

Congress.

Dec. 16.—In the Senate, a petition from Vermont was presented, asking that National Bank stock be exempted from local taxation.

The repeal of the cotton tax was resumed. Mr Morrill advocated the contesting of Commissioner Wells' positions, and offered an amendment exempting from duty imported cotton after April, 1868.

The House of Representatives will never consent to take one retrograding step from its advanced position in protecting all and promoting the cause of equal rights.

The resolutions passed, under the operation of the previous question, by a strict party vote, yeas 111, nays 32.

Mr Butler moved to suspend the rules to offer a resolution, that the indebtedness be paid as expressed in the bonds.

Mr Getz offered a resolution reciting that the cities of Boston and Pittsburg had recently elected Democratic Mayors, thus indicating a spirit of disloyalty which should be promptly suppressed.

Dec. 17.—In the Senate, the repeal of the cotton tax was resumed. Mr Conkling, of New York, proceeded to say that a helping hand had been extended to these destitute communities.

The discussion assumed a political turn, and the subject was postponed.

In the House, Mr Stevens introduced a bill regarding reconstruction. Objection being made, the bill was postponed.

Highway Robbery Frustrated.

In our last we published the fact of an attempt of a negro to rob Mr Cannon Cox, near Newburn, and his death at the hands of that gentleman.

Mr Cox at once came to the city and gave notice of the matter to the Sheriff and a Coroner's jury was summoned by acting Coroner, B. Sullivan, and after getting all the evidence returned the following unanimous verdict:

If about a thousand such rascals were choked to death every year, there would be less trouble among honest people.

The Conference proposed by Napoleon will not be held, as the leading powers decline to participate.

The Fenian funerals in the principal towns of England were prevented by the authorities.

South American advices report that the Paraguayans are on the offensive, with marked success.

The editor of the Albany (Ga.) News concludes an article, in which he urges the planters to send their cotton to market without delay, with the following well-timed suggestive paragraph which we commend to the attention of our readers:

"We are all in distress, and we must work together for our extrication. One dollar will pay a great many debts—afford much relief, if not allowed to stop too long in some over-affected pocket.

The Charleston Mercury of the 11th says that on Saturday Mr H. A. Reeves, of North Carolina, lost his pocket book containing between \$1,500 and \$1,600.

Gov. Humphries, of Mississippi, has received such information relative to projected outbreaks among the negroes in January that he has deemed it necessary to issue a proclamation warning all combinations for such a purpose that their intentions are known and they cannot succeed.

YELLOW FEVER "CHARGES."—The usual charge for attending yellow fever cases is \$100. Some physicians charge \$500; others \$1,000. One physician in New Orleans is said to have made \$50,000 during the epidemic, and another \$30,000.

FOR LETTER WRITERS.—Hereafter letters sent to Post Offices, directed with pencils, will not be mailed, but will be sent to the dead letter office. A note should be made of this by letter-writers.

South Carolina Conference.

This Conference met in Morganton, N. C., on the 11th inst., and adjourned on the 18th. The following list of appointments for the ensuing year was furnished us by our esteemed friend, Rev. W. C. Power:

CHARLESTON DISTRICT—A M Christberg, P. E. Charleston—Trinity, F A Wood. " Cumberland, bracketed with Trinity. " Bethel, John T Wightman. " Spring Street, To be supplied.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT—C H Pritchard, P. E. Columbia—Washington Street, Wm Martin. " Marion Street, S H Browne. " Circuit—Jos Parker.

COKEBURGY DISTRICT—W H Fleming, P. E. Cokesbury District—Wm T Capers. Cokesbury Circuit—J T Kilgo. Abbeville—Wm P Mounzon. Ninety Six—T G Herbert.

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT—R P Franks, P. E. Spartanburg Circuit—J D Carpenter. Rich Hill—J S Erwin. Packet and Fair Forest—J B Massebeau. Unionville and Cane Creek—O A Darby. Bell Mount—A N Wells.

SHELBY DISTRICT—J W North, P. E. Shelby—J W Humbert. Shelby Circuit—A P Avant. Lincolnton—Aug. W Walker. Dallas—C E Land.

Wadesboro District—F M Kennedy, P. E. Wadesboro Circuit—E W Thompson and W L Pegues. Cheraw—A J Stafford. Ansonville—A N Boone.

Mr James S Sherwood, of Westport, Ct., brought a suit last week against Mrs. James B. Gulyer, late Miss Elesia B. Coley, of Poplar Plain, Ct., for breach of promise of marriage.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION AS TO SUITS AGAINST NATIONAL BANKS.—New York, Dec. 11.—An important opinion was delivered by Mr Justice Ingraham at supreme court chambers yesterday, in the case of Pitt Cooke against the State National Bank of Boston.

Gen. Hancock, has ordered an election to be held in Texas, on the Convention question, and for delegates thereto from February 10th to 14th inclusive.

Agricultural.

Sheep as a Means of Improving Wornout Land.

That it might be possible to improve a field just capable of carrying 100 sheep by turning into it a flock of 200 we will not deny. But how would it be with the sheep? We have heard of grass growing two and three inches in a single night, but it was not upon land such as is now under discussion, and we are afraid that long before the grass had been so far improved as to feed the extra sheep, there would be no sheep to feed.

Unless we adopt the system of purchasing artificial fertilizers—a system which we have not much sympathy—the first object in any attempt to improve the soil must be to obtain food for stock, whether that stock be sheep or any other kind. We confess to a fondness for sheep. We believe that they are not half appreciated in this country as a department of ordinary farm stock.

The New and Elegant STORE HOUSE now occupied by C. M. QUERRY. Apply immediately to the undersigned.

FOR RENT, The New and Elegant STORE HOUSE now occupied by C. M. QUERRY. Apply immediately to the undersigned.

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS. PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

ELIAS & COHEN Have just received, direct from Europe, a beautiful assortment of Ladies' and Gent's Writing Desks, Photographic Albums, and other fancy goods, especially for the Holidays.

W. W. GRIER & CO., Have now a full line of choice Family Groceries and Provisions, which they are offering low for Cash.

Crockery. A nice assortment of Crockery, consisting of Plates, Teas, &c., on hand and for sale by

Celebrated Axes. The Celebrated Elephant Axe, "warranted," on hand and for sale by

Corn, Peas, Meal, Bacon, Hams and Sides, choice family Syrups, Sole Leather, Lard, fresh country made Butter, together with a general assortment of Family Supplies, on hand and for sale low by

Blacksmith Wanted. I want to employ a good Blacksmith for the year 1868. A liberal arrangement will be made. Apply to the undersigned near Cawan's Ford, or at this Office.

Just Received. A fine assortment of Cigars, Buckwheat Flour, White Lead, Leather, Saddles and Bridles.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Proposals will be received until December 23d, for the building of a Banking House for the First National Bank of Charlotte, N. C.

FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL, LENOIR, CALDWELL COUNTY, N. C. The Spring Term in this Institution will commence Jan'y 15th, 1868, and close June the 2d.

State of North Carolina, Gaston county. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Nov. Session, 1867. James Ferguson, Adm'r, vs. John Ferguson and Grace J. Adams. Petition for Partition.

State of North Carolina, Gaston county. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Nov. Session, 1867. Sarah Ferguson, Adm'r, vs. John Ferguson and Grace J. Adams. Petition for Dower.

Washington Items.

The agreement to adjourn over the holidays on the 20th inst., practically closes legislation in Congress until after the reassembling in January.

An order has been issued, dispensing with the Freedmen's Bureau officers and agents in Maryland, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee, after the 15th of February, 1868.

The usual raid on polygamy which occurs once in each session was made in the Senate by Mr Uragin, who introduced a bill which provides for the selection of grand and petit juries in Utah in such a manner that they cannot fail to take notice of and indict any person found guilty of wife stealing, and all the laws of Utah territory which in any way interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States are annulled, as is also the ordinance declaring the property of the church of Latter Day Saints free from taxation.

Some curious revelations are cropping out about the means whereby the Russian purchase was lobbied through. It was among the amusing things in legislative history to learn how rapidly Senators changed front on the expediency of the Russian purchase. It is estimated by shrewd lobbyists that it took about two millions out of the seven to secure the result.

The outcry for retrenchment in the government expenditures is growing louder and louder at Washington, and we trust will lead to some important reforms. A better place for a beginning could not be found than in the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House.

Gen. Seward, the inspector general of the freedmen's bureau, has been ordered to make a tour of inspection through the Southern States, with a view to closing its operations.

The House Committee on Public Lands has reported a bill declaring forfeited the lands granted Southern Railroads in 1856.

In the bill filed by the South Carolina Railroad company, to enjoy the construction of the Columbia and Augusta Railroad, the Court of Appeals has decided all points against the South Carolina Railroad company; so the work of construction goes on without let or hindrance.

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The National League.

The National League has been in session at Washington for several days. The telegram of the New York Times says:

"As an organization, the League at the North, as exhibited by the number of delegates, is decreasing, but the attendance from the South is large, and made up of delegates who evidently believe in what they are proposing to do. A very spicy debate sprang up on a proposition to declare universal suffrage as a cardinal doctrine of the Republican party.

HO! FOR CHRISTMAS. We are now receiving a large and choice selection of New

Toys, Christmas Presents, Notions, &c., and Confectioneries generally, to which we invite the attention of the public.

Photographic Albums, Very fine and Cheap, at

Mill and Land for Rent. We will rent the MILL and Ten Acres of LAND, on the Catawba River, known as "Lawing's Mill," on Saturday the 4th of January, 1868, for one year.

THE VARIETY STORE, (Delors Stenhouse, Macaulay & Co.'s Store.)

Sign of the Big Ship, Offers a Stock of valuable cheap goods at low prices.

Drugs and Medicines, Paints, Oils, and Glass from 8x10 to 24x30.

GROCERIES FOR FAMILY USE: Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Molasses, Bacon, Lard, Cheese, Snuff, Tobacco, Candles, Soap.

Boots, Shoes and Hats. Of the very low prices at which we can and will sell you all of these goods and many others not mentioned will astonish you.

NOTICE. MR. S. P. ALEXANDER is from this day our legally appointed Agent to sell Houses and make Collections for the year 1868.

Special Term of Superior Court. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Superior Court of Law, Union County.

It appearing to the Court that the business of this Court is too great to be done at the regular term thereof, it is ordered by the Court that a Special Term of the said Court be held for said County, on the 4th Monday in January next, and to continue in session for one week.

State of North Carolina, Cleveland county. Superior Court of Law, Fall Term, A. D. 1867. Wm. Falls and Nancy Dickson, Administrators, vs. Robert Falls and Esters. Petition to make Real Estate Assets.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that Nancy J. Dickson, Rachel Raiford, Noah Falls, and Parks and wife Amanda, are not inhabitants of the State, it is therefore ordered that publication be made, in the Charlotte Democrat, for six weeks, for said defendants to appear at the next term of this Court, to be held for said county of Cleveland, at the Court House in Shelby, on the 1st Monday after the 1st Monday in February next, and answer their petition, or judgment will be taken pro confesso as to them and heard ex parte.

State of North Carolina, Gaston county. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Nov. Session, 1867. James Ferguson, Adm'r, vs. John Ferguson and Grace J. Adams. Petition for Partition.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendants in this case reside beyond the limits of this State, it is therefore, on motion, ordered by the Court that publication be made, for six weeks successively, in the Western Democrat, a newspaper published in the city of Charlotte, notifying said defendants of the filing of this petition, and that unless they appear at the next Court to be held for the county of Gaston, at the Court House in Dallas, on the 4th Monday in February next, and answer the petition, the same shall be taken pro confesso as to them, and an order for partition granted.

State of North Carolina, Gaston county. Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Nov. Session, 1867. Sarah Ferguson, Adm'r, vs. John Ferguson and Grace J. Adams. Petition for Dower.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that the defendants in this case reside beyond the limits of this State, it is therefore, on motion, ordered by the Court that advertisement be made, for six weeks successively, in the Western Democrat, notifying the defendants, John Ferguson and Grace J. Adams, of the filing of this petition, and that unless they appear at the next Court to be held for the county of Gaston, at the Court House in Dallas, on the 4th Monday in February next, and answer the petition, the same will be taken pro confesso as to them and a writ of dower ordered to be issued.

To Mill Owners. WANTED, a Situation as Miller. Has had many years experience in running Steam and Water Flour, Grist and Saw Mills and other machinery, such as Wool and Cotton Cards. Can give satisfactory references. Address this office for particulars.