







JOHN G. ATWOOD, Editor.

HARRISONBURG, VA.

Wednesday, May 10, 1871.

Gen. Sherman's Testimony.

General Sherman recently made a speech at New Orleans, in which he took occasion to refer to the so-called Ku Klux outrages in the South in the following words:

"I probably have as good means of information as most persons in regard to what is called the Ku Klux, and am perfectly satisfied that the thing is greatly overestimated, and if the Ku Klux bills were kept out of Congress, and the army kept at their legitimate duties, there are enough good and true men in all the Southern States to put down all Ku Klux or other bands of marauders."

Such honestly expressed views, from a man who can have no selfish ends to subserve, must exert no inconsiderable influence upon the minds of all candid men everywhere, and the country will be made to see the real motives of the miserable demagogues who have originated the various extreme measures that have been enacted for purely partisan purposes, regardless of the peace and prosperity of the South.

A correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, writing from Botetown county, says "there is a gloomy prospect for plants in the tobacco region, owing to the ravages of the fly. In the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax and Pittsylvania, the destruction of the young plants has been complete." Many planters would consequently plant out a short crop, and some none at all.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution of West Virginia, striking out the clause of that instrument disfranchising all who participated in the late rebellion, or sympathized with it, has received decided majorities in every county heard from, except Harrison.

DR. PRIME ON THE SOUTH.

We give below another letter from the senior editor of the New York Observer, on the deplorable condition of South Carolina. He is the conductor of a great public journal, probably one of the ablest in the country, a gentleman of the highest culture, and equally distinguished for his extensive knowledge of public affairs both in Europe and the United States. Let the whole country hear him! Let the secular and religious papers of the North copy his utterances! Especially do we commend this faithful statement of affairs, to these editors, who are constantly maligning and misrepresenting the people of the South—Baltimore: Episcopal Methodist.

The state of things in South Carolina, under the existing Government, is very nearly intolerable. Forcible revolution is not to be thought of; but in the judgment of many good men, an attempt would be right, if there were any hope of success.

An intelligent colored man, prominent in politics and an ardent member of the Republican party, deploring (while conversing with me) the course of the State Legislature. An eminent member of the Republican party, a white man, spoke of the Legislature with contempt.

I did not hear a white or black man in the State speak of the existing Government in terms of respect; but all deplored its course as unwise, oppressive and destructive of the best interests of the State.

In no other Southern State are things in so bad condition. In the other States which I have visited, there is hope of progress and improvement. In South Carolina there is none, or very little.

The present state of intolerable suffering is the result of two facts: one is the numerical majority of the blacks over the whites in the State, and the second is the unwillingness of the old settlers of the State to accept the situation and co-operate with the blacks in the Government of the State. The blacks outvote the whites. The white newcomers vote with the blacks. This gives the blacks and the new comers the complete control. They are masters of the situation. Ninety out of one hundred of the Legislature are negroes. The old settlers of the State are in the minority. The proportion is about the same in the Senate. If these colored men were intelligent, with ordinary qualifications for legislation, there would be no ground for complaint. But for the most part they are very ignorant and very incompetent, and many of them very corrupt and dishonest.

The land holders in South Carolina are owners of little else. They have lost all their property except these lands, by the war, and have now little or no ready money. They are recovering, and with legislation to help not to hinder them, they would be on their feet again after a time. Legislation ought to foster them, make things as easy for them as possible, and put the State on the track of advancement. Now see how it is done. Look at the State before and after the war:

1868.	1871.
Executive expenses.....	\$700 00
Legislative expenses.....	250 00
Judicial expenses.....	100 00
Salaries.....	450 00
Other expenses.....	100 00
Total.....	\$1,600 00

father is the Chief Justice, with a salary of \$4,000 and a contingent fund in his hands of \$5,000. The Speaker's father-in-law has \$1,000 for one office and \$1,000 for another. The Speaker's uncle is Circuit Judge, with a salary of \$3,000; and then follows a small army of the Speaker's kin, who have what to them seems a liberal share of the pickings.

And this colored Speaker's pickings and perquisites are a fair sample of the rest. And there is not the least justification for the enormous expenses of the government. When we see them doubt and quadruple, and the taxable value of the property not half so great as it was, and little money in the hands of the owners, to pay their taxes, and no market for their land when forced to sell, we see that the opposition is absolutely intolerable and totally without excuse.

The last Legislature also ordered the sale of 1870 and 1871 to be paid within the year of 1871, so that the total tax to be paid during this year is \$4,300,000, and to be paid by men who have no money, and whose land property will not bring a public sale the amount at which it is assessed. I have seen a lot of land assessed at six dollars an acre would not bring a dollar in the market now.

I have conversed with Republicans and Democrats, white men and black men, officials and citizens. The General Government, not the State, and every intelligent person, without exception, regards the present rule of the State as a travesty upon free government, too grievous and offensive to be borne. Probably there is not an honest and intelligent white man in the State of South Carolina who approves of the present rule.

Is there any remedy? If the blacks were intelligent and could read, they might be reached and convinced that their future interests are bound up with the prosperity of the State, and that they ought to put an end to the rule which will manage the finances of the State in the hands of ignorant and unscrupulous men. And there is no hope that they will, as a people, be materially better qualified to govern the State during the present generation.

If Congress would pass a general amnesty bill, restoring all citizens to equal rights before the law; if the patriotic sentiment of the whole country could be roused to control the present legislation in South Carolina, I shall see, patriotic and intelligent men, regardless of party politics, would put honest and intelligent men in the hands of the law, and the country would be made to see the real motives of the miserable demagogues who have originated the various extreme measures that have been enacted for purely partisan purposes, regardless of the peace and prosperity of the South.

The case of Smiley is a sad one. He had been confined in the county jail, at this place, from October last, until last week. He was tried at the April term of the Hastings court at Staunton upon the charge of murdering Joseph W. Black. We know nothing of the facts of the case, for we were not living in the county at the time of Black's death, and therefore had no preconceived impressions about it. We listened carefully to the evidence as given, and, in fact, made copious notes, with a view to their publication. The jury failed to agree on a verdict. To our minds, there was no evidence to convict, but ample to acquit. The testimony of Miss Cary, the main witness for the Commonwealth, established a clear case of self-defense. If her testimony was not to be believed, there was no evidence to fix the killing on Smiley. He was remanded to jail. A few nights after undergoing the trying ordeal of being tried for his life, the door of his cell was violently broken open, and a man named Holges taken there from by unknown parties, and hung in this vicinity. The shock to Smiley was terrible. The next morning, the authorities required that he should be present at the coroner's inquest over the body of Holges, to give in his testimony. He was taken to the scene of the tragedy. The sight was shocking to the senses of calm men to Smiley it was simply awful. He there saw suspended from a tree the ghastly figure of Holges, pined and foot. It was a fate meted out him without the forms of law. It was a penalty sought to be offered to him under the forms of law. That ghastly scene! That ghastly scene! That spiritless deed! It sunk like flaming steel into the very soul and mind of Smiley. 'Gorgon's dire' people his brain, reason gave way, and Smiley is pronounced an idiot hopeless man. He is admitted to jail, and permitted to return to his home and family in Rockingham. But there was no rest for his 'perpetrated spirit'—no anything balm in the ousness and gentle words of wife and children for the tempest raging in his mind. He is again brought to Staunton, and application made to have him admitted to the Lunatic Asylum. But that institution is filled to its utmost capacity, with at least fifty previous applicants lingering in county jails, for want of accommodations. Smiley is once more locked up in the cells of the jail, and there he is to-day, mind tempest-tossed, soul sick, bodily wearing away, a wreck of his former self.

We have no idea that Smiley will ever again be brought to trial. We do not believe he will ever regain his proper reason; and he is regarded as an entirely sane man. His agony of soul has been too crushing for his mental balance, and it is rarely that one so afflicted is permitted to resume the exercise of his normal mental faculties.

Let any sensitive creature contemplate the awful ordeal through which he has passed—first, his suspicions of the conduct of Black and his Sister, then the defiance of her person under his own eye—the intense excitement, and the raging passion that must have filled his nature, to drive him into the fatal conflict with Black—the trial for his life—the hung jury—the scene at the jail, in his own cell, whence Holges was taken—and the yet more awful sight of the suspended body of Holges—and any whether it was not enough to drive reason forever from his throne.

It is a sad, and tragically in life's experience. It is a dark picture in the rugged and stormy path of man has sometimes to tread, and yet 'tis so, and pity 'tis, 'tis so.'—Valley Virginian.

FLY IN THE WHEAT.—The drought has been damaging to the splendid promise of the wheat crop, if the fly in the wheat to the extent reported by some farmers. It is very certain that fields which were rank, green and highly promising ten or twelve days ago, have assumed a sickly yellow hue within the last week, and that examination has revealed the presence of the fly.—Fredericksburg Herald.

LONDON, May 5.—Earl Granville announced in the House of Lords to-day that the Government has received official dispatches confirming the safety of Dr. Livingston, the African traveler, and giving assurance that his immediate wants are supplied.

Expenses of the Legislature.....

Executive expenses.....

Legislative expenses.....

Judicial expenses.....

Salaries.....

Other expenses.....

Total.....

Take the last item and study it a minute. Then remember that these taxes have been rising year by year, until now they are laid upon the property without mercy, and squandered in such ways as this—which I copy from earnest republican newspapers: 'The Speaker of the House, Moses, receives his per diem for every session, and the last session included four months. Before a session, \$1,000 were voted him as a present, extra, all from the State treasury. He is also Adjutant-General, and as such, receives a salary of \$2,500, with \$1,000 more as a contingent fund, and \$21,000 more for expenses of the militia. He was allowed \$50,000 to buy furniture for the hall, and \$80,000 to buy arms, &c. These are the figures which the records show. The Speaker's

ELECTION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1871.

FOR TOWN SHERIFF.

Belong out of business, I respectfully announce myself a candidate for the office of Town Sheriff, at the coming election, and, if elected, will serve you to the best of my ability.

ROBT. H. GILMORE.

Quarterly Meetings.

Churchville Circuit, West View..... May 10

Bridgewater .. Luray..... May 20

East Rockingham, McChesneyville..... June 3

Rockingham Circuit, Fellowship..... June 10

Rockingham Mission, Fellowship..... June 17

District towards West at Harrisonburg, April 1

Shamford and Page papers please copy March 20

New Advertisements.

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THE DRY GOODS AUCTION!

"Revolutions never go Backward!"

NEITHER DO THOSE UNHEARD-OF BARGAINS

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THAT they are continually giving away for about one-half their value.

Think of this, all ye buyers of Dry Goods!

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