

The Vicksburg Herald

Sunday Morning, December 30.

We had a little more Christmas weather yesterday—wind, rain, cold, clouds and gloom.

In Vicksburg had a Deer Creek railroad she would do twice as much business as she does now.

Two Augusta, Ga., colored people are engaged in an effort to build a cotton factory at that place.

The gas lamps of London are soon to be lighted and extinguished by electricity. Vicksburg has no need of electricity for this.

The Griffin (Ga.) News says the Georgia Legislature is overwhelmingly in favor of Senator Gordon's reelection. We are glad to hear it.

The preliminary trial of the Adams-Sweetman shooting affair, recently came up at Mississippi City. Gen. Adams waived an examination, and was held in \$2,000 bail to answer at the April term of the Circuit Court of that District.

Tax following from the New York Evangelist is so appropriate for to-day, that we are pleased to give it the prominence it so justly merits. We do not remember to ever have seen a beautiful sentiment more neatly expressed:

"A TIMELY SUGGESTION.—Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them, and while their hearts can be thrilled by them. The things you mean to say when they are gone, say before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them.

"If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary hours, and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a bare coffin without a flower, and a funeral without a eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand for their burial. Post-mortem kindnesses do not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary days."

MacMahon and Washington. Meeting in the street yesterday the Maquis de Chamborn, whose wife is a descendant of Lafayette, he said: "Well, how are they getting on with Mr. H.?" "Oh, I suppose about as President MacMahon gets along in France—conflict with the legislative department." "There is no conflict in France. I have just come from there." "Who will be elected President after MacMahon, provided the Republic lasts?" "I think MacMahon himself. He possesses the sound, bric-a-brac which insure safety, and he probably has more of those qualities than any other available man."

"Like Grant?" "Well," said the Marquis. "I remember that many years ago I asked old Jared Sparks, 'Sir, what conclusion do you come to about the character of Washington? You have given him the greatest study of any man since his day.' Jared Sparks looked a little at a loss what to say, and finally answered: 'That is a question not easily replied to. I can answer it, however, as John Adams answered it to me about fifty years ago. He was sitting under a portrait of Washington at the time. Pointing to the strong-featured warrior, Mr. Adams said: 'Young man, if that blockhead up there had not held his tongue he would never have been the great man that he is.'"

A REBEL SILVER QUARTER.—We learned last night that such a coin is in existence as the Confederate silver quarter of a dollar. On one side it is stamped with the head of President Jefferson Davis, and was coined in 1862. A gentleman of undoubted veracity said that he saw this piece of money while on the Alabama river, and that as high as \$25 was bid for the same by the Captain of the steamer, others being made from \$5 upwards, and higher prices would have been offered but the owner of the quarter said he would not give it up for the steamer and its contents. This, of course, stopped the bidding, more especially after the gentleman said that the memento could not be purchased at any price. His object is to sell it for an immense amount, by some means unknown to any one. That the Confederacy ever coined money is something new to us, as the Government never had a mint. How this above-mentioned piece came into existence is a mystery, but we do not doubt the story, as a truthful gentleman said that he saw it and offered \$5 for the same.—(Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer.

A CORN CURE.—It has been discovered that lager beer is a certain remedy for corns. We believe the usual remedy is to let it soak into the corn from the inside of the foot.

Facts and Figures.

There is no question of more interest to Vicksburg than her railroad enterprises. A road to the Pacific coast would be of great benefit to her, but she would reap still greater benefit from two short, cheap tap roads that would bring all their trade to her. The time has come for her to make the effort to secure two such roads, and if she does not make considerable progress toward securing them in 1878, she will find that she allowed the golden opportunity to slip by. The railroad from Greenville will be running to Deer Creek by between the first and fifteenth of February. The Company has nearly all the road-bed prepared, an engine on the road, the iron, and nearly \$40,000 in money. It may be considered an absolute certainty that this road will be built to Deer Creek and extended down the Creek, if Vicksburg does not bestir herself and secure the building of a road up the Creek.

Gen. Martin's road from Natchez is built beyond Fayette, in Jefferson county, and it is now carrying a good business to Natchez. If Vicksburg sinks in the mire of despondency this road will be built to Raymond within a year. When these two roads are completed, Vicksburg must not expect one dollar's worth of business from east of Big Black river, south of the Vicksburg and Meridian railroad, and little or no trade from Deer Creek. If we lose the Deer Creek trade, and the Big Black and Bayou Pierre trade, it is easy to see that we had nearly as well shut up shop, and quit trying altogether to get any business. What is to be done?

We will attempt to answer this question. We must use all our energies to change these threatened evils into blessings. We must secure two short, cheap tap roads, that will benefit this city almost incalculably. Can this be done without risk? We are assured by men of standing and truthfulness that it can. We will state what we understand these gentlemen will agree to do as far as the Deer Creek road is concerned, and we have been informed they will build the Bayou Pierre road on similar terms after the completion of the other road to Rolling Fork on Deer Creek.

They say they will build the road from Paxton's Landing, on the Yazoo river, or some other point nearly opposite Cardiff Landing, to Rolling Fork, on Deer Creek, by the first of December, 1878, and from Cardiff Landing to this city within three years thereafter, if the city of Vicksburg and Sharkey county will agree to do what is stated below, on the completion of the road to Rolling Fork. They estimate that the cost and equipment of a narrow-gauge road to Rolling Fork will cost \$250,000. If Vicksburg and Sharkey county will agree on the completion of the road to Rolling Fork, to give \$150,000 between them to the road, they will take all the risk of building the road, and of the investment after the road shall have been completed. To secure \$150,000, they estimate that the city would have to vote \$100,000 in eight per cent. bonds, and Sharkey county the same amount. The Company would require \$150,000 of these bonds to be turned over to them on the completion of the road from a point opposite Cardiff, on the Yazoo, to Rolling Fork, and the remaining \$50,000 in bonds be given them on the completion of the gap between this city and Cardiff. From this, it will be seen that the city and county will be required to take no risk whatever. If the attempt to build the road is made and fails, the city and Sharkey county do not lose one cent. It only remains then for the city and county to estimate whether or not they can agree to the proposition, calculating the benefit a completed road would be to them. We do not think it should be hard to decide this question. Every foot of land in Sharkey county would be enhanced in value four hundred per cent., and the value of the business and real estate of Vicksburg would be increased in the same proportion. We give these facts and figures to our citizens for them to reflect upon, assuring them that from the best information we can obtain, a direct proposition of this sort will be made within a few weeks.

THE SILVER DOLLAR.—Up to 1853 the silver dollar weighed 412 1/2 grains, nine-tenths fine, and all the smaller coin exactly the same proportion. Silver had become so scarce that change could not be obtained, and the fractions of a dollar were reduced in weight about seven per cent., the two half dollars weighing 384 grains, and the smaller ones in proportion. The dollar was not changed, and had not been in circulation since about 1851. If one could be found it was a legal tender up to 1873, when it was dropped from the list of legal coins. The smaller coins after 1853 were a tender only for five dollars.—(Baltimore Sun.

"Buttons all over me!" is the cry of the woman of fashion.

How They Propose to "Have the Republican Party."

Washington Special to N. Y. Herald.] The few Congressmen and other politicians who remain here have been discussing to-day two rumors which point in directly opposite directions. The first rumor asserts that Mr. Everts and Mr. Conkling are getting reconciled; that the Secretary of State and the Senator from New York, mean hereafter to act in accord, and that they have agreed that the Secretary of the Interior and the Postmaster-General shall be offered up as sacrifices on the altar of peace. The second rumor asserts that Mr. Everts will soon resign his place in the Cabinet, because he finds it inconvenient to sacrifice his law practice, and not practicable to combine it with the duties of the State Department. Both rumors are probably false, but both attract a good deal of attention here.

Gen. Butler's speech before the Middlesex Club, in Boston, has also been a topic of conversation among anti-Hayes Republicans, to whom it is very acceptable. An eminent person of this faction who was here a few days ago, being asked his opinion of the political future, gave the following forecast, which differs from Gen. Butler's address only in that it more definitely lays out a programme: "The silver bill will pass," he said, "and will become a law, but with the reservation that silver shall not be used to pay off the bonds or to pay duties. For all other purposes it will become a legal tender for all amounts."

"Do you not think this will so alarm capital as to cause still greater depression and prevent new enterprises being started?" he was asked. "Not at all," he replied, "on the contrary, it will give us a period of renewed good times. All business will feel the stimulus of this inflation, and capitalists will give way and go in with the rest. But what I think of more importance by far than this is that the passage of the silver bill will put the currency question out of politics. On that both parties are split. When it becomes a law the Republican party will once more be a solid army, and it will immediately turn its attention to the South to inquire what has become of the Southern Republican party. That inquiry it will prosecute to the end. You will see that all our platforms next Fall talk only of the South, and will demand to know what has become of the Republican majorities in those States. They will insist on the use of every law on the statute books and on every power possessed by the Federal Government under the amendments, to re-establish and to maintain the Republican voters in the South, where, as in Mississippi and other States, these voters have disappeared. This will be taken as proof of intimidation, and where, as in Louisiana and South Carolina, the Republicans elected their Governors, it will be demanded that they shall be reinstated by the Federal force and maintained by the same."

"Do you not believe that other and new questions will occupy the public mind?" "No. This question takes precedence of all others. On it we can arouse the North and solidify the Republican party, and you will see that this will be the issue in 1880. As to the President, he finds himself in an untenable position. It is a mistake to think that he can get along without a party. He cannot, and will have to surrender. The few supporters he now has among Republicans will be forced to abandon him unless he does, and he cannot stand alone. He is not a strong man, and he will find that his Civil Service Reform, and his Southern policy, are impracticable and visionary notions. The South is the true issue; and when the Silver Bill becomes a law there will remain nothing to divide the Republican party, which will march solidly into the caucus of 1880 stronger than ever. The President will have to reform his Cabinet and bring it into harmony with the party. It will not be long before he sees this. When he does that, we shall be a united party, and all these dissensions will vanish; we shall have the solid North behind us once more."

This, there is good reason to believe, is at present the programme of the Republicans.

The sums squeezed out of Ireland by the Protestant prelates in the last century were simply amazing. To take a single instance: The regular road to preferment was to accompany a lord lieutenant to Ireland as his chaplain. Mr. Charles Agar went in that capacity with the duke of Northumberland, and in 1768, when only 33, was made Bishop of Cloyne. Three years later he was Archbishop of Cashel. While holding that preferment he made on a single fine—the bishops released ecclesiastical estates in those days on \$200,000, and died worth \$2,000,000; almost his last act being to sign a son's appointment to rich preferment. His eldest son, who transferred his money to England, left \$3,000,000. Not content with mere temporal honors, the archbishop obtained the earldom of Normanton. In these times prelates never dreamt of rearing their cathedrals, or any work of that kind. Cashel cathedral remained a ruin while two millions were squeezed out of the diocese.

A CHINESE statesman has lately proposed a tax on new-born infants, and though the sum is ridiculously small—only about ten cents—babies are a numerous product of the Flowery Kingdom, and a handsome revenue from this source is confidently expected. The tax falls due when the infant enters the world, and the only defect in the matter seems to be that there are no deductions in case of double entry.

POOR OLD WHITIE'S FATE. From the Washington Capital.] [The following lines—which conclusively establish the fact of the importance of having double tracks on railroads—were suggested by the experience of one of a number of ladies who recently paid a visit to a friend in the country.] An old white horse, A country wagon; A girl for boss, No knight, no dragon. Some girls went out to take a ride, Seized a horse that was one-eyed; At first he went along quite well, But soon, alas! he broke the spell. He got crossways on a railroad track, When they could neither make him go, nor back; But they hit upon a happy plan, And all got out, and let him stan'. They held a solemn consultation, To equalize the situation; But, ah! too late; what could they do? For that very moment the train was due. "Oh, yonder she comes," one girl she cried, As in the distance the train they spied; Bounding along at a fearful rate, To knock old White into horse-heaven's gate. Each girl in horror her breath, As she thought of poor old White's death. Their vacant stare in askance said, "Oh, heaven help us, he'll soon be dead." A moment more, the train was by, The air was rent with an appalling cry; Each girl, in horror, turned her back, As the train passed down the other track. P. D.

PEACH EFFORTS.

The Sultan's Request to England to Mediate—England's Duty as a Mediator Explained by the London Times.

London, Dec. 29.—The Times to-day says the Sultan's invitation to Her Majesty's Government to approach the Czar with a view of bringing about negotiations for peace, will tend to calm some of the fears which have been exciting the country, and to hold out the hope that a dreadful war may be brought to a close more quietly than by the shock of battle. The Sultan has taken the only course consistent with a calm view of what the war has done, and what it must do if it should last much longer. The circular to the Powers showed that the peace party of the Porte had for a time got the upper hand. She proposed terms which would no doubt have been inadmissible even before the war, and which would not bear discussion after the terrible battles of the last six months, but the Porte did not intend the circular to be taken as its last word. Now that all the Powers have courteously but firmly declined to approach Russia with impossible conditions, the Sultan has wisely asked this country to use its good offices to bring about negotiations for peace, it is important that the Government should conduct negotiations in a spirit absolutely free from partisanship. We are not parties to the present contest; as mediators our essential duty is to convey a message from one Power with which we have no quarrel to another Power with which we have no quarrel. We have doubtless great interests at stake, political as well as commercial, and they will be urged at the proper moment. But meanwhile it is our duty to act as a friendly intermediary, and not as rulers of the Indian Empire. To take a side with one or two Powers which we must bring into contact, would simply be to make our mission useless and destroy the prospect of peace. Our Government will have to ascertain whether Russia is willing to open negotiations, and what are her conditions of peace. It will then have to offer Turkey such advice as may seem proper, and to present her answer. It may have to reason in an earnest spirit with both belligerents in order to secure a common ground. It may be obliged to urge the Porte on the one hand to be wise in time, and Russia on the other, not to demand such terms as would goad the Turks to a desperate course, and thus multiply the perils of Europe. While a mediator may seem to act as the advocate now of one Power and now of another, the argument must be dictated purely by a spirit of conciliation. No doubt the Government would have to consider the interests of England, but the presentation of them would come in good time, and there is not the slightest reason to think they will be neglected.

A Phenomenon Explained. A planter owning one thousand acres of fair average land in the healthy portion of the cotton States is a poor man. He could not sell his land probably for more than \$5,000. He looks to the North and finds lands ranging from \$50 to \$200 per acre. He looks to England, Holland and Belgium, and finds the price averaging from \$300 to \$500 per acre. Why this difference? Is the land of these countries better than ours? Not by nature. If it be better it is by the difference of treatment. Is its climate better than ours? The acknowledged superiority is on our side. Are the prices of their products any better than ours? On an average not so good. Are the taxes lighter than ours? If we are compelled to pay their tax either at the North or in England our lands would at once be sold for taxes. Have they valuable crops which they can raise and we cannot raise? There is not a farm product in either Old England or New England which we cannot raise in equal perfection at the South. Is the labor at the North nearly double the cost of labor at the South. In England labor is cheaper than with us. But the difference is perhaps compensated by the poor and church rates and excessive taxes paid by the English farmers.

If our climate is as good as that of the countries referred to; if our lands are as good as theirs; if our products bring as good prices; if we can grow all the crops that they grow; if labor is cheaper with us than in the North, and if difference in taxes compensates for the cheapness of labor in England, why is it that their lands are so valuable and ours so valueless? We shall find the map of use to us in answering this question. If we take the map of the United States, and put our finger upon the States or parts of States in which lands sell at the highest price, we shall find that in those States or parts of those States the greatest attention is paid to the cultivation of the grasses and forage plants. If we open the map of Europe we shall find that the same rule holds good. The cheapest lands in Europe are those of Spain, where little attention is paid to grasses. The value of land rises exactly in proportion to the attention which is given to it, in England and Holland reaching for farming purposes \$1,000 per acre. Holland is almost a continuous meadow. This land value culminates in Lombardy, where irrigated meadow lands rent for \$60 to \$100 per acre. Without exception, in Europe and America, where a large portion of land is in grass or forage crops, the price of the land is high, reaching the figures above mentioned. On the other hand, without exception, wherever in either continent the grasses do not receive this attention, landed estate is comparatively of low value.

SHALL WE HAVE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION?—Our attention has for some time been directed to this question by reading of it in exchanges. Some of them are for, and some of them against it. For our part, we cannot see such grave necessity for a Convention as to run our State to the expense of a quarter of a million dollars. The Constitution needs a little alteration, perhaps, but it can be effected by amendment, as heretofore, without extra expense. In itself, the instrument is not so unbearable as to require instant subversion; therefore, it is meet that the desired changes be brought about by degrees. No reckless expenditure of public money should be countenanced at any time, especially when the people are so poor; and we cannot see the necessity for it in this case.—[Tidal Wave.]

The other day while an engine was pulling a freight train that leaves Rochester before daylight, the engineer was suddenly struck by something which knocked him back upon his seat, and cut his face badly. It was found that a frightened partridge had flown through the double plate glass window with such force as to be torn in two.

Wives know that the brow of care is often soothed by a delicious supper, to which perfect bread, rolls, biscuits, etc., are so important. To have these delicate products of baking always ready, the use of DOOLEY'S YEAST POWDER is very important. This article is among the most valuable of the day in its bearing on health. It is put up in cans always full in weight.

DEATHS.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—J. D. Park & Co., wholesale druggists, failed.

New York's Foreign Trade. New York, Dec. 29.—Five steamers, fully laden, sailed for Europe to-day.

A Servian Success. BELGRADE, Dec. 29.—The Servian troops captured Ploerut about thirty-five miles south-east of Nisch, with a quantity of guns and ammunition. No details.

Bank Burglars Sentenced. SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 29.—Northampton bank burglar, Scott and Dunlap, were sentenced to twenty years each in the State prison, the full extent of the law.

The Cincinnati Post-offices. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—It is said Asa Clark is to be appointed Postmaster at Cincinnati. One of the applicants for the place is Mrs. Wilbur, formerly school mistress of Mrs. Hayes.

Run on a Savings Bank. ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 29.—There was a partial run on the Rochester Savings Bank. No alarm among large depositors. The bank has a surplus of \$700,000 over liabilities.

Success of Chinese Troops. ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 29.—Official intelligence has been received announcing the success of Chinese troops in Kashgar. They had fortified Luchang and Aska. The inhabitants were fleeing to the interior in Russian territory.

Deaths. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Gen. Geo. W. M. Cook, of Ohio, died in New York. Boston, Dec. 29.—Dr. J. S. Jones, surgeon and play-writer, is dead. He was manager of Tremont Theatre several years.

Charged with a Base Crime. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—Ray, alias Curtis, charged with the abduction and rape of a young lady of Baltimore, Md., who was arrested here Wednesday, was arraigned and remanded to the parish prison without bail, to await the arrival of an officer to accompany him to the scene of his crime.

CHANDLER.

The Letter-Writer in Boston—He Talks Freely in Regard to His Effusion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—A Boston special says W. E. Chandler was in town yesterday, and talked freely in relation to his recent letter. Referring to the statement that his letter did not contain proof of the serious imputation against the President as to the bargain with the South by which he stepped into office, Mr. Chandler said he thought he had made very plain and direct charges, and he felt no doubt that unless answered they would carry conviction wherever they were candidly considered. His attention being called to a statement that if he chose to reveal what he knew concerning the count in favor of Mr. Hayes, it would forfeit his State, Chandler said his statement was without authority; the vote in Florida, he says, was just as fairly cast for Hayes as Massachusetts, only by a smaller majority. It was well-known by a resident in Florida at the time, and knows of what he speaks. He said further, "Do not suppose for a moment I have exhausted all the information I may have acquired in the course of a life-time, in this letter; but I have put forward, so far as I have thought necessary, the whole truth in the matter referred to, at least all that was called for by the occasion."

France's Foreign Attitude. LONDON, Dec. 29.—A Paris correspondent of the Telegraph says Minister Waddington has notified foreign Governments that the French Cabinet will, in the event of a Conclave, conform to the understanding subsisting among the four Catholic Powers, as regards the internal ecclesiastical policy of France.

Contemplated Railroad Strike. NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A special from Shenandoah, Pa., says it has just been ascertained that a strike among the engineers on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad, New Jersey Central, Lehigh Valley and Reading railroads, is in contemplation, and will probably take place on the first of January. The alleged movement is the result of a recent order issued to the effect that the roads will not retain in their employ any engineers after the first of January who may belong to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

OUR IMPORTATIONS. OF THIS SEASON GIVES AN UNEQUALLED STOCK OF GOODS.

BLACK SILKS, handsome and durable, all widths, \$1.00 to \$2.00. THE GREAT AMERICAN INDUSTRY—TITILE SILK, \$1.25, \$1.50, and \$2.00. PLAIN COLORED SILKS, new shades, commencing as low as 75c per yard, and at \$1.00, same as quality of last season at \$1.25. Fancy Umbrellas and Parasols of the new Paris shades, from \$2.00 upwards. Trimming Ribbons at \$2.00, worth \$3.00. THE PRICES AT WHICH WE OFFER OUR SILKS ARE UNUSUAL—AND IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY—THAN LAST SEASON.

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ROSIERY. Ladies' Mince' and Children's Rosiery from \$1.00 a dozen, up to the finest quality. All the newest and prettiest designs in Rosiery are represented in our stock in Silk, Cotton and Berlin.

GLOVES. Kid, Silk, Lisle Thread and Merino Gloves of the new colors and shapes, in great variety. Lord & Taylor's Kid Gloves, 5 Buttons, warranted, at \$1.00 per pair, price last season \$1.50.

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FURS. Alaska Seal Coats, from \$40.00 up. Alaska Seal Mitts, from \$2.00 up. Alaska Seal Coat, from \$2.00 up. Seal Muff and Hat, from \$12.00 a set, upward. Silk Fur-lined Goggles, from \$3.00. Alaska Seal Boots, from \$7.00. A good set of Furs as low as \$5.00.

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