

The Western Democrat, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

For the Western Democrat, THE IRISH POTATO.

Its Origin, with Hints upon its Proper Culture. The history of the Irish, or common potato...

The Potato belongs to an extremely valuable and extensive natural order of plants, species of which are found in all parts of the world...

The Potato was transported across the ocean by some of Raleigh's followers, or by other parties who were coasting vessels...

In an old work, "History of Plants," by Bauhin, published in 1596, may be found the first accurate description of the Potato...

It is probable the Indians, from whom we derived our first knowledge of nearly all the alimentary and medicinal properties of American plants...

For any person to put any obstruction upon a railroad, or to remove or disarrange any part thereof, or to injure the machinery or cars used thereon...

REPEAL OF THE USURY LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. Immediately before the adjournment of the Legislature of South Carolina, the old usury laws of that State were repealed.

TRANSPORTATION.—We understand that transportation is furnished by the Government to all negroes who desire to go South.

From the preceding remarks we learn that the Potato is indigenous to mountainous, tropical localities, and flourishes best in a cool, airy, uniform atmosphere.

Break up the ground thoroughly in January, then lay it off into rows about two feet apart, open these with a small plow, and partially fill the drills with manure, stirring into it, at the same time, all the leached ashes that can be possibly procured.

The President replied: "Gentlemen: It is not my purpose, in rising, to make an address on this occasion, and I shall try, at this opportunity, at least, if I have not or cannot in others, to imitate the example that has been set by the distinguished and illustrious man who has been summoned to-night by the Chairman of this meeting."

At the first planting which, in the Southern States, is generally in winter, in order to obtain an early crop, it is not advisable to cover the ground heavily with leaves or straw, as it is still cold, and needs the warmth of the sun's rays to stimulate vegetation.

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soil is there sufficiently cool and moist, without any artificial covering for the production of large and remunerative crops. In warmer localities we must consult the native habits, and produce the proper degree of coolness and moisture, as previously indicated, to exclude the scorching rays of the sun.

GOOD LAWS. The Legislature of South Carolina, at its late session, passed an Act to amend the Criminal Law of the State, in which we find the following appropriate and timely enactments:

Whenever hereafter any person shall migrate into this State, and reside here, or exhibit an intention so to reside, if his bad character or his inability to support himself and family, shall be made to appear to the Judge of the District Court, the said Judge shall, by written warrant, require him to enter, within twenty days thereafter, into a bond, payable to the State, with two freeholders as sureties, whose sufficiency shall be approved by the Clerk of the Court in a penalty of one thousand dollars, conditioned for his good behavior, and for his continued support of himself and family.

Mr. Davis of N. Y., moved to lay on the table, and to agree to, year 40, 1867. Pending further consideration, the morning hour expired and the resolution went over.

Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, introduced a paper and resolution impeaching Andrew Johnson, Vice President and acting President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors, in that he had usurped power and violated the laws; that he had made a corrupt use of the appointing power, the pardoning power and the veto power; that he had corruptly disposed of the public property of the United States; and had corruptly interfered in elections and was guilty of other high crimes and misdemeanors.

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CONGRESS. Jan. 7.—In the House, Mr. Leon of Missouri, introduced a resolution setting forth, that for the purpose of securing the fruits of the victory over rebellion and in carrying out the will of the people, as expressed at the ballot-box, it was the duty of the 39th Congress, without delay, to take action upon the following subjects, viz:

1st. The impeachment of the officer now exercising the functions of President of United States for high crimes and misdemeanors, of which he is so notoriously guilty as to render it unsafe to longer allow him to exercise the executive functions.

2d. To abdicate the powers of the Executive so as to bring them within lawful limits. 3d. To effect a perfect re-organization of the States late in rebellion and to restore them to their rights in the Union.

4th. To secure, by direct Federal intervention, the right of the elective franchise, without distinction of race or color, for persons residing in the late rebel States.

The point of order was made that the resolution should go to the Committee on Reconstruction and the point was sustained and the resolution referred.

Mr. Kelso of Mo., subsequently introduced the same resolution, modified by striking out the 3d and 4th clauses.

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HORSE STEALING. On Monday night, a man by the name of L. Spell, of Sampson County, was arrested and identified as the thief who stole Mr. C. A. Carter's horse, on Sunday night last.

This man Spell went to Mr. Carter's house, in the western part of this county, about a week ago, giving his name as James Lewis from Sampson County, and engaged work. He remained there until last Sunday night when he absconded, taking with him the best horse Mr. Carter had, which he took to Statesville and there sold.

The scoundrel retired to bed with Mr. Carter, but about 3 o'clock Monday morning, Mr. Carter awoke, finding Lewis gone, at once suspected something wrong, and upon examination found that his overcoat and horse were also gone. He at once repaired to this place, had bills struck off and circulated, giving a description of his horse and the thief, which led to his arrest. The horse and the thief says he sold him to a gentleman in Statesville for \$50.

The thief is now in custody, and will be dealt with according to law. But will this satisfy the ends of justice? Mr. Carter will get his horse no doubt, but who will pay Mr. Carter for the trouble and expense to which he will be put, in order to restore his own horse to his stable again? Will the chicken hearted Legislators, who have such a horror of punishing this growing and ruinous offense with death, contribute? Besides the trouble and loss of time, it will cost Mr. Carter almost the value of the horse to regain him. But this is not an isolated case. Such are of daily occurrence, and too often, the poor farmer never gets his stock, thus spirited off by the thieves which infest the country. We know men in this county who are not able to procure horses to supply the places of those stolen. They lost all they possessed and their plows are now idle. Now the important question is how is this ruinous evil to be stopped? Are the present modes of punishment sufficiently stringent to deter thieves from their commission? Does the offense justify the death penalty as the award for its perpetration? Who will undertake to say that the man who is base enough to steal a horse, is not also base enough to commit murder in order to accomplish his fell purposes? We do not think the present punishment of this great evil severe enough. We think that the penalty should be death, and until it is made so by legislative enactment, the poor farmer will continue to suffer, and the country be cursed by these lawless plunderers. We are not of those whose squeamish ideas will not allow them to see justice done. Laws are made for the protection of the person and property of the citizen, and when they fail of this end, they are worse than useless.—Salisbury Banner.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU. Gen. Howard, in response to the resolution of Congress, calling for the reports of the Commissioners of this Bureau, together with a synopsis of the local laws respecting persons of color as they now exist in the Southern States, has made his report.

Of Virginia, he says the freedmen have decreased in number—the estimated population at this date is 500,000. In North Carolina, the population is put down at 360,000. In South Carolina the number of freedmen has decreased, being estimated at 375,000. Georgia is estimated at 400,000. Florida has remained about the same as when the census of 1860 was taken, being 62,677. In Mississippi a census has been taken since the close of the war, showing a slight decrease; 320,000 is the aggregate colored population. In Louisiana no change is reported—the number is 350,000. In Texas reported increase—the colored population is estimated at 200,000. In Missouri it is represented that the freedmen have left the State in large numbers for Kansas, Iowa, &c.—the colored population has decreased about 100,000. In Tennessee the Assistant Commissioner estimates an increase.

The Assistant Commissioners of the States of Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas report an increased disposition on the part of the freedmen to take advantage of the homestead act, and the actual work accomplished up to October 1st is as follows:

In Louisiana 49 entries have been made, and 183 colored persons have settled on the public lands, representing over \$6,000 worth of personal property. Many more applications were made by persons who will move to these lands as soon as this year's work closes. In Arkansas many practical difficulties have prevented correct information of the location of public lands. In Florida more has been done than in either of the above mentioned States. It is probable that, after their release from this year's contracts, many will enter lands, notwithstanding the fact that they will be compelled to compete with their more wealthy neighbors.

The reports of all the Assistant Commissioners had not been received when the report was made. They favor the present contract system, and freedmen are reported as having in most cases faithfully performed their obligations, and their employes have, as a general thing, settled with the freedmen in accordance with the terms of their contracts; yet when any of them failed to do so, redress was had to the State laws.—They also report that contracts, approved by the Bureau officers, and settled through the same agencies, have been satisfactory to the freedmen. Special attention is called to the vagrant laws of the States of Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

The ladies in the vicinity of Averasboro', Harnett county, N. C.—near which place a battle was fought on the 16th of March, 1865,—have been untiring in their efforts to rescue from oblivion the names of the heroes who fell on that occasion. The bodies of the dead have all been collected and interred in a neat cemetery near the village, and it is the wish of the ladies engaged in this work, to enclose the spot with an iron railing, and to erect there a suitable monument. They solicit contributions.

A CURE THAT PAYS WELL.—There is no crop that paid better during the war than sorghum, and there is no crop that will prove more remunerative now. And yet, strange to say our farmers have generally abandoned its production.

Decision of the U. S. Supreme Court.—National Banks subject to Taxation by the States.—Washington, Jan. 8.—The United States Supreme Court has decided in the National bank case, brought by the New York banks against the commissioners of taxes and assessments for the city and county of New York, that the shares of National banks are subject to assessment and taxation by the State, and were not like Government bonds exempt from State taxation.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The Episcopal Church in the United States is divided into 2,308 parishes, having 5,830 clergymen and 161,223 lay members. During 1866 the members of this Church contributed \$3,951,667 for charitable purposes.

DEBATE IN CONGRESS. January 5.—Although to-day was devoted to mere speech-making, a discussion between two of the ablest and most prominent Republicans excited the closest attention. Mr. Spalding, of Ohio, entered into an argument to show that the Southern States by adopting the constitutional amendment, could resume their Congressional representation without further action; in other words, their restoration would be complete. On a recent visit to Petersburg, Virginia, a gentleman with whom he conversed said the adoption of the amendment would be a condemnation of their leaders, but if three-fourths of the States would ratify it no opposition would be found in Virginia.

Mr. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, obtained permission to state the substance of letters he had received from North and South Carolina, in which the writers expressed views similar to those of the gentleman in Petersburg.

Mr. Spalding warned his political friends not to insist on ultra measures, such as the impeachment of the President, while Congress held a two-third power over the action of the Executive. Such measures would react on the Republican party. If, he added, we find by the 40th Congress that the South does not ratify the amendment, then let the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Stevens) call up his bill for the reconstruction of the Southern States.

Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, replied combating Spalding's argument that the ratification of the amendment could be the final act. This would leave the country open to an influx of reconstructed rebels. To ask rebels to vote on the amendment is to stultify ourselves; for while we, in fact, hold the South as conquered provinces, we recognize them as loyal States, but we propose to regulate these States ourselves by law.

Mr. Niblack, of Indiana, asked whether Mr. Stevens and his friends did not admit Tennessee on the ground that she had ratified the amendment, and whether the Radical majority did not regard that as an evidence of her loyalty.

Mr. Stevens replied that the preamble of the bill admitting Tennessee recited the good things she had done but she was not admitted on that ground alone.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, inquired whether the gentleman would not vote for the admission of other Southern States who would secure freedom in their civil rights and exhibit indisputable evidence of loyalty.

Mr. Stevens replied that he would never vote for the admission of any State that did not consent to negro suffrage.

Mr. Maynard said that Tennessee had done as much as Pennsylvania and other Northern States had done. Those States did not permit negro suffrage.

Mr. Stevens replied that the remark was just and right. Pennsylvania and other States ought to blush for the infamous exclusion to which the gentleman had referred.

Gen. Sterling Price, of Missouri, has returned to this country from Mexico, and was quite a lion during his stay in New Orleans. The hotels were thrown open to him, and important positions were tendered to him, and a tract of land containing six hundred acres in Texas was presented to him. He was also offered his choice of the river steamers to convey him and his family up the Missouri. The Government was informed of his return to the country, but no action has been taken in his case.

The newest Yankee notion is an umbrella with a gutter round the edge and a spout at one corner.

TAX NOTICE. Notice is hereby given to all persons who fall to pay their City Taxes by the first of February, that their property will then be advertised for sale to pay the amounts due. W. B. TAYLOR, Tax Collector for Charlotte.

BREM, BROWN & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in FOREIGN AND AMERICAN HARDWARE AND CUTLERY, Saddle and Carriage Hardware and Trimmings, and House Furnishing Goods. Store on Tryon Street, opposite Kerr's Hotel. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Shoe Lasts, Pegs, Awls, Knives, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Washing Machines and Wringers, at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Axes, Mattocks, Spades and Shovels, at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Anvils, Vices, Hammers, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Cooking Stoves, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Nails, Screws, Tacks, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Glass, Putty, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Locks, Hinges, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. India Rubber Belting, at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Hames, Chains, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO. Guns, Pistols, Caps, &c., at the Hardware Store of BREM, BROWN & CO.

To our Friends. Our Notes and Accounts are in the hands of S. F. DeWOLFE, who can be found at the Dry Goods Store of Messrs Brem, Brown & Co. Call and see him about what you owe us by the 1st of February, and see if you cannot make some arrangement with him, or we will have to place your claims in the hands of an officer after that date, if the master is not attended to. We give you fair notice—do not blame us if you are sued. BREM, BROWN & CO. Jan 7, 1867 3t

NOTICE. All persons, without exception, indebted to the undersigned as Administrator of Robert W. Dunn, deceased, are hereby notified to pay up their dues before the first of March next, or their Notes will be put into the hands of S. H. Walkup for collection by suit. W. M. WALKUP, Admr. Jan 7, 1867 4t

No Idle Talk! I have taken an Office at Messrs Hutchison, Burroughs & Co's, for the purpose of closing up the estates of ALEX. SPRINGS and S. T. WRISTON, and the unsettled business of the late firm of YOUNG & WRISTON and YOUNG, WRISTON & ORR. Those interested will please take notice. I am determined to settle all this business—peaceably if I can, forcibly if I must. M. L. WRISTON. January 7, 1867 4t

WASHINGTON ITEMS. The statement of some of the Washington correspondents that there was applause in the galleries in the House when Mr. Ashley introduced his impeachment resolution, is not true; but one solitary individual made a demonstration—which consisted of three claps of the hands. This enthusiastic individual was a white boy, seated among the colored people.

At a recent meeting of the cabinet the territorialization question came up informally. All the members, including Stanton, expressed opposition to the disturbance of the present State Governments of the Southern States.

A canvass of the Senate indicates the passage of the bankrupt bill which passed the House last session.

It is understood that the investigation of the Judiciary Committee on the Ashley impeachment resolution will be kept secret until the report is presented to the House.

The President is not at all frightened at the impeachment movement.

Assistant Assessor's Office, U. S. Internal Rev., 2d Div., 6th Dist., N. C. CHARLOTTE, January 7th, 1867.

Under the Internal Revenue Laws of the United States, legacies and successions in Real Estate are taxable. Administrators, &c., of estates, are required, if the clear value of the personal property of an estate exceeds \$1,000, to make a return to me. All persons who have come in possession of Real Estate since May 1st, 1865, either by gift, will or otherwise, are required to make a return. The application also to Guardians who have charge of lands belonging to minor heirs since May 1st, 1865. Failure or neglect to make returns subjects parties to heavy fines.

This part of the Revenue Law has been very much neglected, and I hope all persons in the counties of Cabarrus, Union and Necklesburg, whom this may concern, will inform me at once either by letter or otherwise, or will meet me in Concord on Tuesday the 21st of January, and in Monroe on Friday and Saturday the 24th and 25th of January.

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!! Goods Cheaper than Before the War! B. KOOPMANN. Is now prepared to offer to the citizens of Charlotte, Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, one of the best and most complete Stocks of Goods ever opened in this City.

My stock, already comprising everything belonging to a first class Mercantile House, is being daily increased, by fresh additions bought in the North since the Great Reduction in Prices, and by a splendid assortment of STAPLE AND FANCY ARTICLES, BOUGHT DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS IN EUROPE.

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS. Splendid Black Broadcloths, from \$2 to \$6 per yard, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Fine Black Trecoats, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Superb plain and figured Black Dress Silks, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Beautiful silk velvet Cravats, Ties and Scarfs, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Heavy black silk Handkerchiefs, Scarfs and Ties, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Genuine German Colic, imported by B. KOOPMANN. Fine Cocoanut Toilet Soap, imported by B. KOOPMANN.

GOODS AT OLD PRICES. Good CALICOES, at 12 1/2 cents per yard. Good Blacked Shirting, at 14 1/2 cents per yard. Figured Drains, at 25 cents per yard. Flaid and Striped Poplins, at 25 cents per yard. All Wool Flannels, double width, at 50 cents per yard. Ladies' Silk Velvet Scarfs, Ties & Cravats, 25 cts. each. Fine Cocoanut Toilet Soap, 25 cents per dozen. Black and Colored Alpacaes, very low. English and French Merinos, very low. Mohair and Debergs, very low. Red, Grey, Blue and White FLANNELS, at reduced prices. Linen Table Damask, Cotton and Linen Diaper, very cheap.

LADIES' CLOAKS! LADIES' CLOAKS! 25 per cent less than cost. HOOPSKIRTS! HOOPSKIRTS!! A fine lot of Ladies' Misses' and Children's Hoopskirts, EMPRESS TRAILS, BALMORAL SKIRTS, SONTAGS, BREAKFAST SHAWLS, HOODS and NUBIAS, 25 per cent less than Manufacturers Prices. Cloths, Doekings, Cassimeres, Satinets, Jeans & Kerseys, CLOTHING, At Greatly Reduced Prices. Ladies' and Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Notions, Hardware and Groceries, &c., &c., &c.

I am determined to sell AT PRICES TO SUIT EVERYBODY. A call at my Establishment will convince every one that I can offer their greater advantages than they can find in any other Store in the city, as my Goods have been bought since the late Fall. Fall in Prices and from the Manufacturers Direct, whilst my late sojourn in New York has made me acquainted with the Manufacturers, and otherwise give me an experience of which my customers cannot fail to reap the benefit. Wholesale buyers will find it to their particular advantage to examine my Stock before purchasing elsewhere. A call is respectfully solicited. Jan 7, 1867. B. KOOPMANN.

AUCTION. NOTICE TO THE PEOPLE OF CHARLOTTE AND VICINITY. A RARE OFFER. The undersigned offers his entire Stock of Goods, consisting in part of Ready-made Clothing, Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hardware, and a great variety of other articles too numerous to mention, FOR SALE at PUBLIC AUCTION. The sale will continue from day to day until the entire stock is sold. These Goods will certainly be sold, even at a sacrifice. On Fridays there will be Auction for Ladies exclusively. H. E. MORSE, Agt., Jan 7, 1867. Opposite the Court House.

Salt, Salt. 4000 SACKS, large and full, second arrival direct from Liverpool, just received and for sale at \$2 30 per sack by the 100 Sacks, and \$2 20 per sack for 500 Sacks, delivered at the Depot. A. A. WILLARD, Wholesale Grocer, &c., Nos. 30 and 31, North Water Street, WILMINGTON, N. C. Jan 7, 1867 4t

DISSOLUTION. The Co-partnership heretofore existing in the City of Charlotte, known as the firm of Williams & Meacham, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All persons indebted to the said firm, or having claims against the same, will please call on S. B. MEACHAM for immediate settlement. H. B. WILLIAMS, S. B. MEACHAM. Dec 29, 1866.

NOTICE. The undersigned, having purchased the entire interest of H. B. Williams, in the firm of Williams & Meacham, hereby tenders to the friends and customers of the old Firm, his sincere acknowledgments, and hopes to secure a continuance of their liberal patronage at the Old Stand. Jan 7, 1867. S. B. MEACHAM.