



THE STATES: Distinct as the Billions, but one as the Sea. Western Democrat

BY JOHN J. PALMER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CHARLOTTE. Tuesday Morning, Feb. 5, 1856.

A SPEAKER AT LAST.

At the moment of sending our paper to press, on Monday night, we received information, through the politeness of gentlemen connected with the Central Rail Road passenger cars, which left Raleigh yesterday, that Banks was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, on Saturday last, by a plurality vote. This is a result to be deplored by every friend of a conservative, rational, and constitutional government, but one which every body was prepared to expect when the plurality rule was adopted. We shall look with no little interest to the names of those who voted for the plurality principle. It was tantamount to a direct vote for Banks, a man who has had the audacity to declare in his place on the floor of Congress, that he is unable to determine which is the best of the two races—the white or the black.

THE COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

The Southern Commercial Convention assembled in the Broad Street Church, at Richmond, on Wednesday last. Joseph May, the Mayor of Richmond, was appointed chairman, pro tem. The States of Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana, Missouri, Virginia, and the District of Columbia were represented.

FATAL AFFRAY.

Yesterday a free negro well known in this town by the name of Mice Taylor, was killed by a stab received from a knife while making an assault on a white man named James Donohoe. The fatal affair occurred in the South-Western part of the town, at a place called California. We learn that the negro was indebted to Donohoe, on account of lumber furnished him. Donohoe wanted his money, and the negro refused to pay him, alleging that he did not owe him any thing. A quarrel ensued, and in the next place a knife was drawn, and the assailant struck three or four times in the body, killing him on the spot. Donohoe, who did not attempt to escape, was arrested and lodged in jail.

STAMPEDE OF SLAVES.—A

stampede of slaves from the border Counties of Kentucky, took place on the 27th ult. When an attempt was made to arrest them at Cincinnati the slaves fired upon the officers, slightly wounding several spectators. One slave woman cut the throat of one of her children, killing it instantly, and severely wounded two others. Six of the party were arrested and eight escaped.

SOUTHERN EMIGRATION TO KANSAS.

On the 5th of April, a regiment of volunteers from Alabama will leave Montgomery, Ala., for Kansas, under the command of Major Buford. The regiment will be composed of 400 men divided into companies of 50 each, commanded and drilled by officers chosen by themselves. The outfit is to be six blankets, one gun, one knapsack and one frying pan. Major Buford is to pay the expense of this regiment to Kansas, and in return the members are to acquire a pre-emption and pay him out of that. The men are bona-fide settlers, who go to Kansas as a permanent place of residence.

ASSAULT ON HORACE GREELY.—Horace

Greely, editor of the New York Tribune while coming from the Capitol in Washington City, on the 29th ult., was attacked by Mr. Rust of Arkansas, who, with his fist, inflicted several blows on Mr. Greely's head, and when Mr. G. was approaching the National Hotel, Mr. Rust struck him on the arm with his cane. The assault, it is presumed, was made in consequence of some strictures in a Washington letter, published in the New York Tribune of Monday, on Mr. Rust's proposition in the House requesting the candidates for the Speakership to withdraw from the contest.

MESSRS. FULTON AND BARR.—The

Wilington Commercial of Thursday states that the unfortunate difficulty between Messrs. Fulton and Barr (the Editors) has been satisfactorily adjusted. No particulars are given.

APPOINTMENT.—The Postmaster

General has appointed Joseph W. McChaffie an additional route agent between Charlotte and Lexington, on the North Carolina Railroad, with a salary of \$700 a year.

KNOW-NOTHING LOGIC.—We

have about two-thirds of the Representatives in Congress, and the Democrats one-third; therefore the Democrats are responsible for the failure to elect a speaker.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER.

A Complimentary dinner was given by the citizens of Richmond to the Delegates of the Commercial Convention, on Friday last, at 5 o'clock, P. M., in the spacious saloon over the new Market-House, to which the Delegates repaired in procession, numbering about 300. Gov. Wise, Lt. Gov. McComb, and a number of other distinguished guests were present. During the course of the evening, Governor Wise and other

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

The Russian Czar Accepts the Propositions of the Allies as a Basis of Negotiations. Rise in Cotton—Fall in Bread-stuffs. The steamship Arabia, arrived at Halifax, on Tuesday last, bringing Liverpool dates to the 19th ult. Her intelligence is highly interesting: The Vienna correspondent of the London Times telegraphed on Wednesday, the 16th inst., at 10 A. M., that Russia had unconditionally accepted the propositions of the Allied Powers. This report caused immense excitement. It proved, however, to be erroneous. The Government despatch, published the next day, states that Russia has accepted the Allies' propositions only as a basis of negotiations. This news slightly relaxed public confidence, and less sanguine hopes of peace are entertained. Many think that Russia merely accepts the proposal in order to prolong negotiations, and thus gain time.

COLD WEATHER.

Need we tell our readers that the weather is cold—very cold—and a little colder than it has been at any other period of this very cold winter! The information would, we are sure, be nothing new. They have all found it out, before this time, if they have any feeling. We will state, however, for the benefit of our distant friends, that we had another weekly instalment of snow on Saturday night and Sunday last—making the fifth that has fallen on the one or the other of those days every week for the last five weeks. The weather is now bitter cold, and the "oldest inhabitant" is unable to tell when it will become warmer.

MECKLENBURG COURT.

The January term closed its session on Saturday last. No State cases of importance were tried; but an unusual amount of civil business was transacted.

POSTPONED.

A democratic meeting called for Tuesday last, to appoint Delegates to the State Convention to meet in April next, at Raleigh, was not held on account of a later day being deemed advisable for making the appointments.

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CONGRESS.

The proceedings of Congress, for the last week, are given below. The failure of the Northern Mail yesterday, deprives us of Saturday's proceedings, and the particulars of Banks' election as Speaker. JANUARY 24.—While the Clerk was calling the roll for the election of a Speaker, the Doorkeeper announced a Message from the President of the United States. Mr. Campbell (Ohio) objected to its reception. Sudden excitement sprang up all over the Hall, various gentlemen demanding to know the character of the communication. The Clerk vainly endeavored to enforce order. Amid the turbulence, Mr. Orr's voice was heard expressing a hope that the President's private Secretary might be permitted to state his errand. Mr. Craig claimed the right to be heard, declaring that he represented that district in North Carolina which first proclaimed its independence of Great Britain. What he further said was lost in the confusion, and cries of "Go on, Craig," "Hear him," "Hear him," "Order," etc.

THE GRAVE OF MADISON.—A

bill was reported in the Senate of Virginia, on Friday last, providing for the erection of a plain tomb, of granite or marble, over the grave of James Madison. Should the tomb be erected, it will bear the following inscription: "James Madison, born March 5, 1751, (O. S.) died 28th June, 1836. Virginia marks with sincere affection the grave of her son, the author of the Federal Constitution, the patriot and Statesman."

BOSTON SLAVE TRADERS.—The

horrible massacre of 260 Chinese, by the officers of the Boston ship Waverly, is a fit commentary on the pretended opposition of Boston to slavery. The Waverly was engaged, not in the African, but in the Chinese slave trade. It is true the Chinese slaves are called "Coolies," but the difference is in the name. The Chinese are carried to Havana and to Callao, to be sold. The Waverly had 442 of them on board. The mate shot one of them for alleged mutiny, and drove all the others down in the hold, closed the hatches upon them, and there being no circulation of air provided or thought of, in 12 hours, during which they were thus confined, 251 of the miserable creatures died! It is said, but that is hardly credible, that boiling water was poured down upon them while thus confined! The New England people imported and sold to the South the slaves with which they now say the country is "cursed." It seems that it only needs the opportunity of profit to induce them again to engage in the same business, notwithstanding their professed horror of slavery and the slave trade.

EXECUTED.—Joseph T. Williams

was executed at Roxboro' N. C., on the 24th of January, for the murder of his father, Francis Williams, late of Caswell county, but a native of Pennsylvania, Va., and until recently a resident of that county. The young man never seemed to despair of a pardon, and died without making a confession. This was a lamentable instance of the error of not training up a child with kindness and affection in the way he should go. The father was better any where than at home. He was rough in his manners, and violent in his temper, but true to his friends; and being very wealthy, was, I am informed, the heaviest endorser in the Danville Banks; and his losing by one man, did not impair his confidence in another. When called upon by the poor in his neighborhood, for meat or bread, it was usually passively bear with his chidings for laziness, &c., he would give them what they wanted. Though a sober man, he was very disagreeable in his family, and never spoke to his children except to blame them, and by his harsh manner, made them dread his presence. At the time of the murder, the father and son were living together, and the son being tired of such paternal restraint, and anxious to get in hands his part of the estate, lay in ambush, where he knew his father would pass, and shot him. The Milton (N. C.) Chronicle has the following notice of the execution: On the day of his execution he called a friend or two in jail, and besought them to join him in prayer until the last moment of his earthly existence; he sent out a supplication for the prayers of the vast multitude then and there assembled. The hour arriving for his execution, the sheriff, with a bleeding heart and tear-moistened eye, called for him. Taking Mr. Wm. Lyon (his father's friend and neighbor) by the hand and begging him to go with him and pray for him, he proceeded to the gallows, praying all the way until he arrived in sight of the gallows, when trembling like a leaf he gave vent to an expression of feeling that no pen can describe and which touched the most callous heart. Arriving at the gallows he sued for the last moment, and begged every christian on the ground to pray for him. It was here that the Sheriff read him a brief note, reminding him of future rewards and punishments—of the awfulness of dying with a lie on his lips—and invoking him to say, while he looked eternity in the face, whether he was guilty or innocent of the murder. He replied that "he had said all that he had to say about it—he was not guilty!" So the prisoner protested his innocence to the last moment. Mounting the scaffold and "forgiving every body," at 15 minutes past 12 o'clock, Williams' soul was launched into eternity.

RIGHTS OF MARRIED WOMEN.—The

New York Legislature has a bill before it, which provides that any married woman, whose husband, from drunkenness or profligacy, or other cause, shall neglect or refuse to provide for her support or the support of her children, or any married woman who may be deserted by her husband, without fault on her part, shall have the right to transact business in her own name, collect her own earnings and those of her minor children, and educate her children, free from the interference of her husband, or any other person. She may also bind out or hire out her minor children. Also, hereafter, it shall be necessary to the validity of every indenture of apprenticeship that the mother, if living with her husband, sign the same.

WEARING SHAWLS.—A young man

named Kirk Anderson has been arrested in St. Louis, Mo., for wearing a shawl, on the ground that it was not the apparel of his sex. The case came up on Friday, and Anderson was fined \$50. It has created intense excitement among the shawl-wearing gentry of St. Louis.

THE MARKETS.

CORRECTED WEEKLY BY C. H. ELMS & CO. Charlotte, Feb. 5, 1856.

Table of market prices for various commodities including BACON, HAMS, BEANS, BUTTER, COTTON, SUGAR, and various oils and flours.

COLUMBIA, FEB. 2.

The late arrival has advanced the price of cotton from 74 to 94. BACON—Hog round 12 to 14; Ham 14 to 15; Shoulders 10 cents per lb. CORN—75 to 80 cents per bushel. FLOUR—Common to superfine \$4 to \$9, and extra brands \$9 to \$10 per barrel. BEANS—75 to 80 cents per bushel. OATS—55 to 65 cents per bushel. POTATOES—Irish, per bushel, 50 to 75; Sweet, per bushel, 45 to 60. SUGAR, Leaf, 14 to 15; Brown, 12 to 13; Stone-raw, per gal, 10 to 15. Salt, per sack, 2 to 2.40. Tea, per lb., 75 to 80. Wheat, per bushel, 1.45 to 1.55. Whiskey, Western, per gal., 1.40 to 1.60. WOOL, best washed, 37 to 39; unwashed, 23 to 25. Yarn, bale, per bushel, 80 to 85. Closer Seal, per bushel, 85 to 100.

MARRIED.

On the 24th ult., at Live Oak, Richland, S. Carolina, by the Rev. J. S. Reynolds, D. D., J. HAMPTON BROOKS, of Edgefield, to MARY GOODWIN, eldest daughter of Governor James J. Adams.

DIED.

At the residence of his brother, S. W. Westbrook, near Greensboro', N. C., on Tuesday last, Rev. JAMES M. WESTBROOKS, of the Methodist E. Church.

PUBLIC MEETING

of the Friends of Temperance, ON FRIDAY, the 14th day of March next, all the Friends of Temperance, in the county of Mecklenburg, are requested to meet at the Court-House, in Charlotte, for the purpose of nominating candidates to represent them in the next General Assembly of North Carolina.

NOTICE.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of Davidson College will meet at the College, on WEDNESDAY evening, the 13th of February, at 7 o'clock. Feb. 5, 1856.—It

FROM SEBASTOPOL.

THERE is nothing new from the Crimea, by the last arrival, but at Sebastopol, on Trade Street, there is something new.—The undersigned has purchased of James Bryant, his grocery and Liquor establishment, and invites the public to give him a call, assuring them that he will accommodate them with articles of the best quality, and in a style to suit the most fastidious taste. Give Sebastopol a call, and judge for yourselves. WM. PHELAN. Feb. 5, 1856.—If

Charlotte and South-Carolina

RAIL-ROAD. THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING of the Stockholders of the Charlotte and South-Carolina Rail-Road Company will take place at Chester, on WEDNESDAY, the 14th of February, 1856. Stockholders and their families will have the privilege of going and returning free. Feb. 5, 1856.—It Sec'y and Treas'r

Office N. C. R. R. Company,

SALISBURY, JAN. 31, 1856. North Carolina Rail-Road.

Schedule for Mail Train,

On and after Thursday, the 31st day of January, 1856.

WEST.

Table showing departure and arrival times for the Westbound train from Salisbury.

EAST.

Table showing departure and arrival times for the Eastbound train from Salisbury.

JUST RECEIVING

AT F. W. AHRENS', NO. 4, GRANITE ROW, 50,000 IMPORTED CIGARS, Choice Brands, wholesale and retail. 1 doz. Mattresses, different kinds. 10 doz. Men's Fur Caps and Wool Hats. A large lot of Pantalon Goods, Flannels, Linens, and Domestic Goods. Choice East Colored Prints at 64 cents. Also on hand a large assortment of Fancy and Staple Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Clothing and Groceries. Cheap for Cash. Feeling grateful for past favors bestowed upon me, I would beg a continuance of the same, but would also feel very thankful if my friends would come and settle up and give me a little money as I need it badly. I am bashful and timid in asking for money and don't like to disturb you with my feelings day after day, and you will oblige Yours truly, F. W. AHRENS. Jan. 29, 1856.—If

For Sale.

I WILL SELL MY HOUSE with 2 LOTS, East of the Charlotte Depot. It is a good location for a mechanic workshop in town or on the Rail Road. It will be sold cheap, and on easy terms. Apply to J. Doody, on the premises. Jan. 22, 1856.—If

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