

W. W. HALL, J. W. SLEAZE, PROPRIETORS

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1888

SENATOR EDMUNDS is said to be working for the Presidential Chair and declined the seat on the Supreme Court bench in order that he might do more work to secure the prize in 1884.

AND now after thousands have been expended by the government in the trial of cadet Whitaker for cutting off his own ears, the cabinet has disapproved the sentence of the court dismissing him from the service; not because he was not guilty, but because the evidence was improperly introduced.

THE Senate has voted to restore the franking privilege and it remains for the House to say whether the bill shall become a law. Before this privilege was repealed some years ago almost every article known to civilized people was sent through the mails with the frank of Congressmen; now only the congressional record and parts of it can be sent free.

SENATOR JONES says, from a rough calculation made by him, the land under water or in danger of being submerged along the Lower Mississippi produced in 1881 a total of 150,000 bales of cotton, which at the ordinary price, \$45 per bale, amounts to \$6,750,000.

THE caucus of Republican Representatives has decided that any legislation looking to a reduction of the internal revenue tax on whiskey, tobacco and cigars is unwise and inexpedient.

SOME of the papers are making a fuss because Mason was tried by a court martial instead of a civil tribunal. The articles of war require that persons in the military service accused of crimes committed in time of peace shall be delivered over to the civil authorities for trial, upon application to the proper officers by or in behalf of the party injured.

NO application was ever made to have Mason turned over to the civil authorities and it has been shown that the civil authorities were notified that they could take charge of the prisoner and declined to do so; and then a long elapsed in which application could have been made.

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IT is probable that large areas of land will be rendered useless for cultivation this year, most of the land had not even been broken up and before this can be done and crops put in, after the water runs off, it may be too late to plant a crop and even should there be time, it will be almost a hopeless task to attempt it, deprived, as the people are, of food and stock not to say shelter.

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NO doubt the rich deposit left by the overflow will enrich the land but this may not be of much assistance until next year and if those who are trying to derive some comfort from this can find nothing better we think their hopes hang by a slender thread.

THE flood shows that the old levee system is inadequate to keep the Mississippi river in its banks since the drainage of the large tracts of land on either side has increased with more extensive cultivation.

CONGRESS should find some less expensive and more durable means of protecting the Mississippi bottoms and if necessary aid in the work.

Owing to the fact that the Governor's council refused to consent to an extra session of the Legislature, the Democratic meeting which was called on Monday was not held, it being the general opinion that there was no necessity for it.

IN answer to the suggestions of the Star and News and Observer we say that we believe that Halifax county will hold a Convention sometime before the campaign begins and that other counties to be affected by the change in county government will be invited to send delegates to some central place to take proper action in the premises.

THE Governor's council consisting of Secretary of State Saunders, Auditor Roberts, Treasurer Worth, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Scarborough met on Friday to take action in regard to calling an extra session.

COL. Saunders offered a resolution favoring the call and it was lost. A resolution was then offered by Dr. Worth advising the Governor that no necessity exists for an extra session because the present law regulating elections is sufficient for electing a Representative at large.

COL. Saunders entered on record his protest against the action of the council for the reason that the Attorney-General, the constitutional advisor of the council had given it as his official opinion that there was sufficient machinery to elect a Congressman at large and that the right of the people of the State to have the full number of Representatives in Congress was a right that ought not to be defeated by not calling an extra session.

WE do not know what effect this action of the council may have in future upon the State's representation in Congress, but if there is any doubt about the legality of an election at large an extra session would be proper we apprehend.

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