

VOL. 1.—NO. 260. SECOND EDITION. THREE O'CLOCK P. M.

THE LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. Gov. Worth to the People of North Carolina.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF PUBLIC OFFICERS, STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL.

Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts to be Qualified Without Delay.

Governor Worth's Address.

To the People of North Carolina: I congratulate you on the discontinuance of the provisional government in this state, by order of the president of the United States, and the restoration of civil government. This announcement has diffused joy throughout the state. We are now under laws of our own enactment.

In the transition from military to civil government, happily for our country, our past history has furnished us with no precedents to guide us, and hence you will not expect that the whole machinery of the newly organized government will be in perfect order at the start; but in your joy at the return of the form of government to which you have been accustomed, I hope and believe all classes will strive to preserve order, the more because all officers necessary to enforce the laws have not been appointed. The General Assembly will soon convene and finish up the work of reorganization. Under existing laws, it is believed, that the powers of all officers appointed under the authority of the provisional government, ceased with the discontinuance of the government.

Where clerks and sheriffs, elected in November last under the ordinance of the convention, have been qualified, they have power to execute the duties of their offices.

As no justices of the peace were appointed by the general assembly, it may happen in some of the counties, that the next term of the county courts cannot be legally held, but where such courts shall be held, or other acts shall be done by such provisional officers, their acts will probably be validated by an act of the general assembly.

The judges of the supreme and superior courts will be qualified without delay, and will hold the courts at the times prescribed by law; and in the event of the commission of any high crime, upon proper information thereof, they will provide for the apprehension or detention of their offenders.

In the incorporated towns, where the mayor and other officers were appointed by the provisional government, these corporations can proceed under their charter and corporate laws, to appoint officers. In cases where these elections can not be promptly held in strict conformity with such charter or laws, the election may be deferred for proper legislation; or irregular elections may be held in the expectation that such elections will be legalized.

The ordinance ratified 18th October last, provides that in all cases of appointments made by the provisional government, or directors in any corporation, they shall continue until the regular election of its officers.

The ordinance of the convention providing for the collection of revenue, authorizes the provisional sheriffs to carry out the same. They derive their powers to collect these taxes from this ordinance, and their office, as to this duty, is not determined by the termination of the provisional government.

In a short time all these irregularities will be remedied by the general assembly; and in the meantime, I am sure, you will maintain the enviable reputation of our people as to the observance of law and order, and prove how groundless is the calumny, that there are still among us persons who are disloyal to the government of the United States.

We did not go voluntarily into the late calamitous rebellion. The action of coterritorial states forced us to take sides in the strife. We elected to go with our section; and having taken our position, we acted with good faith to our associates, and bore ourselves gallantly in the fight. Being vanquished, we submit as becomes a brave people. The president, as commander-in-chief of the military forces of the nation, magnanimously trusts us. I do not believe, there is a citizen of the state who is unworthy of this confidence.

I confidently rely on your cordial co-operation in remedying the irregularities which embarrass the beginning of my administration.

JONATHAN WORTH, Governor of N. C.

IMPORTANT FROM CHILL. The Late Naval Engagement.

Capture of a Spanish Gunboat, &c., &c.

NEW YORK, DEC. 31. The steamer Atlantic, from Aspinwall on the 23rd inst., has arrived. She brings the California mails of Dec. 9th, and \$876,000 in treasure.

The news from the south Pacific is important. On the 26th of November the Chilean man-of-war Esmeralda captured the Spanish gunboat Carandagu, having on board the Spanish Admiral's correspondence.

The engagement lasted about half an hour during which fourteen Spaniards were wounded and two killed. The commander of the Esmeralda was promoted to post captain, and a subscription was commenced to present him a sword in honor of his success. Though the Spanish Admiral was only forty miles off he was ignorant of the capture until informed by the Chilean newspapers three days afterwards. The Chileans had also captured a launch of the Spanish gunboat.

The launch contained one gun and forty men, and was used for watching the movements of vessels near the shore. The Chileans had armed a small tug-boat, called the Independencia, with two or three guns, and at night she fell in with the launch, which fired at her and ordered her to stop. This done and the light put out, the Spaniards soon jumped aboard and found their selves prisoners.

Further particulars of the naval engagement between the Chilean and Spanish vessels state that the Chilean corvette was armed with twenty

32-pounders, and a crew of 122 men. The Spanish gunboat had six guns and 147 men.

The fight lasted only twenty minutes, when the Spaniards struck their flag. The Esmeralda fired but seven shots, nine of which took effect. The Spanish ship only fired four shots. She received one shot in her hull, and had her bowsprit and topmast carried away, and her rigging much cut up. The Esmeralda received one shot through her bulwarks. The prisoners numbered 121, besides the wounded.

The news from various South American ports is unimportant. The new government of Peru promises well. Several reforms have been initiated. The Spanish Admiral Borja was daily expected to ascertain if the government will confirm the Spanish treaty, which is most unlikely.

From New Orleans and Texas. NEW ORLEANS, DEC. 28. Three policemen were severely wounded on Christmas day by a gang of excited negroes. Some forty negroes were arrested, most of whom were armed.

F. D. Lubbock, lately released from Fort Delaware, has reached his Texas home.

In Western Texas the planters, farmers and freedmen are generally making contracts for the next year satisfactory to both parties. In central Texas the prospects are not so good, the planters being discouraged. On such as the sugar and cotton plantations of Brazos, Colorado, Correy, and other streams near the coast, Gen. Gregory is making a tour, addressing the freedmen, with a view to persuade them to make contracts for the next year.

Early this month, at Jefferson, Texas, the military sheriff, by force, in open district court, from the sheriff, two treasury agents who were indicted by the grand jury for swindling. The officer in command ordered the provisional judge of the court to release the agents, under a threat of punishment if he disobeyed, and the judge declined obeying the order.

Exciting Chase and Capture.—An affair of rather an exciting character took place last night between seven and eight o'clock. The policeman on the Market street beat, between Front and Second streets, detected a negro in the act of breaking open a crate of crockeryware which was upon the footpath in front of the store of Henry R. Perrin. The policeman attempted to arrest him, but the negro, being of almost gigantic size—we should say about six feet two or six feet three—and with strength equal to that of two ordinary men, broke from his grasp, and rushed down Market street, toward the wharf. Several other policemen joined in the pursuit. During the chase between Front street and the wharf several blows were exchanged, but the clubs of the policemen appeared to have no more effect on his head than they would have had upon a stone. Once he turned round and fired a pistol, the ball passing in rather dangerous proximity to the head of one of his would be captors. Upon arriving on the wharf, he was immediately plunged into the river. After he had got into the water the policeman observed him rise to the surface several times, and then lost sight of him entirely. Boats and lanterns were immediately brought into requisition, and a vigorous search was instituted, but nothing more could be seen of the swimmer, and, after some time, it was concluded that he had been drowned, and carried up stream by the current. Most of the policemen returned to their beats; but two or three, not being exactly satisfied at the turn affairs had taken, continued to hang around the wharf, and were rewarded for their trouble by seeing, as soon as everything was quiet, the negro emerge from the river. He was immediately pounced upon, and, being too cold and wet to make any resistance, was conveyed to the lock up, the keeper of which institution kindly consented to give him lodging for the night.

Flood in Pennsylvania. WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Dec. 23. There is an ice flood in the west branch of the Susquehanna, causing great damage. It is estimated that from sixty to seventy millions feet of saw logs, valued at one million of dollars, have passed here in the last twenty-four hours. It is the heaviest loss ever sustained by the lumbermen of that section.

The latest novelties in Paris fashions are jewelry and Egyptian and Carthaginian style, and hieroglyphics stamped or worked on ladies' dresses and crinolines.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED. Steamship Starlight, Pedrick, from New York, with merchandise and passengers, to H. M. Barry. Steamer North Carolina, Green, from Fayetteville, to W. H. Lutterick.

CONSIGNEES per Steamship Starlight. Worth & Daniel, A. E. Hall, C. M. Hall, S. Row & Bro. Sackford, Hans & Co., James Wilson, Andrews & Burdon, G. W. Myers, J. S. Tomham & Co., John Dawson, A. B. Newman, Kahnweiler, Bro. Harris & Howell, A. H. Nell, C. E. Foy, & Co., H. R. Perrin, G. Z. French & Co., Wil. Gas Light Co., A. & S. Witeover, Murray & Murchison, E. Willis, S. E. Funnell, Thos. Lynch, Hart & Bellie, W. H. Lupton, E. A. Keith, G. C. McDugald, Adrian & Vol. W. Fay & Rafferty, J. D. Love, Co., Kendall & Co., So. Express Co., G. & C. Brady, James & Ryan, W. H. McKelvey & Co., Preston & Flannery, H. Hartz, Ferdinand & Reustine.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Cash. We beg leave to remind our many patrons that the newspaper business is a cash business. Everything that enters into the composition of a newspaper calls for cash. All our labor demands cash weekly. White paper is a cash article in all markets. Telegraphing requires to be paid for in cash. Therefore, without cash a newspaper cannot be given to the public. Under these circumstances, it certainly cannot be considered unreasonable that we require cash from those dealing with us. We have an inflexible rule that forbids the sending of a paper out of the office until the subscription price is paid. We have heretofore been disposed to deviate from the cash principle in regard to regular advertisers and for job work. But the difficulty we encounter in making collections of bills thus contracted, forces us to adopt more stringently the cash system in all our transactions. If a job of work is worth ten dollars, it is worth it as well when ordered, as thirty, sixty or ninety days afterwards. The same principle applies to advertising. We are therefore constrained to announce that from and after the 1st of January, we shall require cash for advertising and job work, payable on the reception of the order.

T. M. COOK & CO.

THE RELEASE OF THE HON. GEORGE DAVIS.—A telegraphic dispatch was received here yesterday afternoon, stating that the Hon. Geo. Davis had been released from Fort Lafayette, and would probably arrive in Wilmington on Thursday morning. We are glad to see that the efforts of our citizens to obtain the pardon of Mr. Davis have not been in vain. The gentlemen who took the matter in hand have put their shoulders to the wheel in good earnest, and we believe that they will consider themselves more than repaid for any trouble they may have had, by the knowledge that they lent a helping hand to restore Mr. Davis to liberty. His release will be a source of rejoicing, not only to the people of Wilmington and the state of North Carolina, but of the entire south. Mr. Davis has always done his duty, in whatever position he has been placed. When he accepted the office of attorney general under the Davis administration, he discharged the duties which devolved upon him to the best of his ability, and the ability of Mr. Davis has never been doubted.

Now that the confederacy no longer exists, we are assured that Mr. Davis will accept the position of affairs, and prove a loyal and true to the general government as he did to that under which he served but a short time since.

President Johnson, by the release of Mr. Davis, adds one more strand to the rope which will, in a very short time, if it does not at present, bind the southern people to him.

It has been suggested that the friends of Mr. Davis should meet him at the depot, to welcome him home to his native town. Even without any organization, we are sure that the admirers of Mr. Davis, and their name is legion—will be pretty sure to show their admiration by giving him a hearty reception.

MAJOR'S COURT, JAN. 2.—A colored man, named Vanmore, was brought up before the mayor on the charge of going on board a flat-boat lying in the river, and using threatening and abusive language towards a white man named Lewis. Lewis stated that the prisoner came on board his flat and insisted on him (Lewis) "taking back" something which he had said. As Lewis had never seen the prisoner before, he did not understand what he was talking about, and concluded to give him in charge to a policeman. In answer to a question from the mayor, Lewis stated that at the time of the arrest the prisoner

was a "little drinker," but appeared to know perfectly well what he was doing. In defence, the prisoner stated that he had not the slightest recollection of the occurrence. He was ordered back to the cell until he could obtain security for his future good behavior while in the town, and, in addition, to be fined in the sum of \$5.

A colored man, named Milton, was brought forward on a charge of raising a disturbance among some of his own color. A witness stated that the prisoner visited his (witness's) boarding house, said that he was hungry, and was given something to eat, in return for which kindness he caught his host by the neck, threw him down on the floor, and struck him in the face with a brick, a proceeding which did not much tend to improve his appearance. He then drew a knife, but did not use it. The mayor adjourned the case until to-day, in order to allow him time for the production of witnesses for the defence, and, in default of \$100 bail, ordered the prisoner back to the cell.

A colored man and woman were brought up on a charge of disorderly conduct. The policeman who made the arrest stated that his attention was attracted, between 7 and 8 o'clock on Monday night, by hearing a woman scream in an alley at the back of Ellis & Mitchell's mill, and on going to the scene of disturbance, found the man endeavoring to drag the woman along with him. The male prisoner stated that he was attempting to take the woman to her home, but she refused to go. The man was ordered to be released, and the girl sent back to the cell until she could produce security for her future good behavior.

Exciting Chase and Capture.—An affair of rather an exciting character took place last night between seven and eight o'clock. The policeman on the Market street beat, between Front and Second streets, detected a negro in the act of breaking open a crate of crockeryware which was upon the footpath in front of the store of Henry R. Perrin. The policeman attempted to arrest him, but the negro, being of almost gigantic size—we should say about six feet two or six feet three—and with strength equal to that of two ordinary men, broke from his grasp, and rushed down Market street, toward the wharf. Several other policemen joined in the pursuit. During the chase between Front street and the wharf several blows were exchanged, but the clubs of the policemen appeared to have no more effect on his head than they would have had upon a stone. Once he turned round and fired a pistol, the ball passing in rather dangerous proximity to the head of one of his would be captors. Upon arriving on the wharf, he was immediately plunged into the river. After he had got into the water the policeman observed him rise to the surface several times, and then lost sight of him entirely. Boats and lanterns were immediately brought into requisition, and a vigorous search was instituted, but nothing more could be seen of the swimmer, and, after some time, it was concluded that he had been drowned, and carried up stream by the current. Most of the policemen returned to their beats; but two or three, not being exactly satisfied at the turn affairs had taken, continued to hang around the wharf, and were rewarded for their trouble by seeing, as soon as everything was quiet, the negro emerge from the river. He was immediately pounced upon, and, being too cold and wet to make any resistance, was conveyed to the lock up, the keeper of which institution kindly consented to give him lodging for the night.

STRAKER ELLIE KNIGHT.—We observe by a paragraph in a Newbern paper that the steamer Ellie Knight is to form one of a new line between that place and Baltimore. This vessel is now lying in this port, and we have been informed, as we stated in yesterday's issue, that she is to run between this port and Baltimore. It is our opinion that if the owner of the vessel wishes to make her a source of profit he will allow her to continue to make her trips to and from this port. We have several times complained of the scarcity of vessels to carry our produce to the northern states and to bring to us articles which we do not produce ourselves. The only regular lines of steamers that ply to and from this port are New York vessels, and our merchants do not always want to send freight to one place. We hope soon to see steamers plying regularly between this port, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other northern ports.

THE THEATRE.—Some days ago, it was rumored on the street that a dispatch had been received here from a theatrical manager, who wished to make terms by which he would be enabled to open the theatre in this place, which has now been closed for some time. We have waited for the confirmation of the report, but have heard nothing further of the matter. It is really strange that no one can be found who will take this matter in hand. In a town such as Wilmington, with a population of between twelve and fifteen thousand, there should be play-goers enough to support at least one theatre. The drama, when properly placed before the public, has a tendency to elevate their moral character, and many men who would never think of sitting at home and reading a book, would go to a theatre to see the very same works dramatized. Although the rumor we have alluded to has proved to be only a rumor, it is probable that some manager will be found energetic enough to take the matter in hand. This is the dramatic season, and if properly managed, the theatre would be a paying concern.

SPLENDID PICTURES.—We presume that many of our readers have seen the elegant photographs of General Robert E. Lee, on exhibition and for sale at Vanorsdell's gallery, a few doors above the Herald office. Those who have not seen them should avail themselves of the very earliest opportunity of calling. They are grand pictures, true to life, exhibiting every lineament in the peculiarly noble expression and beautiful face of the hero the south delights to revere. A copy of this picture should be in every southern household. Vanorsdell has them in all styles and every size. He has also a superb collection of other pictures, embracing the whole catalogue of those who distinguished themselves in the southern army during the late war. Any persons in want of pictures of themselves or friends will find Vanorsdell on hand, prepared to fill their orders at the shortest notice, and in the highest style of the art. Go and see him.

ANOTHER EXCITING CHASE.—About ten o'clock last night, the police discovered a man endeavoring to break into a store corner of Toomer's alley and Front street. The would be thief made off, chased by the police. He turned down an alley off Front street, clambered a fence, and got into the iron foundry of Hart & Bailey. The private watchman of the concern fired a shot at him, but without effect. The police made a vigorous search, but failed to discover the whereabouts of the runaway.

ATTENTION.—The attention of everybody concerned—and who is not—is directed to the timely and instructive communication of B. B. Vassel, Esq., special agent for North Carolina of the post office department. This communica-

tion abounds in useful hints to those transacting business through the post office, and should be read by everybody.

IRISH POTATOES.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Geo. Z. French & Co. have received a large lot of Maine potatoes (Irish), which are said to be the best in the world either for seed or for the table. We understand they are to be sold at the lowest possible prices.

STEAMER W. P. CLYDE.—The steamer W. P. Clyde, which arrived at this port yesterday, left New York on last Thursday. On the passage here she encountered some very heavy weather. Although not making so quick a passage as usual, she kept up her reputation as a good seaboat.

ACCOUNTED FOR.—The illness of one of our carriers will account for the lateness at which some of our subscribers have received their papers for a few days past. We hope to remedy the evil after to-day.

UNCALLED FOR TELEGRAMS.—Telegrams addressed to the following persons, remain in the telegraph office uncalled for: H. B. Perrin, Dr. J. D. Z. Roberts, G. P. Bouke, Capt. Robt. Stevenson.

STEAMER FAIRBANKS.—The steamer Fairbanks, which left this port on Monday, was inside the bar yesterday, being prevented from going to sea by stress of weather.

IN PORT.—There are at present in this port one brig, eight schooners, one sloop and one steamer. They are discharging and loading as fast as the work can be done.

PAPERS.—We return our thanks to Mr. J. M. Clement, of the steamship Wm. P. Clyde, for late northern papers.

BY TELEGRAPH. FROM WASHINGTON. UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.

No Understanding Between the Two Powers Relative to Mexican Affairs.

NAPOLEON SOLICITOUS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FRENCH TROOPS.

MAX. FAILS TO FURNISH THE QUID PRO QUO.

Affairs in Texas.

A Proclamation by the Governor, &c., &c., &c.

From Washington. WASHINGTON, Jan. 2. It has erroneously been stated that France and the United States have arrived at an understanding respecting the withdrawal of the French troops from Mexico, although it is known here in diplomatic circles that Napoleon is solicitous of doing so, Maximilian not having paid the monies promised by treaty for their continuance in Mexico.

From Texas. NEW YORK, Jan. 2. Advice from Texas state that the governor has issued a proclamation restoring so far as in his power to their civil rights all persons recommended for special pardon.

BY MAIL. EUROPE.

THE MESSAGE IN ENGLAND. Trial of an American Fenian. Cork Strongly Garrisoned. Increase of the Cattle Plague. A Collision and Loss of Life.

THE SPANISH-CHILIAN DISPUTE, &c., &c., &c.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALASIAN. Great Britain. LONDON, Dec. 17. It is stated that the health of the queen of Spain is still improving.

The king of Belgium was buried yesterday. The new king takes the oath to-day.

It is stated that the queen of Spain has accepted the mediation of England in the Chilean affair.

The trial of Captain McCafferty, the American Fenian, progressing at Cork, has resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff for the total loss. Leave has been given to move the case to a higher court.

The bullion in the Bank of England has decreased £448,215 during the week.

It is stated that Admiral Goldsborough, commanding the United States squadron of evolution in the European waters, had gone to Villafranca, near Nice, for winter quarters, where, it was expected, three more ships from America would join him.

President Johnson's message was generally received with favor, and regarded as friendly.

The London Times says the passage in President Johnson's message, which especially concerns England, ought to be accepted in a friendly manner.

The Morning Post remarks:—"The tone of the Times message justifies us in assuming that the Ameri-

can government are desirous of keeping on good terms with those whom they acknowledge to be their friends."

The Telegraph declares the documents respect the highest credit upon its author; that it furnishes the world with satisfactory accounts of the straight-forward honesty and fair play.

The King and Queen of Portugal had arrived in England on a visit to Queen Victoria.

On the night of the 13th the steamer Sumner, while crossing from Dover to Calais, was run into by the American barque Fanny, bound for Boston, bound from Rotterdam to Cardiff. The steamer was struck in the fore compartment, which immediately filled, and a gentleman and two ladies were drowned in the fore cabin. The rest of the passengers, among whom was Prince Christian, of Augustenburgh, the betrothed husband of Princess Helena, were saved, and the damaged steamer was towed to Dover by a Belgian mail steamer. The Fanny was towed into Dover with the loss of her stern and out-water.

With the trial of O'Donovan (Rossa) the first batch of the Fenian indictments was disposed of, and the special commission in Dublin was adjourned. On the following day the court opened in Cork, and the grand jury returned true bills against two of the prisoners, O'Connor and McCafferty.

A considerable military force had been moved into Cork, and every precaution had been taken to secure the peace of the city during the trial. Four gun boats were about to proceed up to Cork from Queenstown.

The Cork Herald contains the following:—"It is known that a number of our most skillful and experienced pilots from every part of the Irish seaboard have recently left the country for the purpose, it is believed, of taking charge of a Fenian expedition, on its arrival off our coast. A few weeks since a shipmaster, whose knowledge of every nook and cranny of the Irish coast was well known in nautical circles, left Queenstown as a saloon passenger by one of the emigrant steamers for New York, and it is generally believed amongst his friends at this port that he is to pilot one of the Fenian gun boats, whose power, it is said, will be directed against British commerce."

The "Yelverton case" is not yet finally disposed of, Miss Longworth (Mrs. Yelverton) having given notice of her intention to move for a new trial of her case against the Saturday Review.

The cattle disease continues to increase. The official return for the week gives the number of cases at 6356 being 1523 in excess of the previous week.

A conference, at which a number of agricultural societies were represented, was held in London on the subject of the cattle plague. Resolutions were passed calling upon the government to adopt stringent measures for arresting the progress of the malady, and urging the formation of a national assurance company, with a state guaranty.

Earl Russell has quite recovered from his indisposition. The London Star has reason to believe that the dispute between Spain and Chili is on the eve of an amicable arrangement. The mediation of England has been accepted by Spain, and there is every reason to believe that power is quite prepared to abide by the propositions which England may suggest.

France. The weekly returns of the bank of France exhibit a decrease in the cash on hand of four million francs.

The Paris Patrie says that the American minister at Buenos Ayres had visited Lopez, the Paraguayan president, whom he found willing to come to an agreement with the allies. Hopes are entertained that Brazil and the Argentine Republic, who had at first declined to treat with Lopez, will shortly be animated with different sentiments.

Greece. Another ministerial crisis had occurred. A proposition by the ministry that the chamber should be prorogued was rejected by that assembly, by eighty-four to seventy votes, whereupon the ministry resigned, and a new cabinet was formed.

THE POSTAL SERVICE. A Letter from the Special Agent

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE WILMINGTON HERALD.] POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. OFFICE SPECIAL AGENT FOR N. C., NEWBERN, N. C., Jan. 1st, 1886.

The subject of mail communication being one in which the people generally are interested, and as much dissatisfaction exists in consequence of irregularities and delays of mails, perhaps a brief statement of the causes may partially remedy the existing evils. These causes may be properly enumerated as follows:

First—Inadequate means of transportation. Second—Errors and delinquencies of postmasters and their clerks. Third—Errors and delinquencies of postmasters and their clerks. Fourth—Inattention on the part of route agents. Fifth—The carelessness and misapprehension of letter writers themselves.

First—Inadequate means of transportation. This is owing, partly to the worn out condition of the railroads, and, as far as northern mails are concerned, to the frequent failure of connection north of Richmond. The train from Richmond connects with the night train from Washington via Aquia Creek, and owing to storms, fogs, and ice, which may be expected on the Potomac at this season of the year, the connection must be oftener missed than made; hence a delay of one day at Richmond. There can be no remedy for this until spring; then, with the improved condition of the railroads, and the completion of the bridge at Weldon, it is to be hoped that nearly the old time can be made between points in this state and New York. Again—it is believed, that on many important stage routes no bids have been made for permanent service. This can be remedied by making proposals to the 21 assistant postmaster general.

Second—Inadequate number of postmasters. There are many important places even on the lines of railroads, where no steps have yet been taken to secure the appointment of a postmaster; this should be attended to at once. The inhabitants of all such places should select some persons of all such places of age—male or female—who can take the required oath, (commonly known as the test oath,) and make application for his or her appointment. This application, endorsed by the delegates to the convention, or the senator or member of the House of Commons, would meet with prompt attention.

Third—Errors and delinquencies of postmasters and their clerks. It is the custom of many, in fact most postmasters in the state, to mail all letters for a distant section of the state to some of the larger offices in that section, to be re-

mailed. This, postmasters in the west put all letters for the east in a bundle together, and send again. Postmasters in the east send all their letters to the mailed again. In this way letters are delayed 24 hours, or even longer. The following is the regulation of the department for the mailing of letters:

"Every postmaster will mail direct to the place addressed—1st, all letters for his own state or states and territories which should pass through a distributing office on their proper route to the office of delivery, and 2d, all letters on which the instructions 'mail direct' shall be written; they should not place the letters in the above different places in the state in the same package, and direct the package to the place where the letter is addressed. Wrapping paper and twine can be obtained on application to the postmaster. Postmasters receiving letters on which should have been written 'direct to office' should request the postmaster to whom they should be sent to discontinue his practice, and for a second offense should report him. Postmasters would receive great assistance in the discharge of their duties, by subscribing for the United States Mail, published monthly by the United States Mail, New York City. Address publishers U. S. Mail, New York City.

Fourth—Inattention on the part of route agents. There is little occasion to find fault with the above class of post office employees in this state, with a few exceptions. Route agents should inform themselves fully in regard to the geography of this state, of Virginia, and of South Carolina. They should strive continually to learn the various mail routes in operation, and to give matter its proper direction; packages addressed to post offices having a similar name as—Wilmington, and Windsor, Winstons, regularly exchanged with all connecting railroads, connect. Cases of failure to make up such pouches should be reported by postmasters and route agents.

Fifth—The carelessness and misapprehension of letter writers themselves. First under this head is the non-payment of postage. Notwithstanding the publicity given to the law in this particular, there are numerous letters dropped into the larger offices, bearing an old United States stamp, a revenue stamp, a confederate stamp, a two cent stamp, or no stamp at all. These letters are sent to the dead letter office, from whence they are returned to the writer, who is probably anxiously awaiting a reply to the letter. Second, illegible address. Many letters are deposited for mailing which it is impossible to read, and which are also sent to the dead letter office. The remedy for this is, for persons who cannot write plain letters, to employ a letter carrier, or to write their letters for them. Many newspapers also come under this class. The publishers of some of the leading journals of the state direct papers to their subscribers in so illegible a hand that it is difficult to read; some of our country papers use old newspapers for wrappers, writing the address with ink which spreads, or with pencil, which is often illegible. A publisher receives letters filled with complaints that the mail fails to bring their paper, while said paper is lying in some post office or mail car waiting for some one to decipher the address. Give us good plain directions, gentlemen of the press, and see that your letters do not get lost. Third—Insufficient address. Many letters (and papers for regular subscribers) are deposited for mailing directed to places where there never was a post office. There may be such localities as Smith's cross roads, or Brown's store, or Jones' mill—but if there is not, and never was a post office there, how can a postmaster or route agent know in what exact locality said roads, store, or mill may be situated. Again—while a letter directed "John Smith, Broadway," would reach New York, what can a postmaster do with a letter addressed "John Smith," Mulberry street. Too great care cannot be taken to put the complete and correct address upon a letter. Fourth—Families in mailing letters. There is a general disposition, especially among business men, to mail letters at the latest possible moment. This causes haste and confusion, and the greater the haste the greater the liability to mistakes. If people would mail their letters at the earliest practicable moment instead of the latest, they would be sure to get the mail for which they were intended, and much more certain to go right.

There are many other points which might be mentioned, but having already occupied more of your space than I intended, I will leave the subject for the present, hoping that the suggestions here thrown out, may not be entirely lost upon post office employees, or the public.

I am, sir, very respectfully yours, B. B. VASSALL, Special Agent.

FROM GEORGIA. Christmas in Savannah.

SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 26. Christmas day was celebrated here in the usual happy manner. The churches were open in the morning, and were exceedingly well attended. The musical and other services were very fine. In the evening there were some display of fireworks. The holiday passed most pleasantly, and many were the interchanges of kindnesses and courtesies. No accident occurred, nor did a single unpleasant thing occur to mar the beauty and holiness of the day.

Bridges Swept Away. SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 27. The Alcey and Yellow river bridges on the Georgia railroad, and the Catabochee bridge on the state road, were washed away by the heavy rain last Friday. It is still raining.

Affairs in Savannah. SAVANNAH, GA., Dec. 26. The trial of G. B. Latham, charged with an attempt to bribe the United States treasury agent having charge of cotton, commenced yesterday.

MEXICO. A Small Fight—Communication Open Between Tampico and the Capital.

27 Iris, a Spanish journal, published an order pique, on the 24th of December, commanding the Gulf of Mexico, asking known to the inhabitants of Tampico that D. Manuel Juan Pedro, with a force of forty-five horse, forming part of the expedition against Orizaba, was to be sent to the city of Orizaba, to meet the troops of Escobedo under the command of the general, and as well as Lieutenant Louis Barrman and five privates. The liberals were in possession of the imperialist eight lances, two guns, three pistols, twelve horses, twenty bridles and other articles of war.

The order, after congratulating the people on their success, states that it is the evident intention of the government to adhere to the empire. Communication between Tampico and the city of Mexico is pronounced open.

A naval despatch states that three of the imperialist steamers left the scene of action at Matamoros without having fired a shot. The liberals leaving without waiting for reinforcements.

John Y. Mason, Jacob Thompson, J. P. Benjamin and Colonel Fuller are in London. Mr. Silliman, Mrs. Gwin and daughter, Judge Root and Major Huse, are in Paris.