompt protection for the helpless loyal people of Georgia. I appeal to the legislative enactments of this Congress, and ask if now, in the hour when a reconstructed State most needs support, if this Senate, which hitherto has done so nobly, shall hesitate longer. I do not, I cannot believe that this amendment to the Georgia bill will pass. For remember, sir, that

> "He who permits oppression, shares the crime."

STATE ITEMS.

W. W. Jefferson shot a negro named Adam Moore, at Meridian on Saturday.

The Monitor says it is intended to petition for a new county, to be called Okalona, with the town of Okalona as the county seat.

A new town has been established in Hancock county called Poitevent City. It is on the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga Railroad.

It is proposed to make a new county, as follows: 75 miles from Monroe, 108 from Chickasaw, 144 from Oktibbeha, 92 from Lowndes, making 420 square miles.

Severely Cut.—Mr. Geo. Haynie and Mr. Jeff. Edwards had a difficulty at Macon, in the saloon of the latter last Monday night, and the former was severely cut about the head and hands.

A new county is to be formed, cutting off portions from Simpson, Claiborne, Hinds and Copiah counties, making Crystal Springs the county site, and including Utica within the boundary.

Oscar T. Keeler, Esq., of Columbus, Grand Recorder of the Grand Chapter and Grand Council A. F. & A. M., of Mississippi, died at his residence Monday evening. He leaves a widow and several children behind him.

In Hinds county, the Board of Police have levied a tax of five hundred and seventy-five per cent. of the State tax. The people are going to contest it and have retained the services of W. P. Harris and Wm. Yerger for that purpose.

Says the Meridian Chronicle:

"Harvey Bookins shot George Jones, a colored youth, last Saturday."

The river is full to the top of its banks, and has risen about four feet in the last twenty-four hours. [Aberdeen Examiner, 14th inst.

The Okalona Monitor says of the Governor's inaugural:

His creatures have had the effrontery to call this sophomorian, demagogical effusion a great statesmanlike paper. A more puerile, stale, humiliating document, never was spawned upon the world.

The West Point Herald says of the Governor's message:

"Is there a man with a Southern heart who can read it without a blush of indignation. Tennessee and Arkansas have suffered untold horrors from reconstruction, but if we are not mistaken, God have mercy on Mississippi!"

We learn that three negroes were stabbed by a drunken freedman, on last Saturday evening. They were at a dancing frolic, where they had been indulging in their midnight orgies and dissipation. Drunkenness has been the ruin of the negro—he swallows whisky never calculating the consequences.—Crystal Springs Herald.

J. W. Lamoy, a notorious desperado, has at last been arrested and lodged in jail. He has shot several persons, the last being Mr. Hendricks, who lived on the Raymond road, besides committing various other offences. Credit is due Deputy Sheriffs Tuck and [illegible], and Policeman Johnson for arresting the outlaw.—[Jackson Pilot.