

WORKING THE ROADWAY CONTRACT.

We commend to our people and the Board of Supervisors, the following on the above subject, taken from the Canton Mail of May 14th.

The almost constant, horrible condition of our county roads, has been a nuisance and a draw back to the settlement of the county. It is a marvel how farmers living off from railroads and water navigation, have ever succeeded in bringing their crops to market over such roads as ours.

And not only horrible roads, but horrible bridges unfit, unsafe and disgraceful. If our roads and bridges were in good order, heavy hills graded, the road way hard and firm, and break neck holes done away with, why then it would be no great hardship to live a few miles from town and haul produce to market. As it is, it requires a whole day for farmers living fifteen or twenty miles from the city, to reach here with a load, and the best part of another to return. This involves a heavy expenditure of time, labor and money. It seems to us that there is only one sure way to have proper roads, and that way is to have them divided into sections and made and kept in repair by contract, and giving the contractors the labor of those neglecting or refusing to pay a poll tax when assessed, at so much per day until such tax is worked out. By this plan we should have good roads, and our county would settle faster and make more money, and we would all grow richer, wiser, and better.

And so now read the article from the Mail.

There is a move on foot to make an alteration in the plan heretofore pursued of working the public roads. It is found, under the new condition of affairs, the plan by which the roads were worked and kept in excellent order, before the war, will not do now at all. Either such force as can be brought out by the road overseers is not sufficient, or else the labor bestowed upon the highways is ineffective in consequence of demoralization. It is more probable that these causes combined operate to the disadvantage of the road work.

But whatever be the cause, under the present system we have very bad roads, except when Dame Nature herself puts them in order. There are times when it is impossible for citizens of some portions of the county to get to the county seat at all. And sometimes months pass, during the winter, when our country people consider Jordan such a hard road to travel that they undertake sending their wagons to town only in cases of most pressing necessity. But it is useless to say much as regards the condition of the roads. Everybody knows they are dreadful, dreadful, and if any new arrangement can be devised by which they may be better attended, let it be done. Every man will vote amen to that.

Well, the plan proposed is, to have the roads worked by contract. The Board of Supervisors to let out contracts for working the various portions of the road in the county, at stipulated prices, or make propositions for the lowest bidders.

It is unnecessary to treat this subject at length. We merely desire to let it be well known and discussed. We have heard a number of the citizens of the county express themselves, and we have yet to hear the first dissenting voice. There will doubtless be a petition sent to the Legislature in regard to the matter.

The council of the Choctaw Nation, at its late session, passed an act to submit the question of dividing their lands so as to be held in severalty, or as heretofore, in common, to a vote of the people, on the 4th and 5th of July next.

PRESIDENT GRANT contemplates purchasing the estate known as Riverdale, five miles from Washington, on the turnpike road leading to Baltimore, and adjoining the estate of the late John C. River. It contains one hundred acres of land and should the President purchase the place he will reside there during the summer months, going to his office at the White House every day.

Among the most bitter and virulent of the conductors of the Northern press in indiscriminate abuse of the Southern people, the Harper Brothers are possibly foremost. There is neither sense nor reason in the vindictive spirit which seems to actuate these men. A blind and impotent but raving hope seems to possess them. And in each publication, like a maddened hurricane, they mouth and foam and fret, call harsh names, and indulge in all of the vindictive epithets which are at their command. There is with them, at the South, naught but disloyalty, bloodthirstiness and rebelliousness. Here, however, we are in error. There is a class, or rather race, of people at the South, with whom the Harper Brothers are fascinated. That race is the negro. He is personification of loyalty, parity and loveliness. He is endowed with all the noble attributes which go to make the perfect man, created in the image divine. He is so

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BONDED OFFICERS.

If the Legislature of Mississippi desires to do a sensible thing it should at once enact that no State or county officer shall be required to give bond for the honest performance of duty. The history of Radical rule in this State his shown that nine-tenths of the bonds given are straw bonds: not worth a dollar. When the full system of corruption shall have been fully inaugurated with every office in the hands of a Radical, most of them carpet-baggers without interest or reputation in the State, then will the whole plan of demanding and accepting bonds become a farce. No inoperative and worthless indeed will become the system that it will be one inducement held out as a sort of reward for dishonesty. There will be no responsibility attached to any one. Principal and bondmen will be alike irresponsible and as a natural result the principal will be tempted day by day to commit dishonest deeds by the weak and insufficient safeguards thrown about him. Meditating upon the corruption and dishonesty which enable him to palm off a worthless bond he will eventually conceive it to be but right to steal from and defraud the State. Just as so many Commissaries and Quartermasters in the army who would not, from conscientious motives slich a cent in ordinary private transactions, yet felt there was no sin or wrong committed in plundering the general government. They seemed to think that if a loop hole was discovered through which they could perpetrate a fraud it was their duty to do it. It was a sin and a crime to steal from an individual, but eminently proper and even commendable to steal from the Government. Such will be the result of the loose and corrupt form of government to which the people of Mississippi will be called upon to submit during the continuance of Radical rule. Then why keep up a form which is only intended to deceive? A cloak behind which fraud and dishonesty can be and is perpetrated. Let the system be discontinued. It is no safety, no safeguard. It is a fraud in itself. It simply deceives the credulous and uninformed. Destroy it and in its stead enact that every defaulting officer has been guilty of theft and try him for the offence, making his punishment much severer than that of ordinary criminals. Let it be known that a man in possession of an office, where money is entrusted to his care, unable to account for the absence of a single dollar, is a felon, a thief before the law and in public estimation, and that as a punishment for it, he shall be punished by imprisonment, even more severely than other criminals of equal grade.

What would be the difference in effect between this law and the old one? Simply that under the present law the man can escape punishment and with the money entrusted to him, no body suffer but the State, and he eventually by the magical influence of the money at his command, become respectable. By the operation of the plan suggested, the money is lost but the criminal is secured, and he is made to work in the penitentiary for a number of years for the benefit of the State. It is a clear gain of the services of the thief, whereas, by the old plan, there was a clear loss of thief and money.

REFRESHINGLY COOL. In an article devoted to "Democratic Editors," who are assumed to be in a "dyspeptic state," the Times of Sunday has the following modest passage: "Of course it would be a mere waste of time to attempt to persuade these asses who have obtained a fortuitous control of types, that the country is not going to go backwards for their gratification, and that if they can not live in any other than "a white man's country," that it is high time for them to pack up their carpet bags and be off to some climate where niggers can't vote." Sidney Smith, once characterized an impertinent bore he had the misfortune to encounter, as "the cool of the evening," and the enterprising genius who penned the lines we have quoted, has won for himself the endearing title of the "cool" of the morning!

DR. COMMON, of the Holly Springs Star, leaves the editorial chair to assume the duties of Medical Director of the State Insane Asylum. There is something worthy of meditation in the strange coincidences which are now so frequently occurring of Southern patriots(?) forsaking the people and incurring their questioning rebuke for the sake of high moral conviction!—and so soon after such "high moral conviction" being inducted into a Supreme Judgeship, a Medical Directorship, or some other "fat" office.

The usual May storm is brewing. People who think good health a blessing will act and govern themselves accordingly. Much sickness is the result of carelessness in dress and disregard of the dangers of exposure during cold storms and sudden changes of temperature.

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JUDGE SIMRALL AND GEN. FREEMAN.

ONE BY ONE THE ROSE FADE. In his letter to the committee of invitation, explaining why he could not attend the celebration of the ratification of the 15th Amendment in this city last Friday, old JONATHAN TARRELL, by the grace of Governor Alcorn, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, indulges in the following spread eagle paragraph: "One by one the best minds of our own, as well as the other Southern States, are yielding to the logic of events. That accomplished scholar and jurist, Judge Simrall, plants himself squarely on the Republican platform, while the old Democratic war horse of 1868, Gen. Freeman, who deserves eminent distinction for his bold, brave words, declares in a recent letter, "For my own part, zealously as I have heretofore opposed the tenets and past measures of the Republican party, I shall now yield obedience to the powers that be, and give the national and State administration a hearty and zealous support." Such sentiments are a rebuke from high sources of those who seem to have no other ambition or occupation than to inflame the passions and keep alive the prejudices of the people, unfortunately to the injury of the latter.

To those who know the man, the announcement that JUDGE SIMRALL has planted himself "SQUARELY ON THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM!" will create no surprise! For three years, Judge Simrall, has been more than suspected of a tender passion for radicalism, and those who know him, felt well assured that his natural hungering for the "desirable" would land him precisely where he is to-day, into the arms of the radical party. It has been common talk for some time, that it required the strongest kind of pledges from Judge Simrall to induce Radical Senators to vote for his confirmation, and now he has been confirmed, it is eminently proper that Tarbell, his colleague on the bench, should be selected to make the announcement that "that like scholar and accomplished jurist" has fallen like Lucifer to rise no more!" The reference to General Freeman, may, or may not, be true—assertion of Tarbell is not evidence—and we shall wait to see what "White Surrey" has to say for himself. Our contemporary of the Vicksburg Herald will please bear witness with us in that we mean no injustice to any Vicksburger but we thought they were standing let our road to the river. But, prizees, Captain Spear, is it not a fact that our friends at Vicksburg are only willing for the road to extend where "it can't be did?" Are we right? Below the city, it seems is the only practicable route for extension. Our contemporary of the Times and Republican, we believe, so charged, by figures that cannot lie. We rather like that long leader in said journal, showing that the location of the depot without the city, proper, will not injure the city or its business as now situated. However widely we may differ from the politics of the Times and Republican, we endorse its views on this question, in toto, and regard his article unanswerable.

We have simply to say this to the enquiry of the Register. The people of Vicksburg desire that the road shall have a terminus upon the river bank. But they say the road can and should have that terminus within the city limits. Now we would respectfully inform our brother of the Forest Register that the people of this city have just as much sense and judgment in this matter and are as fully prepared and informed with regard to the "cans and cats" of its feasibility as the railroad company.

Does the Register think our people would be so foolish or so hypocritical as to say they are willing for and want a river terminus for the road and yet—insist upon one that was utterly impracticable? We hope our Forest friend will give us credit for more sense and fairness.

We have time and again stated why this people object to that terminus being two or three miles below the city. There is no necessity for the location being so far away and if there is any it is not a sufficient one to weigh against the wishes and interest of the whole city. All the interior can and do ask is a river terminus to save cost in transshipments. That we also wish them to have—What right has the interior to ask that this terminus shall be at a particular point to the injury of our city? Or can they justly ask to be benefited at our expense? But it is no especial benefit to them for the road to go below town, and it is or would be a decided injury to us.

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Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad.

remove their track so it only runs within two or three miles of Forest instead of by your doors? That is the way to look at it.

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UNITED STATES FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

In the State of Maryland, for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 1869, made to the Auditor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the laws of said State.

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