

Western Democrat.

W. J. YATES, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

February 26, 1867.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.—Last week we published Stevens' bill, as it passed the House of Representatives, for placing the Southern States under military rule. That bill went to the Senate, and that body on Sunday morning, the 17th inst., adopted a substitute for it known as "Sherman's substitute." This substitute went back to the House for concurrence, but was rejected because it was considered too lenient.

Afterwards the House adopted some stringent amendments and then passed the bill. The Senate concurred by a vote of 35 to 7.

A full and interesting account of the proceedings will be found in another column.

The bill, as passed, places the Southern States virtually under the control of the military, until they (the States) adopt the Howard amendment, form a State Constitution giving the negroes the right to vote, and submit to the disfranchisement of a large portion of the white population. After this is done, and Congress approves the work, Representatives may be admitted from the Southern States who can take the test oath.

The present State Governments are declared to be merely provisional, subject to military authority, and may be abolished or superseded at any time.

One clause of the bill (being a portion of Mr. Shellbarger's amendment) would seem to have the effect of displacing our present State officers. It says:

"No person shall be qualified to hold office under the provisional government, who is ineligible under the provisions of the 3d section of the Constitutional amendment."

If the President vetoes this Bill, it may be that Congress will pass it by two-thirds over the veto; or if it does not do that, the matter will come up again before the new Congress which assembles on the 4th of March, which body is considered more Radical than the present one.

COPY OF THE BILL.

Since writing the above, we have received a correct copy of the Bill as it passed both Houses of Congress on Wednesday. It is as follows:

An Act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States.

Whereas, no legal State governments or adequate protection for life or property now exist in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas and Arkansas; and whereas, it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced in said States until loyal and republican State governments can be legally established; therefore,

Be it enacted, &c. That said rebel States shall be divided into military districts and made subject to the military authority of the United States, as hereinafter prescribed; and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the first district, North Carolina and South Carolina the second district, Georgia, Alabama and Florida the third district, Mississippi and Arkansas the fourth district, and Louisiana and Texas the fifth district.

Sec. 2. That it shall be the duty of the President to assign to the command of each of said districts an officer of the army not below the rank of brigadier-general, and to detail a sufficient military force to enable such officer to perform his duties and enforce his authority within the district to which he is assigned.

Sec. 3. That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder and violence, and to punish crimes; and to punish all disturbers of the public peace and criminals; and to this end he may allow local civil tribunals to take jurisdiction of and try offenders, or when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military commissions or tribunals for that purpose; and all interference under color of State authority with the exercise of military authority under this act shall be null and void.

Sec. 4. That all persons put under military arrest by virtue of this act shall be tried without unnecessary delay, and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted; and no sentence of any military commission or tribunal hereby authorized, affecting the life or liberty of any person, shall be executed until it is approved by the officer in command of the district; and the laws and regulations for the government of the army shall not be affected by this act, except in so far as they may conflict with its provisions; *Provided*, That no sentence of death under the provisions of this act shall be carried into effect without the approval of the President.

Sec. 5. That when the people of any one of the said rebel States shall have formed a constitution government in conformity with the Constitution of the United States in all respects, framed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said State twenty-one years old and upward, of whatever race, color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion, or for felony committed under the laws of the United States, and when such constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for election of delegates; and when such constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification who are qualified as electors for delegates; and when such constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, and Congress shall have approved the same; and when said State, by a vote of its Legislature elected under said constitution, shall have adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by the Thirtieth Congress, and known as article 14, and when said article shall have become a part of the Constitution of the United States, said State shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted thereon on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this bill shall be inoperative in said State; *Provided*, That no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by said proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall be eligible to election as a member of the Convention to frame a Constitution for any of said rebel States; nor shall any person vote for members of said Convention.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That until the people of the said rebel States shall be, by law, admitted to representation in the Congress of the United States, any civil governments that may exist therein shall be deemed provisional only, and, in all respects, subject to the paramount authority of the United States, at any time, to abolish, modify, control or supersede the same, and, in all elections to any office under such provisional governments, all persons shall be entitled to vote, and none others, who are entitled to vote under the provisions of the fifth section of this act; and no person shall be eligible to any office, under such provisional governments, who would be disqualified from holding office under the provisions of the third article of said Constitutional Amendment.

The 3d section of the Howard Amendment referred to above, is as follows:

Sec. 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President or Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

OPINIONS OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS ON THE BILL.

[From the National Intelligencer.]

At a late hour last night the reconstruction bill passed the Senate, with the odious House amendments included—amendments that should have palsied the hands that penned them, as they will blacken, in after days, the character of those who pushed them forward to a successful consummation. We know that the better sort of Republicans desired at heart that that form of embittered proscriptiveness should not be forced upon them, but the hebeities of fanaticism and mercenaryness were all-powerful, as is seen by the apparently despairing vote against the bill.

[From the National Republican (President's organ).]

As it will be observed, this bill passed the Senate yesterday evening. If the President approves of the measure he will make himself a military despot over ten States of the Federal Union. He cannot sign it with honor. It sets aside the Constitution and Supreme Court of the United States, disregards all civil authorities and laws, and confers absolute power, unlimited and uncontrolled by men upon the President. We sincerely hope and believe that he will return the bill with his objections, and throw the responsibility of having enacted such a monstrous law upon its authors.

[From Forney's Chronicle, (radical organ).]

The measure of Congressional reconstruction is complete. It leaves nothing to inference. It is clear—it leaves nothing to doubt. While with one hand it excludes traitors from control, it restores the common or natural rights to all loyal men, and accompanies the pledge with the protection. At one full swoop the whole system of oppression, whether State governments or State laws, falls to the ground. For the first time since the beginning of the world man has been secured the full opportunity to prove himself worthy of self-government.

We have received a communication from the Eastern part of the State, protesting against the passage of the bill now before the Legislature for making four new Judges and re-arranging the Judicial Districts. We deem it unnecessary to publish the communication, as it is not probable it would have any effect to prevent the passage of the bill, especially while there are so many members of the Legislature, and others, who want new offices created so that they can get a place. The election of four new Judges would bleed the State Treasury to the amount of eight or ten thousand dollars annually.

The Legislature has given away nearly all the stock the State owned in the N. C. Railroad to other projected works of internal improvement. A bill passed the House of Commons on Tuesday last, to transfer \$500,000 of N. C. Railroad stock to the Cheraw and Coal Fields Railroad, a line intended to run from the Coal Fields in Chatham county, N. C., right across the W. H. Char. & Ruth Railroad, to Cheraw, S. C., and thence to Charleston. That's building up North Carolina ports with a vengeance!

SPITEFUL.—Mr Stokes, a member of the House of Representatives from Tennessee, is in favor of confiscation (although he was himself once a secessionist). In a recent speech in Congress he said:

"God willing, and I living, there shall be a question propounded to this House and this nation whether a portion of the claims of loyal men shall not be paid by the confiscated property of rebels."

HORSE STEALING.—Horse and mule thieves had better be careful now how they appropriate such animals without permission of their owners. The Legislature has passed a law making the penalty death for the first offence.

SUNDAY WORK.—The Mayor of Raleigh arrested and fined some merchants of that city for selling goods on Sunday.

Now the Mayor of Washington city ought to arrest the U. S. Senate for working on Sunday. That body sat all Saturday night (the 16th) and until 6 o'clock Sunday morning, having under consideration the reconstruction bill. It don't pay to work on Sunday.

LOOK OUT.—A resolution has been introduced into the U. S. Senate, declaring the pardons heretofore granted by the President null and void.

BREAD WANTED.—We have received a communication from Lancaster, S. C., written by respectable gentlemen, stating that many of the people of that section are destitute of bread, and asking relief. The casualties of war, and the almost total failure of the corn crop in Lancaster District last year, have left the people in a very destitute condition. The drought prevailed so severely in this and two or three adjoining counties last year, that it may be out of the power of our people to afford relief—farmers in Mecklenburg and Union are now getting their supplies of corn from abroad—but if any one has anything to spare let it be sent to Dr. J. F. G. Mittag at Lancaster, S. C.

We see that the citizens of Newbern are taking steps to contribute corn for the relief of our South Carolina neighbors.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Important to Farmers—A Liberal Offer—J Y Bryce & Co.
\$100 Reward—Thos M Paysinger, Sheriff of Newberry District, S. C.
Lime, Corn, &c.—W M Peggam
Good Home-made Iron—Brem, Brown & Co
Flour, Oats and Corn—Hutchinson, Burroughs & Co
Irish Potatoes and Flour, Just Received—Hammond & McLaughlin.
Iron, Bacon, Irish Potatoes, Rice, &c.—S B Meacham.
Hides for Sale—S M Howell
Auctioneer and Agent—S A Stewart
Country made Flour—A Berryhill
Court Orders—Wm Maxwell, Clerk.
Seed Oats, Corn, Bacon, &c.—W Boyd.
Molasses arrived—O G Parsley & Co, Wilmington.
Tobacco at Auction—S A Harris, Auc'r.

CURTAL EXPENSES.—Now that Congress has determined not to permit our State Government to be managed and controlled by its civil officers, where is the necessity for the Legislature to pass a heavy Tax Bill for drawing money from the people to pay officers that will not be permitted to discharge their duties according to our State laws. What use can be made of a State Adjutant General and a State Militia? Under the unfavorable circumstances in which we are placed, would it not be better to abolish or suspend for the present several salaried offices.

GEN. BARRINGER ON THE N. C. RAILROAD.—A series of communications have recently appeared in the Raleigh Sentinel, from Gen. Rufus Barringer of Charlotte, concerning the bad management of the N. C. Railroad by the Directors. Gen. Barringer writes in a bold style, and certainly "without gloves."

Mr Josiah Turner "spies to Gen. Barringer, but he fails to answer the charges."

"Our friend Yates, of the Charlotte Democrat, we regret to see, exhibits a trembling and weakened fear at the proceedings of the gong beaters, lest they have southern rebels hung, for not falling down and worshipping the renegade who flourished for a few brief months as Provisional Governor of North Carolina. The Democrat also twists our people for not adopting the Howard Amendment, and expresses the belief that if a different course had been pursued, our political situation would have been much better. Doctors differ, brother Yates; and we are to-day proud of our native; we are proud of our people; we honor Jo. Turner for his boldness in 'opposing Gov. Holden's administration;' and the rejection of the Howard amendment was a declaration that our people would not be a party to their own humiliation."—*Goldboro News*.

Our friend of the News, when the pinch comes, will find that we are about as strong-kneed as any who opposed the Howard amendment or the re-election of Gov. Holden. When Lee and Johnston surrendered, and the Federal soldiery took possession of the State, and when it was uncertain what would be our fate as a people, or what punishment would be inflicted on individuals or communities, we never went to Gov. Holden and begged for help and promised to support him, as many did as soon as he was appointed Provisional Governor, but who afterwards opposed, abused and denounced him. We do not mean to insinuate that the Editor of the News did so, but we do say that many did so, and afterwards turned round and, in violation of their voluntary promises, abused and denounced him unnecessarily. They are to blame for whatever contention and bad feeling now prevails in this State.

In view of recent developments, we think the News is too hasty in saying that "the rejection of the Howard amendment was a declaration that our people would not be a party to their own humiliation." The News certainly forgets that many of those who urged the rejection of the Howard amendment, recently favored a far more degrading plan—one which placed the negro on an equality with the white man at the ballot box. Why don't the News denounce the advocates of the "new plan." Besides, it is rather late to talk about the "humiliation" of adopting the Howard amendment after "our people," by their own votes, adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery, after they repudiated the State debt, and after they have begged pardon of the U. S. Government and promised to stand up for it hereafter. Entirely too late to talk about "humiliation" now.

The News is perfectly welcome to honor "Jo. Turner" for his "boldness" in opposing Gov. Holden, and may boast over the rejection of the Howard amendment, but it seems to us that such conduct does not indicate either boldness or strong-knees. The News can see, in the recent action of Congress, that such "boldness," as Mr Turner and his clan exhibited, has played the mischief for the Southern people.

"Jo. Turner," as the News calls the gentleman of Orange county, opposed Gov. Holden and helped to inaugurate strife, in order to gratify a little party spite; and our friend of the News and old politicians generally opposed the Howard amendment because it prevents a certain set of office-seekers from holding the offices for awhile.

Gov. Holden has said and done a great many things that we do not endorse, but has any good been accomplished by abusing him? That game has been tried long enough to show that much harm results from it. We hope the News will agree with us in this respect and govern itself accordingly.

A few words more about the Howard amendment and we have done. We did not like that amendment, but we favored its adoption to prevent worse terms from being forced upon us. The amendment left the question as to who should be voters with the States to decide for themselves, and if we had adopted it promptly, we should not now be forced to adopt negro suffrage or remain under military government without common rights or representation in Congress.

We suspect that our esteemed cotemporary, the News, and many others who assisted in adding to the difficulties which now environ us, by their assaults on Holden and opposition to the amendment, are convinced by this time of their error, but are too stubborn to acknowledge it. It seems, according to the action of Congress, that we shall all not only be forced to take the Howard amendment, but negro suffrage and proscriptive of the white man along with it. How does the News like that? Will it not now confess that it would have been better if we had taken the Howard amendment alone when we had the chance?

We have no spite to gratify and no particular favorites to elevate to office—and certainly do not desire to see any one punished for political opinions—but we shall not hesitate to show, whenever we think proper, who has assisted in obstructing reconstruction and causing more degrading terms to be forced on the South. We blame the Radicals, but some of our own so-called leading men (who profess opposition to radical rule) are not free from censure.

Some of our cotemporaries are complaining about being cheated by persons at the North sending them advertisements and neglecting or refusing to pay for the same. They might have expected that. We have long since determined not to publish any advertisement from the North unless it was paid for in advance, and not then if it was calculated to deceive our readers. All "gift enterprises" and "lottery" concerns, "agents wanted," "wonderful" "patent medicines," &c., are nothing more than swindling affairs, intended to rob people of their money. We warn people to have nothing to do with such concerns, if they do not want to be cheated.

We have received a copy of the Minutes of the South Carolina Conference, M. E. Church. After looking over them carefully we are unable to ascertain much about the business transacted by the Conference. The most of the book containing the Minutes is filled with mercantile advertisements, almanacs, &c. Whoever got up the work displayed rather bad taste, and the Conference ought to see to it that such a "bungle" is not again issued for the Minutes of the Church.

We hope that steps will be taken at an early day to bring to punishment under the law those who have been guilty of interfering between the freedmen and their employers, or who have enticed or decoyed the former from complying with their contracts. A deal of embarrassment has been caused to many of our farmers, by persons coming or sending into this section for hands, who have not been very scrupulous how they got them so they succeeded. While many farmers have been obliged to engage two or three sets of hands before getting settled for the year, others, notwithstanding they employed several sets, are now without hands and will we fear, be compelled to forego all idea of making a crop except what they make themselves; consequently much land will lie idle in this county, one of the best in the State for cotton.—*Wadesboro Argus*.

If the Legislature would amend the law, so that a negro's testimony could be taken against a white man who tries to induce him to violate his contract, guilty parties could be punished.

MECKLENBURG FEMALE COLLEGE, CHARLOTTE, N. C.—We are happy to say that this new Institution, has commenced its First Session, with encouraging prospects. Quite a large number of pupils for the times have been matriculated, and the spacious halls of the establishment are filling up rapidly. We are glad to know that an able and accomplished corps of Teachers are at their posts, and that the Organization is likely soon to be completed.

The following constitute the Faculty in part: Rev. A. G. Stacy, A. M. (Late President of Davenport Female College) President.

J. L. Jones, A. M. (Late President of the Masonic Female College, Ga.) Professor.

Miss Mary T. Lee, (Graduate of Greensboro Female College), Instructor.

Miss Sue Anderson, (Graduate of Yorkville Female College), Instructor.

Miss Emma L. Bernheim, (Late Teacher in the State Normal School, Charleston,) Instructor.

Professor Jones is from Georgia, and will be a most valuable acquisition to the College, and to the community.—*Charlotte Times*.

GOOD GIRLS.—The Holly Springs (Miss.) Reporter knows several girls in that Section who were raised in the lap of luxury, with fine arrangements to ride in and money by the thousand, before the war, who can now chop wood, drive a two-horse wagon, go to market, and do all the household work. They can go in the kitchen, too, and prepare a dinner equal to a French cook. And then call on them in the parlor, they will treat you to such music as would make the heart listen with wonder and admiration. These girls have cheerfully conformed to the change in their pecuniary circumstances. The reporter thinks they are worthy of being the wives of the greatest and best in the land, and so think we.

SHOCKING AFFAIR IN A BALL-ROOM.—A shocking scene occurred at a ball at Thurman, near Leicester, England, on Wednesday night, January 16th, given by a gentleman of that village to a party of friends. It seems that the ball had not been long begun when the dress of one of the ladies caught fire through being brought in too close contact with the fire grate. Becoming terrified by her situation, she rushed about the room, and ignited the dresses of three other ladies, which being of such light material, were speedily in a blaze. Mr Jacques, house surgeon of the Leicester Infirmary, who happened to be one of the party, aided with others, extinguished the flames as quickly as possible, but not before the ladies had been considerably burnt—two of them seriously so. Their injuries were at once attended to, but, at last accounts, they were not out of danger. The scene in the ball-room may be more readily imagined than described. It is hardly necessary to add that the occurrence of such a catastrophe had the effect of bringing the evening's entertainment to an abrupt termination.

A RATHER IMPROBABLE STORY.—The Washington Republican, of yesterday, has the following new and ridiculous account of an affair that our readers will recollect as causing some little gossip at the time of its occurrence. It is wonderful that the Yankees never, by any accident, got the facts of any case, let the same be a riot, a display of flags, "outrage on freedmen," or what not. We shall not be at the pains of putting them right in this matter.

It is stated that a few months before the fall of Richmond, Virginia, while the Rebel Congress was deeply concerned about the cruelty and barbarity of the North, a woman of that city walked into the House of Representatives and attacked three members with a cowhide, castigating them mercilessly. At last the Speaker caught the virago in his arms and held her there until she went into hysterics. She said her intention was to chastise the whole body because of its abuse of the North, and she made a very good commencement certainly. After her departure the House passed a resolution that the body recommend to the press the impropriety of making public the unhappy incident, as a matter calculated to bring reproach upon the dignity of Southern legislators. The Richmond papers never mentioned the circumstance, and only recently was the story told by a reconstructed member of the defunct House.

A MIXIN' OF THE BABIES.—Some time ago there was a dancing party given, "up north," most of the ladies present had little babies, whose noisy perversity required too much attention to permit the mothers to enjoy the dance. A number of gallant young men volunteered to watch the young ones while the parents indulged in a "break down." No sooner had the women left the babies in charge of the mischievous devils, than they stripped the infants, changed their clothes, giving the apparel of one to another. The dance over, it was time to go home, and the mothers hurriedly took each a baby, in the dress of her own, and started some to their homes ten or fifteen miles off, and were far on their way before daylight.—But the day following there was a tremendous row in that settlement; mothers discovered that a single night had changed the sex of their babies—observation disclosed physical phenomena, and then commenced some of the tallest female pedestrianism; living miles apart, it required two days to unmix the babies, and as many months to restore the women to their natural sweet dispositions. To this day it is unsafe for any of the baby mixers to venture into the territory.

Latest News.

THE LEGISLATURE.

RALEIGH, Saturday, Feb. 23.

The House of Commons adopted a resolution to adjourn sine die on the 4th of March.

The following bill has passed both Houses and is now a law:

AN ACT TO ABOLISH IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful to arrest or imprison any person upon any original writ, for debt, assumpsit, covenant or any other breach of contract, issuing out of any court of record in this State, or upon any warrant issued from any Justice of the Peace, nor upon any *capias ad satisfaciendum* issuing from any court of record, or from any Justice of the Peace in this State.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That all original writs shall only summon the defendant to be and appear at the next Term of the Court, to which said writs are returnable; *Provided*, That if the plaintiff for any action of debt, assumpsit, or covenant, shall make oath in writing, that the defendant or defendants are about to remove himself or property beyond the limits of this State, and shall, at the same time, swear to the amount that such person or persons are indebted to him, and that the same is justly due, then the plaintiff shall have a *capias ad respondendum* or *ad satisfaciendum*, or a bail warrant to arrest the body of such absconding debtor; *Provided*, further, That if at any time after the issuing of the writ and before execution levied, the plaintiff, his agent or attorney shall make oath before the Clerk of the Court from which the writ is issued, that the defendant is about to leave the State, then the Clerk shall issue an alias writ of *capias ad respondendum* or *ad satisfaciendum* as the case may be, and the defendant shall be required to give bail.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with this Act, be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That this Act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified this 21st day of February 1867.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The House of Representatives has amended the tax bill by removing the tax on Cotton after the 1st of September next. This was agreed to by a vote of 63 to 54.

In the Senate, Mr Yates of Illinois, presented a petition from 4,000 citizens of Charleston, S. C., asking for a territorial government for S. C.

CONGRESS.—Feb. 21.—The Senate Judiciary committee reported a bill providing that where property was confiscated by the Confederate authorities, the former owner may make proof before any Federal Court, and a commissioner shall be appointed by the commander of the district, wherein the confiscated land lies. The commander shall place the claimant in possession on presentation of the commissioners or Judges certified decision, and shall protect the claimants possession.

The Senate held an executive session, among the confirmations are John Read and William E. Bond, Tax Collectors for North Carolina.

The Special Committee to enquire into the sales by the government of Southern Railroads, has commenced investigations. Among the witnesses are Secretary Stanton, and Dr Powell of N. C.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—George Ellers was shot dead in court to-day by the father of the girl whom Ellers was on trial for ravishing in April last.

MISCEGENATION.—A white man of the age of fifty was married to a negro woman of Courtland, Ala., a few days ago. He was ducked in a pond and sent off by railroad by some person or persons unknown.

A Poem to be read either way.
I always did intend
Single my life to spend,
It much delighted me
To live from woman free,
I'm sure a happy life
Tis woman is the thing
To live without a wife,
A female to my mind,
I never expect to find,
A bachelor to live
My mind I freely give,
To take to me a wife,
Would give me a very life,
To think upon a bride,
I can't be satisfied,
It's sure a happy life
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To take to me a wife,
Would give me a very life,
To think upon a bride,
I can't be satisfied,
It's sure a happy life
Tis woman is the thing
To live without a wife,
A female to my mind,
I never expect to find,
A bachelor to live
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