

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

On the 14th instant Congress will commence the task of counting the electoral vote. As all our readers probably know, a joint committee has been appointed from both Houses of Congress to devise a plan for the counting, and determining all issues connected therewith.

THE BILL.

A Bill to provide for and regulate the counting of votes for President and Vice-President, and the decision of all questions arising thereon, for the term commencing March 4th A. D. 1877.

Be it enacted, Sec. 1. That the Senate and House of Representatives shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the hour of 1 o'clock past meridian, on the first Thursday in February, A. D. 1877, and the President of the Senate shall be their presiding officer.

Section 2. That if more than one return or paper, purporting to be a return from a State, shall have been received by the President of the Senate, purporting to be the certificates of the electoral votes given at the last preceding election for President and Vice-President in such State, unless they shall be duplicates of the same returns, all such returns and papers shall be opened by him in the presence of the two Houses, when met as aforesaid, and read by the tellers; and all such returns and papers shall thereupon be submitted to the judgment and decision, as to which is the true and lawful electoral vote of such State, of a commission constituted as follows, namely: During the session of each House, on the Tuesday preceding the first Thursday in February, 1877, each House shall, by viva voce vote, appoint five of its members, who, with the five Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, to be designated as hereinafter provided, shall constitute a commission for the decision of all questions upon, or in respect of such doubtful returns named in this section.

On the Tuesday next preceding the first Thursday in February, Anno Domini, 1877, or as soon thereafter as may be, the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, now assigned to the first, third, eighth and ninth circuits, shall select, in such a manner as a majority of them shall decide, five of the Associate Justices of said Court, which five persons shall be members of said commission, and the

person longest in commission of said five Justices shall be the president of said commission. The members of said commission shall respectively take and subscribe the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear, or affirm, as the case may be, that I will impartially examine and consider all questions submitted to the commission of which I am a member, and a true judgment give thereon agreeable to the Constitution and laws, so help me God." Which oath shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

either House, acting separately in the manner hereinbefore provided, to direct a recess of such House, not beyond the next day, Sunday excepted, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon. And while any question is being considered by said commission, either House may proceed with its legislative or other business.

Sec. 6. That nothing in this act shall be held to impair or affect any right now existing under the Constitution and laws to the question by proceeding in the Federal Courts of the United States the right or title of the persons who shall claim to be President and Vice-President of the United States, if any such right exists.

The Florida Vote.

An we suggested twenty days ago would be the case, the difficulties around the Florida vote are being removed. We said on the morning after Governor Drew's inauguration that we did not see with a Democratic Legislature, a Democratic Returning Board, and a Democratic Governor, what was to prevent all the defects attending the action of Tilden electors from being thoroughly cured.

What, then, are the facts in regard to the Florida vote? They are that the Tilden electors were appointed by a majority of 94 votes. This judicially determines that the Tilden electors were duly appointed, and the only question that remains is whether the Legislature can, by another statute, cause the formal defect caused by the want of formal certificates. The requirement being one purely of State law, there can be no doubt of the power of the State Legislature to excuse and forgive its non-fulfillment.

The next news, then from the Florida Legislature will be that it has passed a statute recognizing the Tilden electors as having been duly appointed, and their votes as having been duly cast, and purporting their lack of certificates of appointment at the time of casting such votes. Presented to them in such shape as this we do not believe that any five judges of the Supreme Court of the United States could be found who, upon their oaths, will say that Mr. Hayes is entitled to the vote of the Electoral College of Florida; it will be remembered that these five judges were specially sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God to decide upon the law and the testimony in this particular case.

An Iowa Murder.

A MURDERER MURDERED HIS WIFE AND SISTER WITH HER SISTERS, WHO HAD POISONED HIS CHILD.

The St. Joseph (Mo.) Herald, of the 18th inst., gives an account of the terrible tragedy near Albany, Mo., enacted just across the line in Iowa. The paper says: About one year ago a man by the name of Phil Ames moved in that neighborhood, bringing with him a wife, a small child and his sister-in-law.

Sec. 7. That said commission shall make its own rules, keep a record of its proceedings, and shall have power to employ such persons as may be necessary for the transaction of its business and the execution of its powers.

In addition to this fact, for the truth of which we hold ourselves responsible, it is reported that the President, sick of Hayes as Hayes has been sick of him, has General Sheridan preparing a report that will show conclusively the utter corruption of the Kellogg faction, and that he will therefore be forced to recognize the Nicholls government. We give this as rumor upon the street. One fact is well known upon the streets and in the hotels and clubs, that Gen. Sheridan is open in his denunciations of Madison Wells, and asserts to use his own language, that in his report he will "sell" that gentleman.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Shoe Hiel, Robeson county, has changed its name to Tilden.

Sam'l R. Fowle, father of Judge Fowle, died at Washington, N. C., on the 13th inst.

Farmers in the vicinity of Warrinton are losing their horses by some prevailing disease.

In attempting to lift a loaded gun from a rack, a man by the name of Falkner shot himself near Wadesboro.

A society of young ladies in Concord has resolved that its members shall speak to any young man who uses "cloves" to perfume his breath.

A snake cloud is supposed to have passed over Charlotte, as five snakes were picked up about there the day after the showers of snakes fell in Memphis.

A Bilton company has leased for ten years the property of the old Cape Fear Company for the purpose of establishing and operating a paper mill at Wilmington, N. C.

Nisbet & Bro., a firm in Charlotte, threaten to publish the names and amounts of accounts of those customers who refuse to pay bills and yet wear fine clothes and live fast.

Mrs. Margaret Little, of Graysburg, advertises that her child, a boy twelve years old, was stolen from her, by one Frank Daniel, and offers a reward of ten dollars for his restoration.

The prisoners at Concord conspired and broke jail, but owing to the courage of Mrs. Burr, wife of the jailer who stood at the window with a pistol in her hand, only one made his escape.

A Raleigh young man tried to poison himself with laudanum and it was with the utmost difficulty that his life could be saved. Disappointment in a love affair is said to have caused the rash act.

Gov. Vance has issued a proclamation offering \$200 reward for George Lloyd, a fugitive from justice. Lloyd killed Mr. Wm E. Thompson, some weeks since, in the county of Orange, and fled the State.

of it, and the next instant a quivering body was suspended in air. A number of logs were then piled together, brush was piled upon them and the two inhuman beings paced in their midst. A match was applied to the pile, and all that now remains to mark the spot and the tragedy is a bed of ashes. The body of the murdered woman was recovered on Saturday and buried by the side of her dead child.

Startling and Conclusive.

The Hon. Zachariah Chandler was for three hours before the committee on elections and privileges of the house, and was put through an examination so embarrassing that at last, after declining to answer several embarrassing questions, he asked the privilege of time to answer. He was given until next Monday to consider. The committee have proof positive in their hands, being messages over the gentleman's signature, that he advised the manipulating of the ballots in the disputed States, and provided a corruption fund for that purpose. Mr. Chandler was not shown the proof possessed by the committee, and whether he answers or not, the result is precisely the same.

Thus we have coming to the surface, to be tested by the light of day, the dark conspiracy which was organized to cheat the people out of their choice and continue in power the gang of dishonest officials who, not content with degrading their places, have plotted to destroy the government by an attack on the ballot.

Watson Ruple, son of Rev. Jethro Ruple, of Salisbury, a promising young man, died at Davidson College recently from the effects of a cerebral fever received while playing shindy about six weeks before his death. A ball struck his head and burst the drum of the ear.

The Wilmington Star teases that a gentleman by the name of Huggins, residing at Stump Pond, Onslow county, together with his wife, a grown daughter and a little son, all died with diphtheria during the last week or two, within a few days of each other. The only member of the family left is an infant.

A party of capitalists have combined to make a preliminary investigation to satisfy themselves as to the true extent and value of the coal beds recently discovered on the lands of Rev. John T. Clark, in Rockingham county, N. C., and will commence operations as soon as the state of the weather will permit.

GENERAL NEWS.

A Chicago artist has painted a picture of hell, representing sinners in a lake of burning brimstone. He desires to sell it to some evangelist to be displayed in revival meetings.

The manager of the San Francisco Benevolent Association is accused of stealing the society's money, and spending it in profligacy. He had kept up a pretence of piety, and was an eloquent exhorter.

On Wednesday night a daughter of E. J. Pennington, Wilmington, S. C., was stabbed in eleven places by Lawrence Smith, and is now lying in a critical condition. Smith had been visiting the young lady for several months, and his action is supposed to have been the result of failure in his suit.

It seems to be generally agreed now that but one shot was exchanged between Messrs. May and Bennett; and that nobody was injured. Bennett clandestinely left for Europe Saturday at the City of Richmond of the Inman line. The reports of his marriage with Miss May are utterly unfounded. It is said he will remain abroad for two years. Nobody seems to know what has become of May. If the first circles of northern society can produce no better applicant of chivalrous romance than this, we suggest that they would do well to root lower hereafter, and to have less to remark about the barbarous South.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The policy of the Administration with regard to Louisiana seems to be to maintain things in statu quo until the Presidential question is settled.

The Democratic State officials in South Carolina have formerly demanded their offices from the Radical officials, with the purpose of bringing the whole case before the Supreme Court upon quo warrants. A decision in favor of the Democrats is relied upon.

Springfield Republican: The work of the Louisiana Returning Board in counting in Hay was so glaringly illegal that it ought not to stand. Constituted throughout in direct violation of the very law of the land, the board displayed all other laws when they stood in its way, and the result of all this lawlessness is no more entitled to stand than in 1874, when the leading Republicans in Congress compelled a reversal of its work.

Eight thousand, nine hundred and ninety partridges have been shipped from Salisbury this season. This species of bird will be scarce in our fields, in a few years at this rate, as fall are in our streams.

Robert Harris was shot by Cornelius Litaker in Rowan county on the 11th inst. and died on the 13th inst. The murderer has fled and a reward of \$200 has been offered by Gov. Vance for his apprehension.

The two little children of Mr. J. E. Lingley of Nash, died suddenly last Saturday precisely at the same hour. They were three or four years old and no one had notice that they were unwell.—Rocky Mount Mail.

A colored J. P. of Craven county was recently applied to for a warrant for the arrest of a negro charged with assault on another negro, with intent to kill—He said he didn't know how to write a warrant, and sent the applicant to another magistrate.

On last Thursday morning Mr. George Bowman, who resides near Mulberry, in this county, went to his stables to attend to his stock, as usual. Mr. Bowman was suffering with a cough and cold, and it is believed he died of heart disease.—Lenoir Topics.

Ulysses Vesson, a Frenchman, living three miles from Chapel Hill, had his dwelling burnt on Christmas. The snow was on the ground, and he and his wife and four children were forced to walk barefoot for a mile. Mr. Vesson has since died from the effects.

Concord Sun: While the late heavy snow was on the ground, a sportsman fired his gun at a rabbit in a hole under a stump and on going up to the place, found it a rabbit, "dead as a hammer" and it was so hard that the shot could not penetrate the rabbit fired at.

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A man by the name of Gasperson undertook to cross the French Broad a few miles above here in a canoe. The river had been frozen, and the ice was breaking up into huge blocks. They underlaid to pole the canoe through the floating ice when it was upset and both men hurried into the icy sea. Gasperson not knowing how to swim was drowned. The other man succeeded in getting ashore, and almost froze to death.—Asheville Pioneer.