

On Wednesday night last Gov. Vance received the nomination as United States Senator by the Democratic Caucus. This settles the long vexed question as to Judge Merrimon's successor. Gov. Vance will be the peer of any member of that august body, and will reflect credit upon himself, his state and his country. We feel gratified at his nomination and will endeavor to witness his election next Tuesday.

As will be seen from the following letter, Judge Merrimon has withdrawn from the Senatorial contest. This leaves the field open to Gov. Vance. The election will take place next Tuesday:

RALIGH, January 13, 1879.

TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS: My friends have ascertained that whatever may be the popular desire for my re-election to the Senate of the United States, causes and influences have been brought to bear that will prevent my re-election.

I have no desire to disturb the quiet of the Democratic party by further contest over the Senatorship, and, hence, beg my friends not to mention my name further now in that connection.

I beg to express my most grateful thanks to friends in and out of the Legislature who have so generously and earnestly manifested interest in my behalf. I can never cease to remember them with feelings of pleasure and deepest gratitude, and I venture to trust that they will not have occasion to regret the confidence that they have reposed in me.

A. S. MERRIMON.

As it seems to be the order of the day to make suggestions to the Legislature—and by the way—who can make them so well as the people, we beg to make one, which we think is of importance. After careful consideration and several years' observation, we are inclined to the opinion that the agricultural lien law, by which a man is permitted to mortgage an unripened crop for supplies, has, instead of being a benefit, as it was intended, been a curse to our people. Instead of being a lever to prize them out of the slough of despair, it has sunk them deeper in the mire of despair. The lien law allows a person to pledge something not yet in existence for bacon, lard, sugar, guano, axe-belves, candles and other necessities and luxuries to be supplied by a merchant. After the mortgage is executed, the farmer begins to draw upon his newly established bank—and we all know that they generally draw freely enough to ruin themselves and sometimes the merchant, though the latter personage is generally enriched by it. We oppose the law because we think it directly tends to make men reckless, extravagant and regardless of their obligations. We all know that the majority of mankind are prone to extravagance and will spend freely when they have the opportunity. When we do not pay the actual cost for what we buy, but can get, not what our necessities demand, but our appetites and tastes crave, by having it "charged," but few, very few of us, can resist the temptation to spend more than we are able. It is so easy to buy and have it "charged"—and it is so difficult to pay "cash" and men love money so well, that when they are not allowed credit, they never go in debt. Thus it is with the man who mortgages his crop. Being naturally of a hopeful temperament, he makes his plans in the beginning of the year and says somewhat as follows: "I shall plant fifty acres in cotton and will make thirty bales, which will bring me 1 1/2 cents a pound; ten acres in tobacco, which will yield \$3,000 per hundred," and so on through the catalogue. When harvest time comes, however, instead of making thirty bales of cotton at 1 1/2 cents a pound, he makes about fifteen bales worth seven cents a pound, and half the tobacco and other crops he expected, worth half the price he hoped to realize from them. In the mean while he has given a mortgage and spent in proportion to the quantity and price he expected to realize—consequently at the end of the year when he settles, he has nothing, is frequently in debt, and is ruined. Now, this is no overdrawn picture; most observant men know it to be true, and numbers of our citizens know it from sad experience. But some say they cannot do without the law. The answer may be too plain and practical, but we think it nevertheless true that, if so, they had better quit farming, for he who has his farm behind a merchant's count

cannot hope to prosper, no matter how honest and liberal the merchant may be. If a farmer cannot make enough to live on, how can he expect or hope to live on the merchant and pay him his per cent? We know men who bought bacon shoulders last year at 15 cents that cost only 3 cents in Cincinnati. Who could live at this? But being bought on time, he did not feel it or realize it until his all was taken from him and sold. But some say they have been at it so long they cannot give up and live without the system. The answer is this; they cannot live under the system and the sooner they quit it the better. Those who avail themselves of the law will be brought to ruin—the sooner they stop the better. Starvation will come after a while, and we had better starve as free men than as another's slave. But the abolition of the law will not bring starvation. It may press us sorely for the first year, but those who give no mortgages, owe no debts and have what they make. If we have got to come to the pinch, better right now than when we are less able to bear it. Why, to a proud man, it is worth a year's privation to be master of his own and sell it when, where and to whom he pleases, instead of giving to a second party and consigning it to him and asking him as a favor to let you see the account of sales. Furthermore, the man who sells for cash and is master of what he makes, can buy goods at his own price. He who mortgages must pay another man's price. We believe the above are facts, and serious enough to warrant the repeal of the law. But some say a man has the right to do as he pleases with his own. It is also said to be true that laws are made for the good of the masses. It then, it is injurious to give a lien on a crop—it ought not to be allowed. But as sudden changes are often dangerous and produce distress, we would not have the repeal to take effect until January text. By that time we could be prepared for the change, but whether the law is repealed or not, let it be borne in mind, that nine out of every ten who mortgage for supplies, bring ruin on their households.

From Washington.

In consequence of the disheated action of certain States in refusing to meet their lawfully incurred obligations, there is considerable talk here among members of Congress of bringing in such an amendment to the constitution as will permit States to be sued. It is well known that the provision prohibiting the suing of States was adopted as an amendment to the constitution to put a stop to suits brought in consequence of acts done during the revolution, and which were becoming very embarrassing. But the public scandal and disgrace brought upon American credit of late very naturally prompts the inquiry whether the removal of this constitutional prohibition is not demanded by common honesty and decency. It is believed that the principles of fair dealing are so deeply imbedded in the minds of the great mass of the American people and their representatives that there would be no difficulty in securing such a constitutional provision as will compel defaulting States to do justice to their creditors. In the case of all of the States which are not paying interest on their bonds a calculation made by experts show that they would be able to meet their obligations by the levying of a tax so light as to be absolutely insignificant. As an evidence of how light the burden of taxation is at present in Louisiana, a gentleman now here, the owner of a plantation which could readily be sold for more than a hundred thousand dollars, says his taxes for last year were only \$200, and that his experience is only a sample of the experience of many others.

Murderous Outrages in Illinois.

CINCINNATI, January 10.—An Illinois dispatch says: "Tuesday night three men, named McFarland, Patterson and Maloney, entered the house of an old man named Nevil, near Peoria, and dragged him to a tree, tied him, and then pounded him until he was stunned and bleeding. They then assaulted and outraged Mrs. Nevil, aged 70, and her daughter, aged 20. They were all arrested."

Validity of the August Elections.

The case of J. W. Rhodes vs. J. G. Lewis, was submitted on Thursday last to Judge Schenck on a case agreed. Plaintiff was elected in August, 1878, Register of Deeds for Gaston county. The defendant was the old incumbent of the office and refused to surrender on the ground that there was no provision made by the Legislature for the election of a Register at the August election. The court held that the election was valid and gave judgment for the plaintiff. An appeal was taken by the defendant.

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An English medical journal says: "The more nearly a woman approaches the natural, the closer she comes to loveliness. Well yes, there was Eve, pretty near natural and doubtless lovely enough but hardly adapted to polar waves and sewing societies. Besides, if we remember correctly, instead of coming to loveliness, she came to the devil and to grief, and didn't seem to care a dam—Pat Donan."

Earthquake Shock.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., January 13.—A severe shock of earthquake was felt here about 11:45 last night, it lasted about thirty seconds, and appeared to move from southeast to northwest. Buildings were violently shaken, crockery rattled and doors thrown open. The shock was felt at St. Augustine and down the Gulf coast from Santa Rosa to St. Marks, as well as over the interior portion of the State. Nothing of the kind was ever experienced here before.

Heaviest Snow-Storm in Twenty Years.

CINCINNATI, January 10.—A heavy snow-storm visited Southern Ohio yesterday. It extended as far south in Kentucky as Richmond, delaying trains on all the roads in that region, and in some instances stopping them entirely. At Maysville, Ky., the snow was sixteen inches deep, drifting in some places to a depth of five feet. It was the heaviest storm for twenty years. Farmers are apprehensive of loss of stock.

Senator Graham's Bill.

Below we print an outline of the very important reform measure introduced in the Senate yesterday by the distinguished Senator from Lincoln, Mr. Graham. Mr. Graham will earnestly press the bill to a vote, and when the vote is taken the record will prove the fidelity of the Democratic party to the people and sustain its claims as the party of low taxes and cheap government. We shall watch Mr. Graham's bill with deep concern and interest. It makes the following reductions: Governor's salary \$3000 with a Private Secretary at \$500 and fees. Treasurer \$2750 with a clerk at \$1250 who shall be ex-officio treasurer of the boards of charitable and penal institutions and reserve a salary of \$75, for each board to be paid out of funds appropriated for the use of the board. Sec'y of State \$1000, and fees not to exceed \$1000, shall account to Treasurer for all fees and pay surplus over allowance into Treasury quarterly. Auditor \$1500. Superintendent Public Instruction \$1500. Librarian \$500. Keeper of Capitol \$500. Judges of Superior Court \$2000. Fees, mileage and compensation of Clerks, Sheriffs and other county officers to be regulated by County Commissioners on first Monday in March '79 and every four years, thereafter. [Amounting in the aggregate to the saving of about \$30,000 per annum.]—Raleigh News.

The Scaped Indians.

FORT ROBINSON, Jan. 15.—Saturday night the Indians in the bed of Indiana creek, on the Hot Creek road, strengthened their position. At noon on Monday, a twelve pound Napoleon gun was brought up but owing to the nature of the ground, could not be brought to bear effectually. Tuesday morning a reconnaissance showed that the Indians had escaped during the night. The troops, being without provisions, returned to camp to equip, pack a train, and start on a prolonged scout after the savages.

Washington Items.

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Political Points.

We learn from the New York Tribune that the Grant movement is booming no more; going to meet the Blaine movement probably.—Phil. Times, Ind. The bells of Shandon will not peal for Grant. Corik sends greeting to the patriots of the United States: "No third term capital to be made here.—N. Y. Star, Dem. Southern Items. Gen. G. W. C. Lee's suit for the recovery of the Arlington estate will be opened at Alexandria, Va., on the 21st inst. G. Watson James, Esq., editor of the Richmond Standard was married Tuesday morning to Miss Mary W. Southall, in Washington city. The Culpeper (Va.) Times of Wednesday says: "We hear just as we go to press, of the death of Mrs. Smith, wife of ex-Governor Smith, which we regret to announce." Professor Henry Dirk, while attempting a balloon ascension at Jonesboro, Arkansas, Wednesday, fell from the trapeze a distance of 1,000 feet, and was instantly killed. Twinklings. Chicago bid \$7,319,100 worth of building. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says Adam Black? That is the name of a man about dusky Eve.—Kistal Constitution. Some people resemble "Grandfather Clock," inasmuch as they have "tick-d" twenty years without stopping.—Broadford Review. For the third time since 1871 the Chicago pesthouse buildings have been burned. The loss is estimated at nearly half a million dollars. A man may be the noblest work on creation, but he doesn't think about it, when on hearing his name called in the street, he turns and finds that it is only some body calling his dog.—Louisville Courier-Journal. Chicago last week received—Flour, 49,509 barrels; wheat, 569,468 bushels; corn, 726,538 bushels; oats, 255,389 bushels; rye, 28,840 bushels; barley, 82,183 bushels; dressed hogs, 2,024 head; live hogs, 118,688 head; cattle, 15,620 head. A leader of fashion in San Francisco has had her chairs and sofas, and the cushions of her carriages stuffed with aromatic herbs, in imitation of a practice prevalent among Oriental nations. She lives in an atmosphere of constant perfume. Personal and Political. Ex-Governor Marshall Jewell seems to have the lead for the Connecticut senatorship, to succeed Senator Barsum. Dr. B. F. Walker, brother of Gen. James A. Walker, the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, died at his home near Staunton on the 9th inst. Texas has one hundred and sixty-four organized counties, and all their sheriffs are to meet in Austin next week to tell the Legislature how to diminish crime. Hon. Nat'l H. Hill, of Colorado, receded on Thursday evening, in the Republican caucus, the nomination for United States Senator. This is equivalent to his election next Tuesday. The New Orleans Noward Association, in their annual report, acknowledge the receipt of \$383,449 and the expenditure of \$380,185. They relieved 21,244 patients, of which 5,132 were colored. Marie Ange Vignes, an ex-paymaster of the French army, committed suicide in New York on Thursday, by shooting himself in the head with a pistol. He is supposed to have been in financial straits. Major L. W. Pon, the wealthiest planter and most prominent citizen in Jasper county, Ga., committed suicide the other day. He had spent several days in paying of his many employees, and it is supposed that the worryment caused temporary insanity. In Columbus, Ohio, a bill was introduced Friday in the Senate, giving the unclaimed bodies of those who die in public institutions to medical societies for dissection, to be operated on in the State of Ohio, and making the transfer of such bodies to other States a misdemeanor. At Washington, Friday night, at the Women's Rights Convention, Purvis, a Philadelphia negro, denounced Hayes and the Southern policy, and said the President is hand in hand with Senator Butler, the leader in the Hamburg riot. Fred. Douglas, however, gave him a handsome drubbing, and made a conservative speech. Farrell, the Quebec (Canada) murderer, was hung at that place Friday. As the drop fell he caught the rope with his loosely pinioned hands, and thus hung for a few seconds until the executioner, by a violent effort, shook the rope from his grasp, giving him a fall of about one foot. Farrell struggled convulsively for several minutes before giving up the ghost.

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