GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the General Assembly
of the State of North Carolina.

The constitutional assemblage of the Representatives of Freemen, to enact laws, to provide for their equal and just administration, and to promote the general welfare of a people, is an act of high sovereignty; presents an occasion of the deepest interest to all classes of the People, and suggests to every Department of the Government the solemn duty of returning our sincere thanks to the Great Governor of the Universe for continuing to us, as a State, those bountiful gifts of His Providence, health, and peace, and plenty.

Since the last meeting of the General Assembly, our country has passed through a fiery ordeal of conflicting passions and sectional interests, resulting from the acquisition of vast regions of distant Territory, causing just alarm to the friends of the Union and of free government throughout the Earth. During this perilous conflict in our National Councils, and amidst the agitation of the people of some of the States around us, North Carolina has remained a silent, but not an unmoved nor listless spectator.

Ardently devoted to the perpetuity of our Union, to the Constitution "*as it is,*" and at the same time knowing and daring to maintain and defend her rights, granted or guarantied by this National Compact, no State rejoiced with more unalloyed satisfaction at the amicable settlement of this distracting controversy. The late adjustment, by Congress, of these difficulties, was a proud triumph of patriotism and compromise over fanaticism and the spirit of disunion; and exhibited to the world the possession, by our people, of that noble public virtue and devotion to country, the true test of the inestimable value they place upon the Union, and the sure harbinger of the stability of our Government.

This adjustment, and the acts by which it has been consummated, are now, however, met with violent denunciation and opposition, among some of our brethren North and South.

While at the North, disorganizers and fanatics are confederating together to nullify and obstruct the execution of the laws of the land, certain Southern politicians are zealously engaged in concocting plans and associations, which, however designed, may lead to a dismemberment of the Union. Extreme factionists and agitators, exerting for their own selfish ends, sinister influence upon the public mind, have always existed in our Government, and will so continue, while a popular form of government exists among us. Their machinations have hitherto yielded to the force of reason and enlightened patriotism.

The spirit of disunion, heretofore confined to some particular section of the country, is now, however, acquiring an expansion and strength that demand the combined counteraction of the sons of freedom and friends of the Union throughout the land. In this parricidal strife, let us take neither lot nor part. Let us hold fast the union of the States. The last to come into the holy alliance of the *old thirteen*, let us be the last to leave it. The footprints of Washington and his matchless compeers, may be followed without doubtfulness or wavering. It is union which gives us all we are or hope to be. It is the key-arch of our liberty and national greatness; and I claim the privilege of my official station, solemnly to invoke the people of North Carolina, and their Representatives, to beware how they hold communion with cabal or Convention to sap and overthrow it.

But let us not be misunderstood. Let it not be supposed that our deep and abiding devotion to the Union, is such as to render us insensible to the just appreciation of our rights, or callous to the stain of dishonor. As a southern portion of the Union, we have rights which are *ours* by the Constitution; *ours* by compromise, and by the supreme laws which govern us. *These will never be surrendered. We take our stand in the ranks of southern destiny.* We have been assured by patriotic statesmen of the North, that, in the free States, the masses of the people are sound upon the question of negro-slavery, and are opposed to disturbing the institution as it exists: That the spirit of abolitionism is confined to a body of fanatics contemptible for numbers or respectability. As they value the union of these States, let them see to it. Let these patriotic masses now rise up in their strength and put down the treason and rebellion which are expanding and rioting in their midst. We offer no menace: but let the staid and sober sense of our people and the calmness which they have ever maintained amidst abortive efforts at agitation, be to patriots every where a solemn warning, trumpet-tongued, when North Carolina does summon to the rescue, that the Union is in danger! What a spectacle! A sacred alliance, nay, more than that, a Constitutional National Union of a noble people in peril of being dissevered and broken up by gangs of runaway negroes, and their crazy allies!! How humiliating the contemplation!!!

I forbear to enter into any particular discussion of the various measures adopted as the basis of this adjustment by Congress, at its late session, to vindicate them from objections taken in different sections of the country to one or more of them. This were by no means a difficult task; but would seem scarcely appropriate to the purposes and character of an Executive State Message; and would swell this communication to an inconvenient size. I refer to the subject at all, only, because a high sense of duty seems, in the existing state of affairs, to require it at my hands; and having thus briefly done it, I submit the subject to your calm, dispassionate and patriotic consideration, with the expression of my deliberate opinion, that our highest interest and true duty, require of us a willing and hearty support of the *adjustment, as it is, in all its parts*; yielding, for the sake of the Union and of the Constitution, such objections as we may have to particular measures, while we insist upon the faithful execution of such as may be most acceptable and necessary to us, from those parts of the Union which may conceive them to be objectionable. Thus will North Carolina set a noble example worthy of her spirit of patriotic moderation; an example of that true principle of mutual deference of the various parts of the Union, towards the interests, wishes and views of the others, in which our National Government originated, and by which it must be maintained, if maintained at all. Let us then support, for the sake of the Union, the whole adjustment; and while we demand this of others, show that we understand, and mean to fulfil, that duty ourselves.

Since your last adjournment, too, our country has passed through another eventful scene, witnessed no where else, and justly awakening the astonishment of the nations of the Old World.

OUR PRESIDENT HAS DIED!

Without tumult or public commotion, a successor takes his place; clothes himself with the panoply of Executive authority; assumes the control of the Army and the Navy, and the still mightier engine of political power, Executive patronage; while no voice, among twenty millions of freemen, breathes even the whisper of dissent! Although his successor had been designated amidst fierce and ardent opposition, yet a majority at the ballot box had so decreed it; and the supremacy of that arbitrament is acknowledged and acquiesced in by all sections and by all parties.

Many subjects of paramount importance to the State, will claim your attention during the present session.

The duties of the Executive of North Carolina have, by cumulative acts of the General Assembly, become so multifarious and heterogeneous, that any reference to them, must, of necessity, be succinct and desultory. In giving, through you, to the people of the State, an account of the manner in which they have been discharged, I shall, at the same time, take a rapid review of the general condition of our State affairs; and shall, with the utmost candor and becoming respect, make such suggestions as in my judgment shall be worthy the calm consideration of the Legislative department of our Government.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

It is not to be denied that a large, respectable and intelligent portion of the State are strongly inclined to alter the Constitution.

When this topic was started a short while ago, the desire of a change in the Government went no further than a single alteration of the Constitution, to wit, to enlarge the personal right of suffrage, so as to allow all white freemen of the State to vote for Senators, with or without freeholds.

I need not inform you how much and how rapidly this demand for reform has enlarged. It already embraces a change in the basis of representation in the General Assembly; a change in the mode of electing the State officers; and an entire revolution of our Judiciary system, and of the principles upon which it has stood from the beginning of free government in North Carolina.

Whether a majority of the people are discontented with the Constitution *as it is*, and therefore really desire to alter it in any or all of those important respects, I cannot undertake to say; though that is the question which, in my judgment, ought to be settled and ascertained antecedent to any *Legislative enactments* for altering the organic law of the State. A certain mode of determining the point would be to pass a law at once to take the sense of the voters upon the question of *Change or no change*. You will then know what public opinion is; but until something of that kind shall have been done, any action that is intended to be based upon the popular will must rest upon conjecture. This act may be passed by a majority of the Assembly. If the result of the popular vote should show either indifference or hostility to the change, none ought to be attempted by the General Assembly. If, on the other hand, it should exhibit a very decided popular feeling in favor of the alterations, or any of them, the moral effect of this popular vote might suffice to procure from our Legislature the requisite constitutional sanction to any desirable reform. You are better able than I am to foresee whether the large majorities of three-fifths of this Assembly, and two thirds of another are likely to concur in propositions of the kind without a previous vote of the people. No one, I presume, is anxious to force upon the people an alteration of their Constitution, without some convincing proof of their desire for it. Every intelligent mind must perceive that it is the interest of the State and a duty of patriotism to have the question settled and put to rest one way or the other. Until it shall be done, there will be political agitation and sectional discord. These will bring forth a multiplication of new propositions for altering the Constitution, and the people of North Carolina may be thrown into that perilous situation wherein the "desire of change pretendeth the reformation," instead of that safe condition, wherein "reformation only draweth on a change."

It may be, however, that a constitutional majority of three-fifths of the Assembly, coming as you do directly from among your constituents, know already the will of a majority of the people upon this subject. If public opinion be decidedly favorable to immediate action, and you feel convinced, without any previous vote of the people, that this demand for altering the Constitution is the demand of a majority of the people, then, of course, the necessity for an act to take the sense of the people will be superseded; and it is believed you ought to act directly and at once upon the question, *but according to the Constitution.*

The Constitution has clothed you with power to respond to a known demand of the people for constitutional reform, either by calling a Convention of the people at once, or by enacting specific amendments, and submitting them, first, to the review and decision of your immediate successors in 1852, and after that, to the voters of the State, at the polls in 1853.

There are several interesting questions which will present themselves to your consideration, upon this view of the subject. I shall refer to them briefly, not with any design to forestall the judgment of others, nor for the mere purpose of putting forward in advance of your action my interpretation of the Constitution; but because your action will probably form a precedent in the future course of the State; and the consequences of a mistake might be very injurious to the Republic. Therefore, I would desire to have nothing done without careful investigation, and calm deliberation. This is all I aim at.

The Constitution 1835, we know, was framed and adopted upon principles of compromise. It was intended to adjust, upon equitable grounds, a sectional dispute and conflicting political opinions, which had distracted our State Councils for many years; and good faith requires an honest adherence to its true meaning, until it shall have been repealed or altered by the sovereign authority of the State, according *to the compromise* in our amended Constitution.

Now, if it should be the pleasure of this Assembly, three-fifths of all the members concurring, to call a convention of the people, a slight examination of the 1st section of the 4th Article of the Amendments will be sufficient to raise this question: Can the General Assembly impose any limits or restrictions upon a Convention called by them, under this Article? Is the power to call a Convention by the General Assembly confined to the single office of calling it, or, can the same Legislature limit and confine the powers of the Convention in the Act for calling it? As there are conflicting opinions upon this question out of the Assembly, it is probable they will exist in it. I do not think that this article necessarily excludes the right of calling a limited Convention by the concurrence of two-thirds of the General Assembly, provided the act for calling the Convention contains a limitation upon its powers with proper sanctions and *the same shall be ratified by the People*, by a vote to be taken before their delegates shall be chosen, under the sanctions of a law enacted for the purpose. In such case, it seems to me, that the limit prescribed by the act would be imposed, not by the General Assembly, but by the constitutional sovereign authority of the State. Otherwise it cannot be doubted that a Convention called by the General Assembly (two-thirds concurring) would be clothed with *unlimited discretion* over the Constitution. The General Assembly has power to call a Convention into being, but *no power of themselves to prescribe a limit to its authority.* I hazard little in saying that the people of North Carolina have not hitherto exhibited a strong desire for such an experiment as this upon their Government; and, therefore, it behooves their Representatives to look well to the mode they adopt for introducing reforms into the Constitution.

If it should be the pleasure of this Assembly to avoid the instrumentality of a Convention altogether, you can, of yourselves, initiate an alteration of the Constitution, in virtue of the second section of 4th article of amendments to the Constitution of 1835. To effect a reform by this mode of proceeding, it will be requisite that the alteration proposed, shall be sanctioned by a majority of three fifths of all the members of your body:—that the same shall be sanctioned by two thirds of the members of the Assembly of 1852: and afterwards confirmed by a majority of the people voting at the polls. Confessedly our Constitution has thus been hedged in against hasty or frequent changes, and there will be no little difficulty in procuring an alteration of it. Ought not this consideration to operate powerfully upon the minds of those who *sincerely desire* "free suffrage," to prevent, if they can, its association with other propositions for amendments? Would it be either wise or proper to unite into one bill several and distinct propositions? If more than one, how many separate questions of the kind will you combine? The precedent to be set now, will probably determine the future practice, and may it not be asked, whether it will be fair dealing to combine two or more propositions into one act, and so compel the people to vote against what they desire, or else to vote for what they do not approve? It is, therefore, commended to your serious consideration, whether each alteration of the Constitution, when proposed, ought not to be presented by itself—uncoupled with an associate to do it harm, or an ally to help it through. It has been intimated by enlightened men of our State, that according to the true spirit and meaning of the Constitution, the power of the General Assembly to adopt a specific amendment, is confined to the case of a *single amendment*, and that it would be a violation of the 2nd section of the 4th article, for the Assembly to pass an act embracing in it more than *one* alteration of the Constitution. If this be so, the duty of acting upon each proposed alteration separately, and of enabling your successors, and, afterwards, the people, to do the same, is imperative.

The opinions which I have thus hinted at, upon this important subject, might be enforced and illustrated by many considerations which I have not introduced into this communication. I content myself with what has been said, believing as I do, that the Executive of North Carolina is properly excluded by the Constitution from the duty of taking part in altering the Organic Law. What has been said is barely intended to awaken your vigilance and to arrest public attention to the *manner*, rather than to discuss the *matter* of Constitutional reform. In my opinion, the manner of dealing with this subject is vastly important, and will prove to be much more than a question of mere form.

In connexion with this subject, let me be indulged in a suggestion relating to the constitutional period for the installation of the Governor.

The Governor of the State is elected by the People biennially in August; but he does not go into Office before the 1st of January succeeding. If the General Assembly met on the 1st of January, there would be nothing objectionable in this. But that body, chosen by the People *at the same time they elect the Governor, meet in November*, and have nearly completed their session before the Governor comes into office. Moreover the Governor goes out of office on the 1st day of January, but his successor is elected in August preceding, and therefore the Executive of North Carolina is never called upon to express his opinions or to communicate the policy of his administration, until he has been either *re-elected* or *superseded* by the choice of a competitor. This is not right, and it ought to be rectified. Whenever a Governor shall be willing to conceal his policy and avoid the just responsibility of his station, he may be thus enabled to do so. This is unjust to the people. When he shall be ready and willing to develop his plans of administration, there is but little opportunity afforded for it under the existing state of things; and if he shall be a candidate for re-election, his enemies and traducers can pervert and misrepresent him to his constituents, without his being allowed a legitimate occasion to expose falsehood by a reference to his declared and published opinions. That is not just to the chief Executive of the State. Besides, there is a plain absurdity in this; that where the people change both their Executive and their Representatives at the same election in August, the one does not go into office until the others have nearly closed their session; and the two never *consult together*, for the interest of the State. Contrary to the theory of our government, the Governor, whose first election might have been intended to ensure the commendation of an important measure of State policy, has no fair opportunity to enforce it upon the Legislature, and his term of office *may expire without his slightest participation in the matter.* This might be remedied by an act altering the time prescribed by law for the meeting of the General Assembly. It is respectfully submitted to your consideration, as a topic worthy of your notice. It is a political evil that ought to be corrected in some way.

REORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC OFFICES.

A thorough reform and re-organization of the several state departments is a subject that can be no longer postponed without detriment to the public service.

The office of the Secretary of State is a mere land office. Almost the sole duty of its head is to issue grants and to certify copies, except the occasional employments of making contracts for printing and distributing the laws, and for the purchase of stationery and firewood. In other States, he is made, what is greatly needed here, the head of a Bureau of Statistics, and is required to collect from all parts of the State information upon various subjects essential to wise and wholesome legislation.

The Public Treasurer, instead of being the keeper of the public money, to receive and to pay it out on vouchers first audited and allowed, is left to assume the responsibility of determining the validity of all claims on the Treasury which may be presented—while the office of Comptroller of public accounts, instead of being what its name imports, the office, where claims upon the State are audited and allowed, and so certified to the Treasurer, is simply a depository for the Treasurer's vouchers and for a copy of his books.

It must be obvious to every one that a remodelling and reform is necessary in these departments. And I can make the suggestion with the greater freedom and without just impeachment of motive, as my official intercourse with the incumbents, has been in all instances of the most kind and unreserved character, and is now soon to terminate.

FINANCE AND STATE DEBTS.

Invested as you are with the preservation of the faith and honor of the State, it will be your first duty to examine carefully her financial condition. To learn her liabilities and her means, and to make promptly and boldly such provision, as, while it may develop and increase her resources and afford aid and succor to the various industrial pursuits of her citizens, will at the same time establish her on a sure foundation to meet without let or hindrance the payment of her debts and the maintenance of her credit.

The reports of the Public Treasurer and Comptroller will in due time be laid before you, giving in detail the receipts and disbursements at the Treasury for the two preceding fiscal years. By these it will be seen that the receipts, under the amended revenue laws for the year just closed, exclusive of the trust funds belonging to the Board of Literature and Lunatic Asylum and the sums raised by loans, amount to about $135,000; and showing an increase over the average annual amount received under the old system, of about $52,000. The ordinary expenses of the State, may with sufficient precision for the present purpose, be stated to average $75,000 per annum; and thus the present revenue basis may be estimated to produce an annual excess of receipts over the ordinary necessary disbursements, to be applied annually to the extinguishment of the State's debts, and liabilities, of $60,000.

The present indebtedness and liabilities of the State may be stated to be,

1. By a guaranty of Bonds of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad; the interest of which is payable semi-annually, and the principal after 1st January, 1860.	$500,000
2. Do. Do. interest payable semi-annually, and principal, by instalments of $30,000, on 1st January, 1851, 1852, 1853, and the residue 1st January, 1854,	106,500
3. Balance due the Literary Fund for that amount, used by the Public Treasurer from time to time; interest payable annually, principal at the pleasure of the Government,	118,192
4. Bonds of the Public Treasurer, given to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, for like amount transferred to the Public Treasury; interest payable annually, principal at the pleasure of the Government,	40,360
5. State Bonds, issued by Public Treasurer to pay the Banks, &c., by resolution of the last Assembly; interest payable semi-annually, principal after 10 years,	200,000
6. By endorsement of Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad Bonds by an act of 1848—interest payable semi-annually, principal by instalments of $50,000 on 1st January, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863,	250,000
7. Stock in Fayetteville and Western Plank Road; interest payable semi-anually, principal after 20 years,	120,000
8. Stock in Deep River and Cape Fear Navigation Company; interest semi-annually, principal to be provided for,	80,000
9. For amount appropriated by act of 1848 for improving Neuse and Tar Rivers; interest payable semi-annually, principal to be provided for,	65,000
10. For Stock in the "North Carolina Rail Road" by act of 1848; one fourth of which is to be paid when the work shall be commenced, and the remaining three fourths in equal instalments, at intervals of six months thereafter; interest payable semi-annually, principal after thirty years,	2,000,000
11. For money borrowed from Bank of Cape Fear,	40,000

Thus it appears that the liabilities of the State, already existing or *authorized*, amount, in principal money, to $3,520,052. And there will be required to pay the interest on this sum, with one instalment of principal before stated for the year 1851, the sum of $149,000. And in like manner for the year 1852, $207,000. In this calculation of interest, the State's liability on the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road bonds is not included; for as that company have heretofore paid promptly the interest on their bonds, their improved condition is a safe guaranty that they will continue to do so. This calculation is predicated upon the assumption, that the State will be called upon for the first instalment of her stock-subscription to the "North Carolina Rail Road" in the beginning of the ensuing year, and for other installments at intervals of six months, as allowed by the charter.—And upon the further assumption, also, that the residue of the State's subscription for stock in the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road Company, in the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, and the appropriations for Neuse and Tar Rivers, will be called for at an early day.

But we have seen that the surplus in the Treasury, after the payment of the regular demands, will be $60,000; while the increased demand upon it for the year 1851, will be $149,000; and for the year 1852, $207,000; and, of course, that the State will require for the year 1851 over and above the whole amount that may be raised by the present revenue basis, the sum of $89,000; and for 1852, the sum of $147,000:

Or, it may be stated thus:

Amount required to pay State's liabilities and interest for 1851,	$149,000
Add ordinary expenses for 1851	75,000
	$224,000
Deduct probable receipts at the Treasury according to present revenue laws for 1851,	$135,000
Deficit to be provided for 1851,	$89,000

In like manner it may be shown that the deficit for 1852 will be $147,000

These results will be changed, to some extent, in favor of the Treasury balances, by the coming in of the deferred taxes imposed on sundry articles in the 7th section of the revenue act of the last session.

But no provision has yet been made for raising the money for the payment of the residue of the State's stock subscription to the Deep River and Cape Fear Navigation Company, of $60,000, and this amount must be added to the wants of the Treasury.

To meet these demands, which can now be neither avoided or postponed without public dishonor, provision must be made by the General Assembly now in session. In addition to this requisition for interest, prompt steps should be taken for the establishing of a sinking fund for the gradual extinguishment of the principal of the State's debt, to avoid the insupportable pressure upon the people, if it be postponed till the principal shall fall due. The most urgent inquiry, however, at present, is, how are the semi-annual instalments of interest to be met? By creating new loans and borrowing money—thus increasing the debt by compounding principal and interest every six months? If the demand upon the Treasury were fortuitous and not likely to be repeated, such a plan might, with some, be allowable.—But here is a sum which must be raised for many consecutive years, and until some return shall be yielded from the profits of our public works. It is too plain for comment, that the temporizing policy of borrowing money to pay interest will be disastrous to the State, will impair her credit, and may reduce her sooner or later, to the ignominious and dishonest condition of repudiation.

An absorbing crisis has arrived in the financial affairs of the State, which requires the energetic exercise of all the caution, wisdom and patriotism of the Representatives of the people.

I have felt it to be my indispensable duty to lay this important subject thus plainly before you. On you, and you alone, rest the task and responsibility of providing the ways and means for paying the debts, sustaining the faith and credit of the State, and for preserving untarnished her character for plain dealing and honesty.

(Concluded in our next.)

For the North Carolina Standard.

MESSRS. VENABLE AND MILLER.

Mr. Holden: As I have no doubt the Whig papers of your City will teem with their usual sound of bombastic praise of the immortal achievements of their *imported orator* in the discussion on last Tuesday, which took place in Oxford, I have thought it best to give you a sketch of the proceedings of the day. Our talented and faithful Representative, the Hon. A. W. Venable, addressed his constituents on Tuesday evening in vindication of his course in the last Congress, in a speech characterised by more than his usual ability. He stated that the issues involved in the questions arising during the last session, were of the most important character to the South; that the course he had pursued he felt perfectly satisfied was the one best calculated to protect the rights of his constituents. He vindicated his course most ably. He clearly demonstrated that by the admission of California all the irregularities of the formation of that government, which were disorganizing and revolutionary, were ratified by Congress—approved; that according to Mr. Clay's report, "California was legally and constitutionally a Territory." Of course the adoption of her Constitution and admitting her as a State, was virtually passing the Wilmot Proviso with all its most agravated consequences, and an appropriation of the whole of the Pacific coast to Freesoil; that the dismemberment of Texas was both wrong in principle and against the spirit of the Constitution. The provision which recognized the right of Congress to divide a State with the consent of the Legislature thereof, clearly referred to the application by a State, and not to a bid and a bribe by Congress. He said that it was a surrender of slave territory to Freesoil purposes, and a debt fixed upon the South to pay for the plunder of her own citizens. He shewed from the records, that territorial Governments came under the vote of Congress rejecting Mr. Seddon's amendment that our property should be protected from the action of the territorial Legislature, and argued from this the settled determination of the North to give the South no right in the lands of the General Government.

He opposed the Bill abolishing the Slave trade in the District of Columbia, because Congress had no right to interfere in any way with the subject of Slavery, and because the bill was so framed as to assert the right of Congress to emancipate a slave for a violation of mere *Police Regulations.* He shewed that the District bill was the very resolution of Mr. Gott of Ohio, which was passed and had so agitated the country, and that it was a melancholy fact that it was now passed, acquiesced in, and were approved by many Southern members as one of the measures of compromise. He stated that he was in favor of and voted for the Fugitive Slave Bill, which was the only act of justice the South had received—showed that that was not a compromise, but framed in the express words of the Constitution; and that this law was even now in process of nullification at the North, and he believed would be nullified or repealed. He stated he was for compromise, but that compromise involved concessions on both sides and constitutional concessions. The South had given up all and had only received what no man could question her right to as an independent measure. He said it was a melancholy truth that we were living under a free-soil government, and that the Chairman of the Committee of 13 was himself an avowed freesoiler. He vindicated his votes on the compromise bill, and showed that they were in accordance with the resolutions of the Legislature and the resolutions of the Convention that nominated Col. Reid as the Democratic candidate for Governor of North Carolina; and that they accorded with his express declarations during the canvass of 1849. He declared that he made no appeals to party, but that he addressed his constituents as Southern men, and would scorn to appeal to other considerations. He declared his attachment to the Union under the Constitution and according to the Constitution, and no other. Mr. Venable concluded his Speech by earnest appeals to his constituents to be united on this subject—to forget party ties, and go hand in hand on this most important question; and pledged himself to stand by the rights of his constituents as long as he was their Representative.

Mr. Miller, of Raleigh, being called on by some of his Whig friends to reply, came forward with a good deal of *apparent* modesty, and remarked it might be regarded as an encroachment or interference on his part; but that being called upon by the citizens, and though taken by surprise, he would hearken unto the call and address them. He drew out a large file of documents, all properly arranged, as conclusive evidence of his *surprise*, which some supposed to be the last Will and Testament of the "*Raleigh Clique*," or the notes of a funeral dirge to be sung over the fallen fortunes of the Whig party in North Carolina. He opened his Speech by denunciation of factionists and disorganizers, and piled up the agony of praise on Henry Clay, and spoke of his glorious character—of his great patriotism and undying reputation, &c. He then spent a long time in praises of the Union. Having let off the introduction of his speech, he proceeded to a labored defence of the Compromise Bill, and the different measures which passed Congress. He attempted to show that the admission of California was not so very objectionable after all. He spoke of the bill abolishing the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia as not of much moment—said that the subject had been favored by some southern men. He argued strenuously in favor of the Texas boundary bill; that it was just, proper, and right. He said that he would not have voted for the bill abolishing the slave trade in the District, but considered it of small importance. He was in favor of the fugitive slave bill, and if it was resisted by the northern States or repealed, *then he was for resistance.* He replied to the charge of Mr. Venable that this was a free-soil government, and asked if Wm. A. Graham was a free-soiler, and the other southern men in the Cabinet? but admitted that Corwin and Hall had rather a leaning that way.

He charged Mr. Venable with dodging the question in the Utah vote, and said he was found voting with Giddings and other Free-soilers on other measures. He stated that he was for the Union and for staying in the Union and preserving it by force of arms against all factionists, disorganizers and agitators. He closed by again heaping up the agony on the Union and giving us a part of his funeral oration on the death of General Taylor, which I suppose he thought, living as we do in the backwoods, we had not yet read, and was too good to be lost. Mr. Miller, as usual, spoke for a long time.

Mr. Venable rose to reply; and said that he had supposed out of the many political aspirants among his political opponents in his District for the slippers which they hoped would soon be vacant, and considering the great display of talent among them, that one of those would have replied to him; but that they had imported a debater to take up the contest. He said he was glad Mr. Miller had consented to reply; that he was ashamed of nothing that he had done as the Representative of his district; that he feared no investigation of his course. He said Mr. Miller had made a great matter of his charging Wm. A. Graham with being a free-soiler. He denied that he had made such a charge. He had not charged Messrs. Graham, Conrad, Stewart and Crittenden with any such thing. He had the highest regard for those gentlemen, but that the President, Mr. Webster, Mr Corwin and Hall, were openly and avowedly free-soilers. Mr. Fillmore's letter to Mills, which had never been retracted, disclosed that he was for the abolition of the slave trade between the States, and of the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the District of Columbia. Mr. Webster had voted for the Proviso until he abandoned it for the Mexican Proviso, and had declared in his place in the Senate that no more Slave States or territory should be admitted; and Corwin and Hall were both free-soilers, which Mr. Miller did not deny. He said that he agreed with the gentleman that the Union was of great value; that he too loved the Union under the Constitution, with laws administered according to the constitution; that he was the last man by any act of his to dissolve this Union; that the breaking of this Union, if it was ever broken, would lay at the doors of those who committed aggression and withheld justice; and those who either approved or defended such a course. He said Mr. Miller had spoken of agitation, factionists and disunionists. He asked who they were? Was he meant? if so, what act of his justified such insinuations? Had he ever asked more than the South had a right to? He defied any to say that he had. If refusing to vote for the admission of California made him a disunionist, he was one. If refusing to vote for the Texas boundary bill, by which 66,000,000 of acres of slave territory was made free soil, made him so, he was one. If refusing to vote for the Bill abolishing the slave trade in the District, made him so, he was one. If voting for the fugitive slave bill made him so, he was one. He said he had yet to learn that asking only the Constitutional rights of his constituents was either factious or disorganizing; that they were the Disunionists who apologised for the North, and had aided her in her attempts upon Southern rights until they had weakened her, and now sought to make her kiss the rod that smites her. He said that the gentleman had spoken of his voting with Giddings on the Texas Bill, and spoke of their community of feeling. He would reply that he voted with him on that measure, it was true, but that Mr. Miller, according to his own showing, would have voted with him on most of the others, for he defended them. He explained the Utah vote, and said he had paired off with a member opposed to it, and went to see a sick friend; but that Mr. Miller, while looking up his absences, had failed to note those of his own friends. He asked where were Messrs. Badger and Mangum when the California bill was passed, and where was Mr. Clay, whom he had so praised, when the fugitive slave bill was passed. He said he concurred with the gentleman that Mr. Clay was a great man; that he differed politically with him, but his relations with him were of the kindest sort. Mr. Clay declared himself an Emancipationist in 1799, and in his late letter to the people of Kentucky, when about to adopt a Constitution. He wrote a letter last fall to a meeting in Cleaveland, at which Seward and John Van Buren figured, that he would never favor the admission of slave territory into the Union of the territory acquired from Mexico, either by positive interference or legislative power. He said while advocating his report, that he would vote for no amendment of his scheme which looked to the extension of slavery. He said Mr. Miller had taunted him with not giving a territorial government to California and New Mexico in the last Congress, and that he must have known that he (Mr. V.) labored earnestly to do so, and advocated Walker's amendment, which would have passed, but for the intervention of Mr. Webster's amendment, which re-enacted the Mexican laws.

He said he was glad the gentleman was determined to resist if the fugitive slave bill was repealed or nullified; that his faith seemed fixed on this, and he had a firm reliance that it would be executed. Mr. Venable said that he feared Mr. Miller would be in the condition of the woman whose horse ran away with her vehicle, who said she had a firm reliance in Providence, "*clear until the breeching broke and then she gin out.*" Mr. V. said he hoped the law would be executed, but he believed and feared it would not; that the elections in Ohio and Pennsylvania showed it; that he hoped the President would enforce the law, and gave him no particular credit for it, for that the ink was scarcely dry upon the bill he had signed, and *his oath* required him to execute it. He replied to Mr. Miller's remark that he was for maintaining the Union by force, and said it it was impossible; that the Union was a sentiment—no blood can cement it but that of a foreign foe; that the first contest of blood in civil strife dissolved its binding force; that neither fraud or force could perpetuate it. As well might the husband expect to maintain the sacred character of married life, who chained his wife to the bedpost and scourged her with the lash. He said he had done his duty, and that he did not fear to meet his constituents. He was perfectly willing to submit the question to them, and abide their decision.

ANTI-YANKEE.

A Word in Season. The Legislature of North Carolina meets on Monday next. The democratic party have a large majority. We hope they will use it. Every office holder in Raleigh, we believe, is a whig. The people of the State have turned the tables upon that party—let their representatives follow up the example. The people have done *their duty*, now let their representatives do theirs. Gov. Manly has received notice to quit. Let a similar notice be served by the Legislature upon every whig officer under him. The Governor should have company up Salt River. He is a man of convivial feeling, and it would be unfair to row him up that long river alone. Let every sucker of them go with him.

The whig administration at Washington have declared, and *practised* too, proscription to the hilt. Nothing short of the *same sauce* to North Carolina whiggery will satisfy us. Let us not be told that this one has been here so long *it is a pity* to turn him out; or that this one is so good an officer that he cannot be replaced. We tell those representatives if they do not satisfy the expectations of the people of North Carolina by making a thorough and entire change in the officeholders of Raleigh, they will have some trouble to justify themselves before the people.

Let them also take care and put in men who are firm and reliable as politicians, and honest and capable as men. Let no man's services as a politician give him the least title or claim to office, unless he comes up in all other respects to the Jeffersonian standard, "honest, capable, and faithful to the Constitution."

The Congressional Districts.

We would further call the attention of the democratic members of the Legislature to the fact that it is incumbent upon them to put back the Congressional Districts to the same arrangement that was made after the last census. It so happened that at the regular time of districting the State, the democrotic party were in a majority in the Legislature, and they arranged the districts as they thought proper. The whigs, a few years after, took the liberty, *against law*, and for party purposes, to alter that arrangement. We say it is now incumbent upon the democratic party—they owe it to themselves, and to the people whom they represent, to put back the districts to the arrangement first made after the apportionment.

Fayetteville Carolinian.

A party of thirteen Fugitive Slaves passed through Tamaqua, Schuylkill county, last Friday en route to Canada. The next day they were followed by two individuals, who, after engaging the assistance of a constable, followed on in their pursuit. The pursuers succeeded in overtaking the slaves at Wilkesbarre; owing to the strong expression of feeling manifested by the people in their favor, they were forced to beat a hasty retreat. The constable was induced to follow them under the impression that they were horse thieves, but on learning otherwise, he refused to render any further co-operation.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The Edenton Bulletin "learns that a meeting of the farmers of Chowan county is in contemplation, the object and purpose of which is to adopt resolutions binding the several parties not to purchase any articles which may have been brought here from any place North of Baltimore."

THE WEATHER, THE CROPS, &c.

Extract of a letter dated

"Raymond, Miss., Oct. 29, 1850.

"On the night of the 25th, we had a killing frost, with ice, and frost every night since. The cotton crop is cut off considerably, there being an unusual quantity of green bolls."

Cotton Picking. On Wednesday, the 9th inst., at Cotton Grove, the plantation of Mr. Benjamin Lawler, in this county, 25 hands from 55 years down to 8 years of age, picked 6273 pounds of cotton. Of this eight of the hands picked 2500 lbs.—two of them under 16 years of age picked 700 lbs. This would be considered good picking in the Southern counties. It is certainly first rate for North Alabama.

Huntsville (Ala.) Democrat, 24th.

Several planters of the parish of Terrebonne have commenced rolling. The yield, we understand, is very good. Lack of water is complained of by nearly all the planters in this parish; and several have stopped rolling for the purpose of digging wells, and waiting for a supply. *Thibodaux Minerva, 26th.*

We were visited with a white frost on Sunday morning last. The weather during Thursday night underwent a very sensible change. During the whole of yesterday, the wind continued to blow almost a gale from the North, rendering overcoats and cloaks quite comfortable. *Ib.*

The extremely dry weather has injured the cane very much, and the rain on Thursday will be of but little benefit. Many of our planters have commenced grinding, and the sugar made is of a very fine quality. *St. Francisville Chronicle, 26th ult.*

The late heavy frosts in this vicinity have, we are informed by planters from the country, created serious apprehensions for the safety of the cane crop. The leaves have been killed, thus depriving the body of a great protection, and rendering it more liable to injury. The continuance of cold weather, or the appearance of another heavy frost, would, we are assured, do immense injury, if not ruin the entire crop. A large majority of the planters have not commenced taking off their crop.

Baton Rouge Advocate, 31st.

The weather for the last few weeks has been quite unfavorable for both the cotton and sugar crops. It has been excessively hot and dry, which every one knows, who understands farming, is bad on either cotton, sugar, corn, or any thing else of the kind. Notwithstanding all this there will be a tolerably fair crop of cotton and sugar raised in this and the adjoining parishes. The boll and army worm, as far as we have heard, have done but little if any injury to the cotton crop. The cane is small, though very sweet, and will yield nearly as much as it would with plenty of rain, etc. The cotton planters have been picking for some time, and have shipped considerable. Several of the sugar planters have commenced grinding within the last week or two. There has been some little sugar and molasses sent here to be shipped. *Red River Republican, 26th.*

The extreme drought that has prevailed so long has been very prejudicial to the crops throughout this whole section of country, but more especially on the uplands. A respectable planter told us a few days since that there had been but one slight rain on his plantation since the 4th of July. Cisterns are every where dry, gardens destroyed, and the potatoes are very small and scarce.

Natchitoches Chronicle, 30th.

Important Discovery in the Manufacture of Iron. We received the following letter yesterday from a gentleman who signs himself "A Subscriber." If the discovery he speaks of should turn out to be genuine, it will be of more importance to the Iron manufactures of Pennsylvania than a thousand Protective Tariffs:

Phillipsburg, Sept. 24, 1850.

Mr. Editor:—On a recent visit to Clarion, I was informed that a young man by the name of Adams, the Assistant Manager of the Brady's Bend Iron Works, had made a valuable discovery in the manufacture of rail road and merchant bars from coke metal. Being prejudiced on account of the vast amount of sulphur and other foreign substances in the raw material, I had my doubts and thought it would prove a failure; so I concluded to call at the works on my return and see for myself. After I arrived at the works, I was shown three tons of rails, eighteen in number and twenty-one feet long, made as an experiment to prove to the Company's Agent the quality of iron used.

In regard to appearance, I should think they could not be excelled. I inquired if they were as durable as they looked. I then was shown a rail that had been put to the severest test, by putting it while hot, into cold water; after which they tried to break it with a sledge hammer weighing 80 pounds. Forty blows were given by six men alternately, and they could not even crack it. By the old method the rails were made with charcoal pig, and would crack very much and break with one or two blows. By Adams' process iron can be made from eight to ten dollars per ton lower, and of a superior quality. The specimens we were shown were of a bright, scaly fibre. The Company's "coke metal," I learned, costs from nine to eleven dollars per ton.

With Adams' process, I am told, the company will be able to compete with a foreign market, and make a much superior article. Their charcoal iron costs from eighteen to twenty-two dollars per ton. The difference in the price of the coke and charcoal metal is a considerable item alone. It had caused quite an excitement among the workmen, for they were under the impression that the works would have to suspend on account of the low price of iron, if it had not been for the discovery made by Adams.

Pittsburg Morning Post.