

VICKSBURG HERALD

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To Subscribers—An "X" in blue pencil mark on your paper, is a notification that your subscription will expire in two weeks...

Friday Morning, November 30.

There will be seven colored men in the next Mississippi Legislature.

The Methodist Conference will convene in Jackson next Wednesday.

THANK-GIVING DAY was more generally observed by our citizens than we ever remember to have seen it.

That talk about Congress declaring Tilden President, if the Democrats get full control of the Senate, is a mere sound and sensation.

Two characterless Southern Republicans now virtually rule the Senate of the United States. How do the people like the picture?

The New Orleans Banks charge 1-16 per cent. for sending money by express to the country. The way New Orleans can invent charges and steals is a caution.

The Cincinnati Enquirer says the bald-headed benedict of Boston tell their wives they are going around to see the English cattle show, and then slip in to see Lydia Thompson's display of calves.

The Jackson Clarion rejoices because Mississippi is now the banner Democratic State. The editor of that journal deserves thanks for the work he has done in making our State the banner State of the grand old party.

SENATOR PATTERSON, it appears, has turned Democratic in self-defense. He prefers the Democratic party to a State Penitentiary. It is entirely a question of taste.—[Jackson Times.]

The poor devil never could reform if he remained in bad company.

The Louisville Courier-Journal observes that the Republican papers no longer refer to either Patterson or Conover as "noble and patriotic exponents of Republican principles in the South." The first time a "poor, persecuted Republican" changes his vote, he becomes a very poor devil, indeed.

From the Clarion we learn that Miss Lula Dickson will soon appear in Jackson, supported by her own company producing before the public "Romeo and Juliet," "Eveline," "Clouds," "As You Like It," and for the first time her beautiful new play entitled "Sweetheart."

The Chicago Tribune indulges in silver chimes: "The West is solid—very solid—on the silver question; it will remain so until the silver question is decided as the West desires it shall be decided. Every State, every Congressional district, every county, every township, every school district is of the same way of thinking on this question. Every Congressman from the West must support it, or prepare to retire to private life. There will be no place for anti-silver men in the next Congress."

We have seen so much of carpet-bag and scalawag rascality in the South, that we begin to think that Senators Patterson and Conover are still attempting to play some of the "old tricks." For a time Conover acted with the Democrats, and it looked as if the Democrats would soon have undisputed control of the Senate. Wednesday, Conover lopped over to the Radicals, and we suspect he and Patterson have fixed up a little scheme to balance the two parties as evenly as possible to the end that they may hold the balance of power. This, as far as our experience goes, is the height of a Southern Radical's ambition. If he can be in a position to sell his vote for a pile, he is happy.

A Gross Injustice.

A late dispatch says the Treasury will sell a million of gold to-day. This is part of the shameful policy of the Radical Administrations since the war. It means that the Government is still discounting its own paper, and thus throwing discredit on its evidences of debt. When the Treasurer of the United States enters the markets of the world and attempts to get the biggest price for a sum of gold, he is the dishonorable agent of a swindling Government. Every financier in this country and in Europe, of any standing, has denounced this swindling financial policy of the Radical Administrations. Every such transaction is a bid to speculators to keep up a difference between greenbacks and gold. Every such transaction is a blow at the holders of greenbacks, and an unjust discrimination in favor of the bondholders, who always receive their gold interest promptly.

What would be thought of a business firm that would go on 'change and discount its own paper after it was due? How could such a firm keep up its credit? There are hundreds and thousands of firms every day that have paper falling due that they are not able to pay in full. What is done about such cases? If they are wise and honorable firms, and have good assets, they pay all they can, and give their obligations to pay the balance at some time in the future. The greenbacks are the promises to pay of the United States; they are long overdue, but instead of the Government making arrangements to pay them as it, having vast assets, could do, it goes weekly into the market and dishonors its own paper. This outrage is the more noticeable and disgraceful from the fact that it makes an insidious distinction in this business against the paper that is bearing no interest. The holders of greenback notes are thus injured that the holders of gold interest-bearing bonds may be paid promptly. If any distinction must be made it should certainly be made in favor of the paper that is bearing no interest. There is a still worse phase of this mean practice. The greenback holders do not ask that the legal tenders shall be paid to the inconvenience and cramping of the Government; they merely ask that the Government shall honor them by receiving them for all debts, or to receive them for bonds, if the holder wishes it, bearing a low rate of interest. This the Government has persistently refused to do, and the Radical party is responsible for it. If a person has bonds and wishes to pay duties with them, he is able to do so, and get back something over and above the face of them; if a person has greenbacks and wishes to pay duties with them he must first dishonor the paper of the "Best Government on Earth" by discounting it. This proves conclusively that the Radical Administrations can see no other interest but that of the bondholders, and it should convince the people that they must have a change of men that justice may be done to all.

In another column will be found the proceedings of the Planters' Meeting held at Mont Alton, in this county. We feel very grateful indeed to the meeting for the thanks tendered ourselves, but we wish to say to all the planters that ninety-nine one-hundredths of the citizens of Vicksburg fully indorse the article alluded to. We opposed unjust charges on cotton, and the citizens of Vicksburg agree with us, because they do not sanction unjust or unwise measures. Such measures inevitably tend to drive cotton away from the city. While a very few are interested in these charges, because the money goes into their pockets (we do not allude to the Congress Company,) the least reflecting citizen must see that such charges are directly injurious to the interests of all others. Our grocers, dry goods merchants, hardware merchants, and druggists, are all plainly injured by this act of petty injustice. Every interest in the city except that of the men who wish to reap these charges on every bale of cotton they purchase, is injured by such practices, and the citizens of Vicksburg are as earnest in their condemnation as the HERALD. We wish our planting friends to understand this. We notice that the Planters' Meeting did not suggest a day for the Planters' Convention that is to be held here. Would it not be well to write to the gentlemen of Washington county who held the first meeting, and request them to name a day? The HERALD will gladly co-operate with all who are earnest in efforts that certainly will aid in building up our cotton trade.

The New Orleans Democrat publishes a report made by the Committee on Public and Charitable Institutions of the Louisiana Legislature, on February 14th, 1876, that places the editor of the New Orleans Times in a very dishonorable position.

Mr. Isaac N. Stoutemeyer, the editor of the Times, is a brother-in-law of Auditor Clinton, of Louisiana. The report charges that Mr. Stoutemeyer blackmailed the Charity Hospital of New Orleans. It seems that warrants are issued to run this charitable institution, but Clinton would tell the managers there was "no money in the Treasury to cash them." This was done until Mr. Stoutemeyer "fixed things," which he did after the Hospital submitted to a shave amounting to \$6,500.

Planters' Meeting.

Editor of the Herald: At a meeting of the planters in the Mt. Alton neighborhood, held at the above place on the 25th inst., for the purpose of appointing delegates to the Planters' Convention to assemble in Vicksburg, Dr. W. E. Oates was called to the chair and H. M. Goffe elected Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Jas. A. Newman four delegates were appointed by the Chair, the Chairman being added, as follows, viz: W. E. Oates, H. M. Goffe, Geo. M. Batchelor, E. B. Willis and Dr. F. M. Fitzhugh.

The following resolution was then offered and unanimously passed: Resolved, That the thanks of the planting community at large are due and the same are hereby tendered the editor of the HERALD for the many stand he has taken in our defense, as shown in his able editorial of the 23d instant.

On motion the above proceedings were ordered to be published in the Vicksburg Herald and Evening Commercial.

The meeting then adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman. By order of W. E. OATES, Chairman. H. M. GOFFE, Secretary.

The Vote on the Constitutional Amendments.

Jackson Clarion.

The vote upon the proposed constitutional amendments was as follows: For amendment to Article IV and V abolishing the office of Lieutenant Governor 47,983 Against 14,948 For amendment to Article IV Sec. 14,948 For amendment to Article IV Sec. 14,948 For amendment to Article IV Sec. 14,948 Total vote for Representatives 181,407 Average vote 59,718 Necessary to adopt amendments 49,860 It will be seen by the above that the amendment abolishing the office of Lieutenant-Governor was lost by 1880 votes, and the amendment providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature was adopted by 6,136 majority. The average vote is calculated as required by Section IV of the Act which became a law by limitation January 10th, 1876. No returns have been received from Bolivar county, and those from Chickasaw, Leake and Newton counties were not properly certified to. When these returns are received and properly made out, they may change the result as to the amendment upon the office of Lieutenant-Governor, thereby abolishing it, but they will not alter the result upon the other amendment.

The full returns will be received in time for our next issue, and we will publish a tabular statement, by counties, of the vote for State officers.

Endowment Rank, K. of P.

A short time ago we published a brief notice of the organization in this city of a section of the Endowment Rank, Knights of Pythias. Any thing that this excellent Order takes hold of commends itself to the public, and always arouses public interest. As we have heard some inquiries about this new plan of insurance, we give some account of it:

The Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias of the World, at its session held at Cleveland last August, considered the subject of Insurance or Mutual Endowment, and appointed a Committee to prepare and promulgate a plan for the same. The Committee met at Cincinnati and completed its labors, adopting a plan of insurance which it believed is better than any now extant.

A fourth rank (or degree) was adopted, the ritual of which was written by the founder of the order, J. H. Rathbone, Esq., which is said to be exceedingly beautiful. The Endowment Rank is termed sections, numbering consecutively all over the world. Section No. 1 will be located in Louisville, Ky. But one section at present will be stationed here. Members of any lodge of the order can join after having passed proper medical examination.

The Supreme Chancellor has received applications for over fifty sections. This, with the splendid membership of the order of over 100,000 members, starts on a sure foundation. There are two (2) classes, one and two thousand dollars each. A member can take one or both. The assessment at the death of a member is \$1 25.

There is a lady in Shell Rock, Iowa, who is so sensitive to the odor of tobacco or coal oil that the mere smell of either will throw her into convulsions. This is the kind of a person on whom a son-in-law could get the dead-wood without much trouble.—[N. O. Times.]

The saddest words of tongue or pen, Are "Anna Dickinson won't have Ben." —[Lowell Courier.]

Mortality of the Blacks.

HOW THE COLORED PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH ARE DYING OFF—WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THEM.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette writing from Memphis, says, in speaking of the condition of the colored people of the South: When we come to mortality statistics there is something positively frightening in the figures. For whites this is among the most healthful cities of the Union—far ahead of Nashville. In sixty years the city has had but three epidemics, and during the worst cholera visitation at Nashville Memphis almost entirely escaped. Immediately after the war, when the freedmen crowded the poorer portions of the city, their mortality stood to that of the whites in the enormous ratio of three to one! Thence it declined slowly, and for the past two years has averaged nearly two to one. The pure blacks are exempt from yellow fever, and the lighter colors nearly so; but cholera and small-pox rage fearfully among both. For the six months ending June 30, 1877, the record averages thus: Whites—Deaths per 1,000 15 4-10 Blacks—Deaths per 1,000 37 4-10

Or two and a half times as many Nor can I see from the burial certificates that it is confined to any age. Old and young negroes, male and female, seem to die in like proportions. The sickly months for whites are from June to October inclusive, but with the blacks all the months are sickly. December is as fatal as May. For October the death list shows sixty-four whites and forty-one blacks, which, if above figures as to population are correct, would show the colored mortality to be one and a half times as great as that of the whites.

So startling did these figures seem to me that I wanted other evidence than the health reports, and so took a sort of social census of several blocks in the worst part of the city, asking some questions which might have been considered impertinent.

The standard article of diet is cat-fish heads boiled into soup, and this they use indifferently at all seasons of the year. It is their staple when all else fails. They use a good article of corn-meal, but of bacon they get none but the very poorest, that which can be bought for almost nothing. As to such luxuries as fruit, milk, and eggs they only taste them when employed in the houses of the wealthy whites. In some cabins three or four families live together, and have one big meal in common daily, each individual shifting for himself for breakfast and supper. The odor about the cabin is not attractive to a white man, but I don't know as that has anything to do with their health. Memphis has better sewerage than Nashville, and in this general advantage the blacks of course share. There did not seem to be much sickness on the row, but the physicians say their diseases are brief, the system having less power of resistance than a white man's. Very few of them seemed to have any defined idea of thrift or improving their condition, and it is noted by residents that when one does acquire such ideas he straightway leaves the "nigger quarters," and goes to the country or to live with a white family. So those I find on the row are but the screened out elements—about as capable of taking care of themselves as so many boys and girls just old enough to have strong passions and appetites, but too young to exercise judgment. Such is the mental stage of three-fourths of the negroes in Memphis. No man of feeling can study their condition without being deeply depressed. Poor, helpless, grown-up children. What is to become of them?

A very common disease among them is called rachitis Africana by the physicians. It begins as a galloping consumption, then takes effect in the bowels, being, I suppose, the African type of mesenteric consumption. As to the colored girls, the same remarks as at Nashville will apply. They are not as desirable servants as the men, and much work that ought to be done by them is not. And if organized philanthropy proposes to take hold of the Southern black in an effective way, it must begin with the girls. It is idle to educate the men if the women are to continue on their present course. A quarter of a million colored girls, between the ages of 12 and 18, must be taught modesty and industry. It is a big job, but it is all that will save the race. But the more I see of the Southern blacks as a class, the more am I amazed at their utter helplessness as against the whites. They are indeed a feeble folk—grown up children, unorganized, improvident, cowardly, grossly ignorant, and pliable to a degree that is incredible. What can be done for them without injury both to us and them? Perhaps, if somebody could find a just mean between the extreme Southern and the radical Northern idea, he would just hit it.

Shame or Starvation—The Evils of a Government Bureau.

Special to the Chicago Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24.—The following letter has been received by a lady interested in reforming the official abuses in the Departments. It is already in the hands of a House Committee, with the intention of remedying the terrible abuses pictured in the letter: WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—Mrs. —: There is something I want to tell you about, and as I do not know where you live I have determined to address you a note. Now you, in common with others, have heard of the immoral conduct under the former management of the Bureau of Engraving and

Printing.

My dear madam, believe me when I tell you that such conduct is now being practiced in that establishment by a high official. I know of several young girls who entered that establishment innocent three or four months ago, who are now, alas, forever done for. I blush to tell you that the most disgraceful proposals have been made to me, but so far I have resisted them. How long I can hold my pitiful plume unless I yield to the tempter, God in heaven only knows. With a life of shame, without bread enough to feed dependent ones, and the certainty of discharge awaiting one, it requires no prophet to foretell the fate of many a poor girl. Great God! is our Government so debased as to keep a set of sensual men in charge of one of its most important establishments? One poor girl, the sole help and support of a widowed mother with six little children, came to me with tears in her eyes and asked my advice. She had been threatened with discharge unless she would yield to base proposals. Knowing the dependent position of her family, I declined to advise her. A week afterward she told me that she had been ruined, but that her mother and little brothers and sisters would not starve. I had nerve, and only saved my honor by threatening to go to Mr. Sherman if I had such proposals made to me any more, but I know that in less than a month I will be discharged for my contumacy, as a certain official in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing calls such refusal. I am a lone woman and can safely defy them, as no one depends on me for bread. The victims are generally girls between 15 and 18, principally the fatherless. If the Secretary will put himself to a little trouble he will find out that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is nothing but a pool of iniquity, where the honor of young girls is bartered for positions which pay \$1 50 per day. May heaven bless you for the noble work you perform in exposing this Augean stable in the wish of an EMPLOYE.

A Black Hills Hero Who Couldn't Tell a Lie.

The man who has been to the Black Hills, says the Bismarck Tribune, and returned, is a big gun at the village drug store, and feels called upon to tell the truth when narrating his adventures. Such a man, named Curt, was telling the other night how many Indians he had killed during his three months' residence in the Hills.

After he had talked half an hour, one of the listeners, who had kept track of the number killed, exhibited the figures.

"I find he exclaimed, 'that you killed 1,500 savages in three months.' 'Is that all?' exclaimed the unabashed Black Hiller. 'Why I believe you have left out a week's work there somewhere.'"

"If you had such good luck killing Indians, why didn't you stay there?" demanded another suspicious listener.

"Well, the truth is, gentlemen, I was afraid of ruining my left eye. I acquainted along my gun-barrel so much that my face was being drawn out of shape, and the sight was so far gone that I had to be led about by a dog."

"And you killed Indians while in that condition?"

"I did, though I've always felt a little mean about it. I couldn't see to shoot and so I run 'em down and ticked 'em to death. It wasn't manly in me, and I want to ask the forgiveness of you gentlemen, right here and now."

There was a long spell of appalling silence, and then some one said that Eph. Francis had bought a new coon dog.

A Curious Will.

A curious will has just been settled in Berlin, containing a moral worth a wider circulation than a miser's last testament often obtains. The poor man died, when to general surprise it was found he left thirty-four thousand marks. The thirty thousand in a package, signed and sealed, was to be given to his native town in Bavaria; one thousand each to three brothers, and one thousand to a friend with whom he had quarreled. It was stipulated that none of the four should follow the body to the grave, which suggestion the three brothers gladly accepted, but the quarreler walked alone and forfeited his thousand marks, for the sake of paying a last mitigating honor. When the package was opened for the town it disclosed another will, giving the thirty thousand to any of the four who should disregard the stipulation.—[Boston Advertiser.]

Two Waterbury (Conn.) Teamsters

were so mad because one wouldn't turn out of a narrow courtway for the other that they sat on their wagons facing each other all day, and unhitched the horses after dark, leaving the wagons still there. But about daylight next morning each stole around and took his cart out of the way.

The latest wrinkle in fashion is the sending off of cards proclaiming the birth of a daughter or son.

You may get them up as elegantly and expensively as you please; you will hardly ever be called upon to send them out oftener than two or three times a year. —[Andrews Bazar.]

Sioux Indians on the War Path.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Information reached the authorities that while the Sioux Indians were being removed from Red Cloud Agency to the Missouri river, 1,700 broke away, and are now on the war path. Terry issued orders to the troops to prepare for a winter campaign. Those who deserted are operating in the Dead-wood country and have already attacked trains and caused great fears.

Another Letter on Dancing from Mrs. Sherman.

912 GARRISON AVENUE, ST. LOUIS, Oct. 19, 1877.—Mr. Rufusson: Dear Sir—I owe you an apology for my long silence. I am very much obliged for the two books received. I am deeply interested in the result of your book; the more so as I hear the wall that goes up from the wounded and the guilty; but as you strike to heal, the wall inspires neither awe nor sympathy. So many are implicated in this evil custom, either personally or in their daughters, sisters, or near relatives, that there are very few who can form an impartial judgment. Many editors are afraid to praise your book, and stationers to keep it; and even many clergymen shrink from a public denunciation of the dance, because their direct personal appeals have been ineffectual to prevent their own relatives, or the children of prominent parishioners, from joining in it. A verdict can not be procured against polygamy in a community of polygamists. The anger and mortification of our friends is natural, and not unexpected, but they have betrayed more malice than they were supposed to possess, since their only defense of their pet amusement is individual abuse. True, the dance admits of no rational defense, but they could personally plead "not guilty" to pernicious effects, and each leave the verdict to time and a quiet examination of conscience. The Church has always condemned this kind of dance. The mildest of her saints (St. Francis de Sales) warns against such excesses, and Bishops of the United States, in council long since, earnestly exhorted Catholics to refrain from it. Parents are responsible for the defiance of all this authority; it is they who assume the risk for their children and themselves. It is not to be expected that young girls, who are unconscious of evil in the beginning, should reflect long enough to summon the moral courage to resist the allurements of the dance, unless with encouragement and support of their parents. To the honor of pure maidenhood be it said, however, that there are young girls who decline, from instinctive delicacy, even when their parents would have them join the throng who dance down the broad road of worldly pleasure. I take with a grain of allowance what I hear of a Grand Jury indicting you on account of your book, for even anger and revenge could not render me so unreasonable as to admit a prosecution for the description, while the dance is still permitted. Your opportunities for seeing and hearing the fatal results of this custom have been greater than mine. I have looked on (when compelled to see it) with abhorrence, but I have not cared to reflect what its precise results might be, nor to judge its effects beyond the utter physical prostration it produces, in its most innocent varieties, and the violation of their tastes for any wholesome amusement. To that I can testify. The very sight of it, when danced in the least harmful manner, forces upon the mind the conviction of all you state regarding its often serious results; but rather than abandon what all the Churches condemn, they slander and persecute the one who dares to raise a voice against it. But, as I said before, their side of the case admits of no other defense. It was not from any unwillingness to bear abuse that I hesitated to enter the lists against the dance. You know my reason. Now that my name has appeared, I would earnestly repel any suspicion of having ever participated, and guard the memory of my parents from the aspersions of having ever countenanced it. This was my sole motive in requesting the name of the lady who gave her experience. Persons who read the book before reading my letter, supposed you referred to me, without reflecting that your complimentary description did not answer for me. How can those who claim to be innocent say that none are guilty. If any are guilty (and who doubts it?), are not even the most innocent accessory to their sin? I hope you will send me whatever appears on this subject, pro and con. I leave you to make whatever use of this letter you please. There is no doubt but you have done a brave act, and that it will result in great good. I am, with sincere regard, very truly yours, ALLEN EWING SHERMAN.

At a matrimonial bureau lately opened in Vienna, the ladies pay a fee, and are required to attend for two hours daily.

Men call and are introduced. Women who possess accomplishments are requested to play the piano, and are examined with regard to their sentiments and acquisitions. One visit sometimes settles the case, but more are often paid. The ladies have the privilege of rejecting candidates without being subjected to an additional fee during the period for which they have paid.

A singular question of inter-professional courtesy came up before the Vevay (Ind.) Court a few days ago.

A physician sued his minister for medical attendance, and the defence brought forward the plea that it was customary for physicians to attend minister's families without compensation, and that in this instance the doctor promised to make no charge. The latter point was established by evidence, and in also appeared that the doctor sent in his bill for \$95 out of revenge because the minister's daughter wouldn't marry him. The clergyman got his case.

New York, Nov. 29.—Ives & Co., iron manufacturers at Montreal, are in difficulty. Liabilities \$250,000.