

The public printer has announced that the printing house must close unless an appropriation was made the last week, and that the publication of the Congressional Record must cease for want of funds.

In South Carolina it was proposed to pass a law providing that no person could vote unless they signed the check list. There began to be grumbling in the up-country where the ignorant whites live, and an examination it was found that the act would disfranchise at least twenty thousand red shirts, and shot-guns.

Nothing, since the Potter committee covered the Democrats with obloquy and ridicule, has occurred so injurious to the Democrats as Voorhees exodus committee. Voorhees has become the laughing stock even of his own party. The absurdity of creating any such committee at all, as if it was any business of the government if citizens were disposed to change their residence from one place to another, is only equalled by the fruitlessness of the enquiry, and the ridiculous puerility of its proceedings.

The two alternative bills offered by Mr. Dortch commend themselves to good sense. The first is, that the state shall grade the 45 miles from Asheville to Paint Rock, and then the President and Directors of said road shall have power to "contract with any person, corporation or company, to supply the necessary iron, etc., and furniture from Salisbury to Paint Rock."

It has leaked out that there was a ludicrous scene in the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, when Ben. Hill moved to report that Senator Kellogg was not entitled to his seat. Mr. Salsbury had hurried the Committee together, and looked around and asked if any one wanted to say anything. The Times correspondent relates the occurrence as follows:

Senator Angus Cameron looked at the Democrats satirically, as he said: "There is one Senator in the Senate who did not enjoy the formality of being voted for by even a pretended Legislature."

It is our purpose, not to discuss political theories, nor to enter into eliminations of principles, but rather to take a look at the personnel of parties, to study a little the geographical relations of affairs, to take an inventory of stock. The Post has been so much occupied lately in considering the details of the Republican party, that it has almost forgotten that there is any such thing as a Democratic party, which is to have any influence in the country hereafter.

1837 when Van Buren, Harrison, Welford, Hugh L. White and Willie P. Mangum were voted for,—since those old days when it was fashionable to have four or five Presidential candidates, things have not been so much confused as they are now.

Now things are badly speckled among the Democrats. Tilden, odious in all the south and parts of the north, dominates with his hideous visage over that old chieftain Thurman, the chivalric Bayard, and Hendricks, and Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, whom there is a disposition to push forward on the part of the south, on the same fallacious and hypocritical grounds as they put forward Mr. Greeley.

The Republicans on the other hand really have so large a surplus of excellent statements, fitted to be President, that they seem to be embarrassed which to take, and are carrying on a sort of good natured rivalry as to which they will select. The best evidence of the salubrious temper among them is the message which Mr. Sherman sends out to the people: "I do not think it necessary for me to belittle or arraign General Grant, Senator Blaine, or any one else."

As the probabilities now are there will be no nomination on the first vote at Chicago. No desperation in booming can very much change the present attitude of the situation. There is no evidence that the Sherman's or Blaine's strength will subside, and therefore, if Grant goes into the convention at all it will be with a diminished fraction. We look in any event for long and perhaps fluctuating voting, such as will inevitably be produced from the complicated state of things.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad was held in New York lately. The annual report for 1879 showed the gross earnings to be \$776,398.49, and the operating expenses to be \$525,677.64 leaving a net earning of \$250,720.85, but of this there was paid for construction, \$84,717.41; for equipment, \$12,900.11, and for interest on preferred bonds, \$55,000, making the balance to income account, \$118,003.33. The balance on hand Jan. 1, 1879, was \$34,842.60, which added to the other made a balance on Jan. 1, 1880, of \$152,845.93.

CARRYING SOUTHERN STATES.

The northern papers are enquiring as to the probability of the Republicans carrying some of the southern states. Among the statements we notice in the Inter Ocean an opinion of Col. R. W. Douglas to the effect that Grant could carry North Carolina. He might as well be said that any Republican would be likely to carry it with a fair vote and count.

Several of the other southern states would certainly go Republican with a fair vote and count. The certain Republican states of the south, that is those which have unquestioned Republican majorities are, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Lift off all intimidation, cheating and rascality, and let there be an honest expression of the public will at the polls and all these states mentioned are inevitably Republican.

Nothing can surpass the egotism of the average secession Democrat. They move and breathe all the time, and are constantly enveloped and enshrouded in an atmosphere of self conceit. There fore when the Supreme Court of the United States rendered its late decisions, confirming the supremacy of the federal government, most of the Burbon press of the south broke out in denunciation.

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There have been two international prison conventions held in the world, one in London in 1872 and one in Stockholm in 1878, and an international society has been formed for the purpose of forwarding the cause of reformatory penal institutions upon the plan substantially of John Howard, originated by him more than a hundred years ago.

are, we are confident, so anxious to avoid a solid north against a solid south. To make such an issue would be upon the part of the south the extreme of folly. Its duty is to obey, as it is the part of all parts of the country to obey, what has been declared to be the supreme law of the land.

THE SCIENCE OF PRISON REFORM.

The recent death of the Rev. Dr. Wines, who has become so distinguished as an advocate of reform in prison discipline, just as he had written the closing lines to the preface of a new work on this subject, affords an opportunity to say something of the author, his work and the subject itself.

The prison system of the United States, not being under the federal government, but under the control of the states, varies very much in character. In some states, as in New York and Massachusetts, prisoners are governed under the most enlightened ideas of preventive institutions, embracing the principles of humanity, while in some others, they are conducted according to old and barbarous ideas.

These great practical reforms, which cover so much of the field of prison management, and which have added so much to human happiness, and have tended so much to prevent the continuance of crime, have sprung especially from the hand of reformers, of whom Dr. Wines was one, and have been greatly furthered by the national and world conventions which he organized.

WHAT A COLORED MAN SAYS.

Mr. I. B. Abbott, a colored man, and editor of the Newberne Colored Samaritan paid a visit to this city, recently in the interest of his paper, and the order of Good Samaritans, and he gives the result of interviews among the colored people here, and a right good amount of good, hard, horse sense of his own—what may be called "knock down arguments" in favor of Sherman.

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ized and Christian world. How great are the demands of the subject upon the people of this state would become apparent on further information.

SHERMAN. The following letter from Secretary Sherman was addressed to Mr. M. L. Souder of Chicago, and explains itself:

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 10, 1880. MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 7th inst., in which you express your strong dissent to my retiring from the Presidential race, is received. I never for a moment have contemplated such a course, and the rumor you speak of was no doubt promptly denied.

Very truly yours, JOHN SHERMAN. In regard to political matters in Ohio the Secretary says that he is well satisfied with the time of meeting of the Ohio convention; in fact, that whatever time is agreeable to the committee is agreeable to him.

WATCH OUT FOR THE LONG FACED, SANCTIMONIOUS LOOKING INDIVIDUAL, WHO NEITHER LOOKETH TO THE RIGHT NOR LEFT, OR FORWARD, BUT DOWNWARD.

Thomas Boyd, an English diver, now living at Louisville, jumped the other day headlong from a span of a bridge over the Ohio, and fell into water a distance of 100 feet, but was taken out safe. He thinks that sometime he will rival Sam Patch.

Surveys are now in progress for the construction of a short line between Savannah and Jacksonville, Fla. Arrangements have been made to cross the St. Mary's River at Dixon's Old Trader's Hill. The Georgia Division will be known as the Waycross and Florida Company, and the road from Jacksonville to the Georgia line as the East Florida Company.

The Gate City Guard of Atlanta has decided to erect a memorial archway, which shall commemorate the reunion of the states and the return of peace, as distinct from the many structures erected in the north and south commemorative of events which occurred during the late war.

No public career is open to a Russian who does not belong to the official class; there is little independent professional life, and even commerce is in great measure confined within narrow and obsolete channels. In a word, the disease of Russia is not so much the absence of political life and freedom as the absence of any real life and freedom at all.

THE PROSPECTS OF MR. SHERMAN.

A statement having been telegraphed from Washington by some unscrupulous fellow that Mr. Sherman contemplated withdrawing in favor of Mr. Blaine, the correspondent of the Inter-Ocean sought Mr. Warner M. Bateman of Cincinnati, President of the Sherman National Committee at Washington, and broached the subject to that gentleman.

As for the further statement that Mr. Sherman in a recent conversation had talked quite strongly against Grant, Mr. Bateman said that he could not credit such a statement. It would be contrary to Mr. Sherman's habit in all his references to rival candidates, which had uniformly been kind.

If wives could be trained to hear at night the footsteps of a burglar as soon as they do those of their husbands, they would make the best watch dogs out.

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FOREIGN ITEMS.

The steamer Montana, the largest ship of the Williams and Guion line New York and Liverpool, run aground on the rock in Church Bay, four miles from Holyhead, and is likely to prove a total wreck.

One man named Railton, and six English women of the lower class, calling themselves the "Salvation Army," are holding meetings in New York on the streets and in low places, and making prayers. They are exhorters and propose to convert the whole world.

Ismael Pasha, the ex-Khedive of Egypt is living near Naples with his harem of dark-eyed Egyptian women, much to the scandal of the Neapolitans. He has gone to Rome and is going to Paris.

Gen. Grant has presented to Li Hung Chang, the Viceroy of Chili in China, a splendid silver pitcher, ornamented with ivory leaves, butterflies, beetles, etc., in bronze, iron and gold.

Lord Derby has gone over to the liberals, greatly to their delight, and greatly to the consternation of the conservatives.

There are to be two new Atlantic Cables sunk this coming summer, one from Valentia to Heart's Content, and one from Piacenta to Sydney.

Things are looking better in Russia. The Mansion House Relief Committee of Dublin have £117,124.

England, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, and the United States have agreed to the proposal of Spain for a conference, to be held in Madrid in May or June, to arrange with the Envoy of Morocco rules relating to protection by foreign powers over Jews and other subjects of the Sultan of Morocco.

The Jesuits are to be sent out of France.

Lord Beaconsfield is making a determined canvass for his foreign policy, and ignores the Irish question.

LONG AMERICAN BRIDGES.

Since the disaster to the Tay bridge there has been some uneasiness felt as to the safety of some of the iron and suspension bridges in this country. Many of them have spans much longer than those that fell into the Firth of Tay, the destroyed spans being only 245 feet long. That over the Susquehanna river at Havre-de-Grace has thirteen spans, each over 270 feet long. It was completed in 1866 of wood, and when nearly finished a large portion of the superstructure was blown down.

Mrs. Sherman. A Washington correspondent in speaking of several distinguished ladies there refers to Mrs. Secretary Sherman.

Not a beautiful woman, but one created with so much harmony that the whole mortal statue would have to be pulled apart to remedy the defect. Mrs. Sherman would make a most admirable "first lady"—the very best of all the candidates now in the field—for in all the years of her husband's official life at the Capitol, her unostentatious charity, her kindly deeds to the worthy and deserving has enshrined her as a patron saint in many a poor widow's heart.

Ex-Senator Clingman, of North Carolina, has, it is said, found upon his farm the mineral zircon in great quantities. It is opaque, of greenish hue and of great hardness. He subjected a crystal of it to the action of a blow-pipe for two weeks without perceptible loss of substance. He believes it the metal needed in the construction of the incandescent electric lamp and the very thing Edison has been searching for.