The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

VOL. 2. RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867. NO. 57.

THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The Trustees of the University, after a protracted meeting adjourned on yesterday. Very important business was transacted, which will meet the approval, we trust, of the friends of the Institution.

It was decided to make a radical change in the course of instruction, by adopting the plan of independent schools called by some the "University system."

Much more prominence is given to English studies and the Natural Sciences while the classics and mathematics are allowed their due weight. We will take pleasure in having those not readers the report of the committee appointed to frame the scheme, and, also, the leading features of the system.

It was found impossible to put the new scheme into operation before the middle of the Collegiate year. Hence it will go into operation in June next at the commencement of the next year. At that time a President and Professors will be elected to fill the various chairs.

In the mean time President Swain and the other members of the Faculty are requested, and will consent to remain at their posts during the next session, while Prof. W. C. Kerr, State Geologist, with the advice and consent of the Board of Literature, will give a complete course of Lectures in Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology to the Senior Class. The chair of Metaphysics will be temporarily filled by the Executive Committee. An Address will be issued to the people of the State by that Committee.

The Trustees are determined that the University shall be all that such an institution ought to be, and to one we say, God speed.

THE CONGRESS.

The proceedings of the body, so far, indicate no very decided action upon any subject until the holydays are over, beyond the action on impeachment.

The Reconstructionists in the House have pledged themselves to take no back step. Mr Stevens has already had his bill looking to an advance in Radical severity upon the South, and showing a purpose to gratify his own vindictiveness and that of Southern Unionists and Loyalists, against the true white people of the South. Our impression is, that hardly anything worse will be effected than that proposed in Mr. Wilson's bill, which, however, must encounter, if debate is allowed, a pretty severe conflict with the two-edged sword proposed by Mr Doolittle.

Mr. Stevens' new bill is constructed upon his assumption, that in the matter of reconstruction Congress is acting entirely beyond the Constitution, that the Southern States and people are entirely at the mercy and under the independent control of the Radical Congress, and acts at defiance not only the Constitution, but the other co-ordinate branches of the government. The proposition to empower the State Conventions, called as they have been without the authority of law and in disregard of all justice to the Southern white people, to remove the present State officials and to appoint others to their liking, who shall hold control in the event of the rejection of the new Constitutions by the people, and to supersede the military, is an abandonment of the Reconstruction Act, and a fuller assertion than any which has yet been recognised by the Congress that the States are simply conquered territories, having forfeited all rights and the future must go back as new territories and new States.—We doubt if the Congress is ready to go that length, but it will risk, in the face of the utter abortion which has been made of reconstruction, the carrying out of the Reconstruction Acts.

It will be seen that Mr. Garrett Davis, of Ky., has moved an investigation into the actual cost of the Freedman's Bureau since 1865. This proposition so wise and dictated by ordinary prudence, will be resisted by the friends of the Bureau, or if a committee is allowed, care will be taken in its composition and impediments will be thrown in its way, so as to prevent any report until after the Presidential election.

It it be possible, however, to obtain to-morrow accurate information both as regards its pecuniary cost and its evil workings, it should be done, and any attempt to continue the institution should be defeated, until the disclosures are made.

The tenor of the debate on the bill repealing the cotton tax after the crop of 1867, exhibited the real *animus* of those who were not favorable to its adoption. Mr. Conkling, of N. Y., could not avoid an unseemly bitterness towards the South, in opposing its repeal. His charge that the South had shown a disposition to concern itself more about its political rights, its representation in Congress, than its pecuniary condition, is wholly unwarranted by the facts.

GOOD FOR VIRGINIA. It is announced that the Auditor of Virginia remitted to Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., of London, on Saturday, upwards of fifty thousand dollars in Gold to pay the five per cent. interest due by the State of Virginia. Besides this, the State paid 2 per cent. interest on her State debt at home last July, and it is said that the cash will be on hand to pay 2 per cent. more in January next. This is highly creditable to the Old Dominion, for how it has been done, while she is taxed heavily both for State and Federal purposes, we cannot understand. We should indulge an honest pride if our dear old State could do so well.

SALES OF LANDS.

The idea is perfectly crushing for our land holders to be compelled to have their lands forced into market at the present time. So great is the scarcity of money, that lands sold now at auction, unless there are interested parties present to buy them up, will scarcely bring one-tenth of their value.

We are informed that the sale of property belonging to the fine estate of the late Seth Jones, of this County, was astounding, because of the meagre prices at which it sold. The plantation at which Mr. Jones resided, and which on several accounts was considered very valuable, sold for a little over $2 per acre. In other sections we hear of similar sales. Under such circumstances, it need not be wondered at, that our people delay payment and resort to every other possible means to raise money to pay debts, rather than have their lands exposed to public sale.

The consequence is, that confidence is destroyed, no one being capable of judging what he is worth or what he can pay, when forced to pay. It is for this reason that we have advised every person who knows he is bankrupt, to go at once into bankruptcy.

Would it not be far better, for poor men of families, instead of crowding into the towns and cities, where labor cannot find ready and profitable employment, where rents and wood are so high as to constitute one half the expense of a family, to go into the country and rent or buy lands and go to digging. The entire wealth of the South must be dug out of the soil, and the sooner more of us go to digging, the better.

DEMOCRATIC VIEWS.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Gazette*, gives the following views of the Democratic members of Congress:

"The Democratic members of the Reconstruction Committee have attended the meetings regularly, not with a view of participating in the business of the Committee, but to keep posted as to the purposes and designs of the Radical leaders. These Democratic members express themselves in strong opposition to the Southern people taking any part in elections or other proceedings under the Reconstruction laws and they urge that the Southern whites shall simply protest against the whole proceeding and withhold any assent to anything which is done, as they predict the time is not far distant when Congress will pronounce all these elections null and void, and will restore to the States their old Constitutions. Such is the firm impression of the leading Democratic statesmen here, and they are anxiously looking for the address to be issued by a committee appointed by the late Conservative Convention of Virginia. They express the hope that this address may be a simple appeal to the white people of the North to save them from negro supremacy

connived with any constitutional or other issues, and they declare their belief that the whole North will rise *en masse* and rally to the rescue. The Radicals on the other hand, defiantly declare their purpose to stand firm in defence and prosecution of their plan of Africanizing the Southern States, and the outside impression in Washington is that Congress will not vary its policy one iota."

CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.

From every quarter the accounts are most gloomy. The following is extracted from the Washington correspondence of the *New York Herald*:

"From several letters received here by a prominent republican Senator, it appears that the prospect for the winter before the white and colored people in Alabama and Mississippi is terrible to contemplate. One intelligent planter estimates that there is hardly enough provisions in the whole South to last over four months. He had himself already given notice to one hundred of his negro laborers that it would be necessary for them to leave before Christmas, as his supply of corn and bacon was nearly exhausted, and he had no means of providing for them. A number of planters had served a similar notice on their hands, and the result is that thousands of negroes will be left in a starving condition very soon. Bread riots are anticipated, and possibly bloodshed. A planter on Alabama writes that no one in a hundred or his class will be in a position to continue the cultivation of cotton next year. He says the utter ruin that prevails cannot be adequately conceived. The present low price of cotton, the enhanced cost of its cultivation, the export tax of two and half per cent., and the high rate of interest charged on borrowed capital have left five sixths of the planters in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Southern Georgia almost penniless. But it seems the burden of the misery will fall on the unfortunate negroes, unless the Freedmen's Bureau applies its large surplus fund to their relief. A wail also comes up from Virginia. In the Southern section of that State destitution prevails among the farmers to an alarming extent. On the Peninsula, unless relieved from some source, a good many negroes will perish through the winter for want of food and clothing."

GEN. ORD.—Gen. McCardle, the editor of the Vicksburg *Times*, having been arrested by Gen. Ord for his articles in the *Times*, publishes a card, in which he concludes as follows:

"I do not regard Gen. Ord as the Emperor of this country, and as I believe that President Johnson and Gen. U. S. Grant are his official superiors, I shall apply to *them* for relief and redress. If *they* cannot, or will not, strike from my limbs the fetters which have been placed upon them by the commander of the military district, if *they* cannot, or will not, remove the shackles which he has imposed on the *Times*, then the liberty of the press, the most cherished right of a free people, must be classed with those things which "perished in the using."

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, DECEMBER 12.—A brief Justice Peters, of Kentucky, in conformity with the law of the State, has issued a proclamation ordering an election to be held for Governor on the first Monday in August next, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Governor Helm.

THE FREEDMAN'S BUREAU.

It is often remarked, that one "must leave home to get the news," and we have often wondered at the remarkable success of many of the Southern correspondents of the Northern papers, in getting hold of facts which are well founded, among many that are not true.

The following Raleigh Correspondence of the New York *World* will surprise many of our readers, both in town and country.

Of Dr. Nagell we know nothing, from personal acquaintance, but W. R. Pool, Esq., is one of our aged and most respected citizens, whose veracity and integrity we have never heard called in question.

From the N. Y. World of the 16th.

NORTH CAROLINA.

GLOOM AND DESPONDENCY OF THE SOUTH—EFFECTS OF RADICAL RULE AND THE DECLINE IN COTTON—W. R. POOL—H. C. VOGELL—FREEDMEN'S BUREAU, &C.

[From our own Correspondent.]

RALEIGH, Dec. 12.

The condition of the country, as represented by your several correspondents in Alabama, Mississippi, and the other Gulf States, is in accordance with my observation and experience in this State. A wide spread gloom and despondency, like the pall of night, hangs over the people. Two years of Radical tyranny and Negro domination has done far more to disorganize society and render men indifferent to the present and reckless of the future than the five long years of their unsuccessful warfare. The failure of the cotton crops and the great decline in cotton has also brought pecuniary embarrassment, if not ruin, on nine-tenths of the planters. There is no emigration to the South. Real estate cannot be sold for half of its value. Trade and commerce are almost entirely suspended, and as a necessary consequence, your merchants must not calculate on prompt remittances for goods already bought, or a revival of trade in the spring. It will require more than one season of abundant "seed time and harvest" to repair the waste places of the farmer. Nor is this all of this sad but truthful picture, for go where you will, you encounter hundreds of lazy, lawless, vagabond negroes wandering about, ostensibly in quest of work, but in reality seeking whom and what they can devour. Daily reports come from all parts of the State of their robberies at one, and sometime murders, for it is by no means too modest or make them afraid of their deeds of darkness and blood, for their "I. L." masters whisper into their willing ears the Radical morality of plundering, and it needs be, murdering their "rebel oppressors," while the F. B., without the trouble of investigation often delayed and encouraged them in their diabolical acts. While your correspondent could enumerate many cases in support of the above charge, he will only cite one, vouching for its correctness. A few weeks ago, William R. Pool, Esq., one of the most respectable citizens of this county had his cotton gin, with his cotton crop, burned by some sable desperadoes. Soon after two of fifteen of the fattest hogs in the county disappeared, and still more recently several of his already reduced stock of negroes came up missing. Provoked and exasperated by these repeated depredations, he called on several of his neighbors to aid him in ferreting out if possible the guilty parties, and, accompanied by a civil magistrate, they soon discovered which one of his hogs had been slaughtered. Following the trail of bodily hairs and traces of blood, they were led to a cabin not far distant, occupied by an old negro woman and her son, known by the name of Albert Hinton; the cabin was searched and portions of a newly killed hog were found concealed in the old woman's bed. She called to the magistrate that her son brought it home a night or two previous; he stated that he had purchased it from a waggon on the public highway; but then being other abundant proof to justify his guilt, he was indicted for hog stealing. The next day, however, the negro hastened to this city and preferred charges against Mr. Pool before the Bureau, when the following insulting order was immediately issued and duly served on Mr. Pool:

"BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,
Office of Agt Sub Dist of Raleigh
RALEIGH, N. C. Dec 4

W. R. Pool—Albert Hinton complains that you have him with stealing meat. Mr Pool, things have come to a strange pass if a colored man cannot buy meat from a waggon on the road without incurring the charge of stealing. You had better look better than this man's house. Perhaps your tractors will enable you to get on the right scent. You might come to market and seize every piece of meat you find on the stand, on the same principle on which you charge him of stealing. You will please call at this office and explain this matter. These men shall be protected in what is just.

Yours respectfully,
H. C. VOGELL,
Agent Bureau R. F. and A. L."

Comment is unnecessary. I will merely add, that this Albert Hinton is a lusty negro of the most abandoned character. W. R. Pool, a gray headed old gentleman, long a director in the Bank of the State, and for many years the presiding officer of the county court, and H. C. Vogell, United States Army Sargeon, pseudo Baptist preacher, negro radical of the Sumner type, and the dignified "Agent Bureau R. F. & A. L.;" and this is the courtesy and justice often bestowed on the best white men of the country—the sympathy and protection often lavished on the worst black scoundrels in the land, by the agents and officers of "the best government in the world."

Permit me to ask how long should a stricken but law abiding people submit to such unjust and degrading *official* acts, inflicted by such negro worshipers as this fellow Vogell, "agent Bureau R. F. & A. L."—and the cry goes up from hundreds of thousands in all this southern land, as the voice of one man, how long will their brethren of the North submit to paying *millions* of taxes (see Grant's reports) to be squandered in building negro churches and school houses, and running the Freedmen's Bureau, thus pampering and supporting hundreds of Vogell's whose sole mission it is to make money, lord it over the white man, teach and preach negro equality, and thus gain political favor through negro supremacy?

M.

COTTON TAX AND THE COTTON CROP.

No fact, perhaps, connected with the [illegible] Congress, has shown, more fully, the lack of statesmanship in that body, than the tax imposed on cotton and tobacco. These two articles have formed the only [illegible] parts of the country upon which economical men relied for preventing the drain of coin to meet balances in Europe. It is, the reverse, plain, in our empire, that these two articles needed all the stimulus possible to increase their production. Instead of that, a heavy direct tax was imposed upon them, (the tax upon cotton being, perhaps, the highest ever known which operated directly as an *incubus* upon the home producer and a *stimulus* to the foreign producer. Moreover, the tax upon cotton was a direct tax, was imposed upon the most impoverished people, (compared with those of former conditions) in the world, and operates directly to discourage the re-hiring and labor of the black race, who had, by the [illegible] sale of the means of support [illegible] their labor.

Whatever may be [illegible] another respect, the [illegible] must regard the [illegible] the want of [illegible] in that race. [illegible] remove the tax at once. [illegible] crop makes the cotton [illegible] exception to the general [illegible] and most of our merchants, who are [illegible] to extend [illegible] be [illegible] food and [illegible] [illegible] and suffering. But why [illegible] an enormous expense to the [illegible] pay the collectors, when every [illegible] must be paid back in taxes [illegible] to the indigent and suffering [illegible] ing the continuance of the Freedmen's [illegible] from some other agency, [illegible] one merely experimental [illegible] of the government.

The New York *World* has the following observations on the bad effects of [illegible] the tax:

In considering the question of repeal, it behooves Congress to reflect that [illegible] the war which virtually put an end [illegible] trade in this channel. The whole stock of which was relinquished to competition [illegible] tions—our shrewdest rivals were not idle. Every sinew was strained to improve to the uttermost our absence from the coveted markets and to so effectually weaken our hold there as to prevent our future control of the trade on the determination of the war. No stone was left unturned, no plan untried. Government patronage, public and private enterprise, combined and individual efforts, heavy aggregation of capital, the stimulus of deep national jealousy and a general complete appreciation of the incalculable importance of success in the undertaking, were among the influences that were at work against us. In say nothing of the intense zeal that was certainly imparted by the realization that it was *then* or never with them that we might never again be so entirely and so long [illegible] to the great commercial arena of the world. And what was the result of all these [illegible] and capital? The result was that England, which sent from her shores in 1860 cotton goods valued at two hundred and [illegible] millions, exported in 1867 of these goods two hundred and thirty seven millions worth; in 1864, two hundred and seventy-four millions; and in 1865, two hundred and eighty-six millions—showing an increase of seventy-six millions in five years, at our cost, mainly. Retain the tax and you lessen the cultivation of the product in this country, and, impart, of course, appreciable stimulus to cultivate elsewhere. India, Egypt, and Brazil are all experienced in the production of the staple, and possess large [illegible] and the chief reasons why the American growth was used in preference [illegible] these other countries was [illegible] price, better start in the [illegible] lation of machinery to [illegible] Let America burden her [illegible] sive tax, thereby increase [illegible] rivals more room, and encourage [illegible] of machinery to suit [illegible] own, and no more could be [illegible] most exacting of her competitors. Trade bulletins show that in 1860 [illegible] the Liverpool market [illegible] cents; Brazilian, fifteen and [illegible] the same, and Indian [illegible] in 1864, in the same market [illegible] sold for fifty five cents; Brazilian, fifty six; Egyptian, fifty five, and Indian fifty four. In 1864, England [illegible] hundred and twelve [illegible] against two hundred and [illegible] 1860. Nine tenths [illegible] Great Britain in 1860, and [illegible] tenths of the quantity used by the factories of Europe was American, while in 1867 we were last on the list of suppliers. It Congress would know the [illegible] tax toward England, it has only to look at the fact, proved [illegible] for this country that [illegible] dies more than [illegible] millions for cotton in 1864, and [illegible] sixty six millions, and that [illegible] *countries* [illegible] *year preceding the war.*

The prompt repeal [illegible] ed by every consideration [illegible] ests of the country, and [illegible] of sound political economy.

The Civil Rights Bill work [illegible] ously in Baltimore, according [illegible] cial late press. But [illegible] Judge Nelson, of [illegible] can't be enforced [illegible] timony. The press [illegible] so that under the [illegible] man cannot be [illegible] man's testimony [illegible] bill gives the [illegible] privileges which [illegible] So a negro arrested [illegible] der of a Chinaman has been set free from custody. The Columbia Spy says: "It does injustice to the poor ruled foreigner, no matter how they are maltreated, they cannot establish the fact if none but their own countrymen are present. Yet we believe the law was due to the reckless disregard of the obligations of humanity shown by our Oriental neighbors.—*Wash. Express.*

Breckinridge has gone to Egypt and the Holy Land.

FROM ALABAMA.

MOBILE, DEC. 16. The *Advertiser* [illegible] information of the arrest [illegible] a planter of this city, who [illegible] fired the recent insurrectionary [illegible] in Baldwin county. The negro Shorter claims to be from Illinois or one of the Northwestern States, and says that he was sent to the radicals of that section to [illegible] information of his whereabouts [illegible] he was captured by the whites and [illegible]. When the deluded negroes of the [illegible] plantations heard of it they [illegible] crowds and clamored for [illegible] to them for summary punishment. [illegible] put [illegible] but the [illegible] and prevented them. [illegible] Shorter was [illegible] Court, and at Union Springs [illegible] Shorter [illegible] the prisoners [illegible] [illegible] the conviction [illegible] [illegible] had effected. In the [illegible] [illegible] the death of Jerry, [illegible] [illegible] Revolution [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] lettered Shorter [illegible] [illegible] the civil authorities, and the whole [illegible] with the evidence of the blacks [illegible] [illegible] expect to the country [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]