

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CONVENTION.—We are requested to state that the Democratic Convention will be held in the Masonic Hall.

Having got home yesterday morning, the unenviable possessor of a very bad cold, which we offer to dispose of on accommodating terms, we find ourselves totally incapable of falling at once into the traces.

The smoothest running on any portion of the line between Wilmington and New York, is accomplished on the Wilmington and Raleigh Road and on the Road from Petersburg to Weldon.

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The Quaker city folks feel a good deal irritated at the attempts of New York to get their Mint from them, and the Pennsylvania delegation has certainly exerted an active influence against the Collins line of steamers.

Coal is the great back bone of Philadelphia shipping business, and every Cape Fear man who passes through should visit the depot of the Reading Railroad at Richmond, at the upper end of the city.

The object of an editor is to make a paper which will interest his readers, either by conveying information which they feel anxious to possess, or by such articles as may commend themselves to their attention by their style of writing, or by the principles which they inculcate.

There was a time when Mr. Clay's voice was all potential with the Whig party; but how are matters changed. The old war-horse has recently written a letter expressing a preference for Mr. Fillmore.

By the way, the associate in luck, having gone to hear Mrs. Lewis' Shakespeare readings last Monday night, and when the papers were distributed, discovered that he was entitled to the gold watch, or rather that his little daughter was, her ticket having drawn the first prize.

A counterfeited gold dollar has made its appearance. It is neatly executed, but can be readily detected by its lightness of weight.

The House of Representatives has passed certain resolutions re-affirming the Compromise of the last session. The affirmative resolutions passed by a considerable majority—that majority being made up in a great measure, of Democrats.

Some days since we published a statement taken from an exchange paper to the effect that General Carvajal had been captured by Gen. Harney, who is now stationed, we believe, at Fort Ringgold, on the Rio Grande.

Mr. Webster has written a letter to G. A. Tavenner, Esq., in which he expresses his full determination to uphold the Compromise measures of the last Congress.

The Steamer Sierra Nevada arrived at New York on the 16th inst., from San Juan, with dates from California to the 17th ult. She brings 286 passengers and \$400,000 in gold.

There were symptoms at San Francisco of serious difficulties regarding Sonora. A French expedition which left for Sonora a short time ago for the professed purpose of making new gold discoveries was really bent on revolutionizing that country and establishing an independent government.

The steamer Arctic arrived at New York on the 18th instant, with dates from Liverpool up to the 7th inst. Intelligence had been received of the death of Prince Schwarzenburg, Prime Minister of Austria, at Vienna.

The war steamer Birkenhead had been wrecked on the coast of Africa, and 450 lives lost. Two and a half millions of gold dust had arrived at Liverpool from Sydney.

France is reported quiet. Napoleon's speech was well received. Switzerland had replied to France that she had done all a civilized nation could do relative to political fugitives within her borders.

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The Democratic Review for March is on our table, and is decidedly a fast periodical although rather slow in coming. Its leading article is headed "Congress, the Presidency and the Review."

That progress is essential we know, and that as soon as a republic ceases to progress so soon are its liberties in danger; but we must confess, that we had supposed progress to mean some advance, some improvement upon our predecessors—not the total abandonment of all the advantages to be derived from the lessons which their experience might furnish.

It is unfortunate for Judge Douglas' chances at the present time, that the Review has taken the course it has. The result of a war of one against many, can easily be foreseen, and although Mr. Douglas himself is, we sincerely believe, above using such weapons, still, as a public man, he cannot be completely separated from his friends, nor avoid being implicated to some extent in the odium of their course.

The dashing style of the Review has attracted some attention, and excited some feeling, which, however, must subside, as there is no solid foundation for it; and the enterprise will comparatively go down, or the writers be forced to moderate their tone.

Energy and progress are the essential elements of all Democracies, and Democratic Governments must act in accordance with the inherent impulses of the people, else they cease to be, in fact, governments; but it must not be forgotten, that all prevalent tendencies, without some checks or balances are prone to run into excess, and that fixity of principle and reverence for ascertained truth and the facts which are the developments of experience, are even more essential to a republic, than to any other form of government.

The Whigs of Ohio are out for Scott, who will certainly get the support of his party at the North.—Fillmore and Webster, are nowhere in that section. The northern Whigs talk thus: They say that the amount of support any Whig can expect from the South is so small that that section is not worth consulting, and it will not be consulted by them. Their premises are more than half correct.

The markets will be found under the proper head. Accounts from Harper's Ferry, Va., up to Sunday night, represent the freshest in the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers as the highest on record—the water within a foot of the bridge, and likely to take it off. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Winchester Railroad, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, have been much injured.

In Louis Napoleon's Address at the opening of the new French Chambers, the following passage occurs: "There is no mistaking the 'new title' to which reference is made, nor any reason to doubt that the earliest excuse will be seized upon, for asking it 'in the name of the repose of France.'"

Being now, as heretofore, resolved to do everything for France, nothing for myself, I would not accept any modification of the present state of things unless I were constrained to do so by an evident necessity. From whence can that arise? Only from the conduct of parties. If they resign themselves, nothing shall be changed. But if by their intrigues (fautes menées) they should seek to sap the foundations of my government; if, in their blindness, they should deny the legitimacy of the result of the popular election; if, in short, they, by their attacks, should unceasingly put the future prospects of the country in question, then, but then only, it might be reasonable to ask of the people, in the name of the repose of France, a new title, which might irrevocably fix upon my head the power which France has invested me with.

Bank Stock.—50 shares of stock of the Commercial Bank of Wilmington, were sold at auction last Tuesday morning; 20 shares of which brought \$110, 10 do. \$111, and 20 do. \$112 per share.

The case of the State vs. Carville and Ryan, soldiers, indicted for the murder of Sergeant McKevitt, at Smithville, in December last, was commenced yesterday, and the examination of witnesses got through with. The argument of counsel will occupy all of to-day, we presume. At the time of our going to press yesterday afternoon the case was being argued.

We notice at our wharves this morning a new stern-wheel steamer, of light draft, called the "Southerner," but built at Fayetteville for the Henrietta Steamboat Company, and intended to run on the Cape Fear River between that town and Wilmington. She is 112 feet long, 17 1/2 feet wide, has 3 feet depth of hold, and is intended to draw 12 inches water. She has berths for thirty passengers, and with her light draft and great power in proportion to size, (40 horse,) she will no doubt be chiefly employed as a passenger boat. She is quite creditable to our Fayetteville friends.

The course of Senator Mangum of this State has certainly attracted considerable attention, and is the object of much admiration on the part of his own political friends. Perhaps Mr. M.'s position in favor of Gen. Scott would be more easily understood if the ticket were completed in the manner to which surmise points as the expectation of our about-to-be ex-Senator.

It is indeed painful to see the Senator of a Southern State—elected by a party which supports Mr. Fillmore, and has expressed a preference for that gentleman as a candidate for re-election, openly acting with the enemies of his State, and against the candidate of his party in that State; and worse than this, enlisted, in terms of familiar intercourse and consultation with Free Soil correspondents of Free Soil papers at the North,—with correspondents of papers which supported Gov. Johnson of Pennsylvania in all his tergiversations and twistings, and which now go for Gen. Scott, as the known protege of Seward and Johnson.

The various Conventions of the Democratic party of North Carolina, whether county, district or State at large, will soon assemble, and their action will have considerable influence in deciding the future course of political events around us. In view of this fact we deem it the duty of the public press to offer such opinions or suggestions as may appear best calculated to facilitate the labors of the various bodies, or to promote the common object.

Mr. Buchanan has been declared their first choice for President by a very considerable proportion of the primary meetings in this State; Judge Strange has been nominated for the Vice Presidency in all cases where any preference has been expressed. It is therefore evident that these gentlemen are the first selections of our people, and the question now presents itself as to the amount of authoritative sanction which should be given to this preference; whether it should be embodied in the resolutions of our Conventions, or whether our delegates to the Baltimore Convention should be instructed.

The contest was again renewed between him and Mr. Cameron, in 1822-23, but with less violence, and Strange continued to be elected by increasing majorities. So courteous was the bearing of the candidates towards each other throughout these memorable campaigns, that at their close they entertained the highest esteem and regard for each other.

The Democratic National Committee, in publishing the call for the Baltimore Convention, recommended that only one delegate be sent from each Congressional District. Of course, the Committee had only the power to recommend, but had the carrying out of the recommendation rested with us, it would have been carried out to the letter.

He presided with much ability in the trial of the notorious Robert Potter in Granville county, in 1832, for the commission of an offence unheard of in the annals of North Carolina.

Only by some great mistake—some miserable squabble among ourselves—can we be defeated in the coming August elections. Our position upon the subject of State politics, is strong—almost impregnable, and contrasts favorably with the anomalous position into which our Whig opponents have been forced by the stand-still, "equal suffrage" opposing Clique at Raleigh on the one hand, and loud-mouthed demagogical appeals to the *dear people*, at different sections on the other hand.

We refer the attention of capitalists to the advertisement on the 2nd page of Valuable Real Estate, advertised by A. V. Wood, A. M., at auction, on Saturday the 1st day of May, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at auction.

MR. BUCHANAN AND THE PRESIDENCY.—The Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania has issued an address to the people of the United States, denying the assertion of the opponents of the Hon. James Buchanan, that he is without popularity at home, and unable to carry his own State, in the event of his nomination for the Presidency.

Repeated periods of absence from our post during the last month, have prevented our taking notice of a biographical sketch of the distinguished gentleman whose name heads this article, which appeared in the March number of Livingston's sketches of eminent living lawyers. The article in question is well written and highly interesting.

Willst studying with Mr. May, his military ardor was again excited at an expected invasion of his country. He again abandoned his studies, and aided in raising in Petersburg a company of juvenile volunteers, from 14 to 17 years of age. He was elected captain of this company, and tendered its services to the State. The Governor, after some delay, respectfully declined accepting the company; but the proud bearing and military enthusiasm of the youthful captain was so strikingly pronounced, that the Governor ordered the Brevet commission of Lieutenant, in an artillery company, then in the service of the State. The commission was cheerfully accepted, and the student once more became the soldier, and performed a three months' tour of duty, encamped at Petersburg, and Camp Powell's Creek.

In 1821, the friends of Mr. Strange brought him forward as a candidate to represent Fayetteville in the House of Commons, in the Legislature of the State. The representative in 1820 was John A. Cameron, the son of the late John Cameron. Mr. Cameron had also represented the town in 1810-11-12; but on the breaking out of the war, had volunteered, and faithfully served his country as major of the Cumberland regiment. During the war, exposure had brought on an attack of paralysis, which very sensibly weakened his powers of elocution; and, in a great measure, disqualified him for a successful practice at the bar.

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He presided with much ability in the trial of the notorious Robert Potter in Granville county, in 1832, for the commission of an offence unheard of in the annals of North Carolina. Potter was a lawyer, had served in the legislature of the State, and in Congress, during one session. On being found guilty of the offence by the jury, Judge Strange sentenced him to two years' imprisonment, and fined him in the sum of one thousand dollars. Appeals were made to the judge to remit the imprisonment, but he was inexorable. As an evidence of the excitement that attended Potter's trial, and the opinion of the State upon the sentence of the judge, it is proper to state, that the next session of the legislature made the offence he had been convicted of, felony, and punishable with death.

While Judge Strange was presiding in Beaufort Superior Court, in 1833, two men, brothers, had the audacity to shoot down a man in the middle of the street, in broad day, almost in presence of the judge. He was conversing with Judge Gaston at the time, and the facts were announced to him. He immediately issued a process for their arrest; but the sheriff nor any one else could be found to serve it. They were armed to the teeth, and swore they would not be taken alive. Judge Strange was resolved that the law should be supreme, even if he fell in upholding it. He summoned the late distinguished lawyer, Gavin Hogg, Esq., and Wright Stanley, Esq., now of Mobile, to arrest the one, whilst he proceeded to arrest the other. As they approached on their mis-sullen manner, Judge Strange caught the eye of the one he advanced upon, and requested him to surrender his bowie knife and submit to the law; an inward struggle for an instant seemed to be going on in the man's breast, but his bravado spirit was subdued in the controversy with a man his inferior in bodily strength, but rendered for the time his superior by the justness and importance of his cause.

He yielded his implement of death, thinking it no disgrace to surrender himself to the highest officer of the law. Mr. Stanley was equally successful in arresting the other. The man who was shot did not die. The assault was a mere trial of strength, and at the same term, and found guilty—one he imprisoned for one, and the other for two years.

During his imprisonment the latter reformed and studied medicine in jail, and became a respectable and useful member of society. We might record many instances where Judge Strange modified his judgment to correspond with what he deemed the temper and character of the offender—and rarely was he deceived. On one occasion, a young man was indicted and tried before him for an aggravated assault. But he was young, had acted in a moment of passion, and was supported by a father, and a mother, and a brother, and a prominent member of the community, and the Judge felt the responsibility of his position; that he might now, by a single act, fix the future destiny of an ordinary man. He was anxious to maintain the sanctity of the law, and yet, if possible, its victim from ruin. After some deliberation, he declined to imprison, but imposed a considerable pecuniary fine, gave the youth some good advice, and dismissed him. That man has since become a prominent member of the "United States" Senate from one of the other States.

The individual alluded to here is Senator Dorland of Arkansas. The sketch is closed in the following complimentary manner: "Since we commenced writing the above memoir, we have seen the name of Robert Strange, of North Carolina, mentioned in several papers as a candidate of the United States; and as a whole, we can only say, that a Democrat must be elected to the high office, we call for no one more competent, no one we would rather see in that exalted station than Robert Strange, a man emphatically from and of the people, the architect of his own fortune, and the founder of a brilliant and lasting fame."

We believe on the whole that the writer of this biographical notice (who is a citizen of Fayetteville), has succeeded in doing impartial justice to a political opponent. He has, while portraying the life of a distinguished and useful citizen, done much to establish his own reputation as an impartial biographer and interesting writer.

Pursuant to previous notice, a respectable portion of the citizens of Robeson county, and town of Lumberton, met at the Court House in Lumberton, on the 10th inst., to take into consideration the practicability of making a Plank Road from some point on the Cape Fear River to Lumberton. On the motion of Alex. McMillan was appointed Chairman, and Shadrach Howell, Secretary.

On motion of Robt. S. French, Esq., it was ordered that a committee be appointed to take into consideration and report the practicability of building said road; whereupon the following named gentlemen were appointed by the chairman, to wit: Thos. A. Norment, James Blount, and Edward Lewis, Esq. And that there also be a committee to take into consideration and report as to the practicability of improving the navigation of Lumber River from Lumberton to Fair Bluff. Whereupon, Robt. S. French, Benj. Freeman, and Wm. W. Gunn, Esqs., were appointed commissioners to investigate said subject and report at the next meeting on the 4th Monday of May next, at the Court House in Lumberton.

On motion of Wm. W. Gunn, Esq., ordered that these proceedings be published in the Fayetteville and Wilmington papers. The meeting adjourned to meet again at the Court House in Lumberton on the 4th Monday of May next. ALEX. McMILLAN, Ch'n. S. HOWELL, Sec'y.

Immensely Defalcation in the Suffolk Bank—Preparations for Kosuth.

BOSTON, April 17. The investigation in regard to the recent defalcation in the Suffolk Bank, has been gone through with by those who were entrusted with it. It now appears from all the facts which the committee have been able to procure, that the defalcation is much greater than was at first supposed, amounting in all to the enormous sum of two hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars.

Extensive preparations are making here for the reception and entertainment of M. Kosuth on his arrival. Rhode Island Election. PROVIDENCE, April 17.—The second trial for the election of a sixth representative in this city yesterday, resulted in the election of Amersy V. Potter, dem., by 98 majority over all. Mr. Potter is the first democrat ever elected in this city.

WASHINGTON, April 19. SENATE.—Mr. Gwin gave notice of the introduction of a resolution for the settlement of private claims in California. The French Spoliation Bill was taken up and passed—ayes 26, nays 13. The Deficiency Bill was then taken up and discussed.

HOUSE.—The report of the committee on printing was taken up. A motion to lay on the table the motion for reconsideration and recommitment of the report, was lost. A motion to reconsider was carried. Mr. Gorman moved to lay the whole subject on the table—pending the consideration of the motion, the House adjourned.

From the Washington Union. Vindication of the Truth of History. From the Democratic Review, Extract from Genl. Harrison's official report of the battle of the Thames, dated October 23, 1812. "I have already stated that Gen. Cass and Commodore Perry assisted me in forming the troops for action. The former is an officer of the highest merit, and the appearance of the Commodore cheered and animated every heart."

WHIG CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS.—Slim Attendance. WASHINGTON, April 20th.—The Whig caucus assembled to-night in the Senate Chamber at eight o'clock. Judge Mangum presiding. The attendance is rather thin, a number of Southern members and some of Mr. Webster's being absent. Among those present are Senators Smith, Fish, White and Seward, and Messrs. Fowler, Briggs, Brooks, Howe, Stanley, Gentry, Landry and Humphrey Marshall, of the House of Representatives. The latter gentleman proposes renewing his compromise platform offered at the previous meeting, upon which a lengthy and stormy discussion is expected. The session is likely to be late, and the caucus is sitting with closed doors.

SECOND DISPATCH. WASHINGTON, April 20.—10, P. M.—The Whig Caucus is still in session, and an excited discussion is progressing on resolutions declaring the finality of the compromise measures.

THIRD DISPATCH. THE WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BALTIMORE. WASHINGTON, April 20.—11, P. M.—The Whig Caucus is still in session, and has just selected Baltimore city as the place of holding the Whig National Convention, and the 17th of June as the day.

FOURTH DISPATCH. WASHINGTON, April 20.—12, P. M.—The Whig Caucus adjourned shortly after 11 o'clock. The following were the proceedings previous to the vote on the Convention: Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, offered the resolutions introduced by him at the first meeting of the Whig Caucus. Mr. Stanley contended that they were out of order, and the chairman sustained his objection.

After a discussion, principally between Messrs. Marshall and Stanley, the decision of the chair was sustained—yeas 46, nays 18. Mr. Marshall said that as the Chair had decided the compromise principles of the Whig Administration to be out of order, the Caucus was no place for a Whig to remain, and then withdrew.

The negative vote against the decision of the Chair were Southern men, except Stanley, Morehead, McClure, and two Kentuckians. Among the affirmatives were, Fowler, Wade, Campbell, Sackett, Schoolcraft, and others.

Later from Buenos Ayres. NEW YORK, April 18.—An arrival this afternoon from Buenos Ayres dates to March 16th. Mr. Lopez has been appointed Provisional Governor, and the appointment was extremely popular. The American Consul made the first resolve resistance against the pillages in the city, after the defeat of the sea. With a force of six men, he shot down two and put to flight 50 of the plunderers. His example was soon followed by others.