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cheaply and ... well as they can be done at the North. We see no reason why they should not. All work can be sent from their shop on a Railroad to their own wharf, and placed on board their own flat, to be carried to the Railroad Depots, or to steamboats or vessels without extra charge or expense. An important item.

This is purely a North Carolina enterprise. Every member of the company is a citizen of this place, as is also Mr. Henry M. Drane, the agent and manager, who seems to be thoroughly versed in all the details of the business he has undertaken to conduct. For these reasons we have taken the trouble to examine the matter thoroughly, so as to be able to speak of it understandingly, and we take pleasure in commending it to the Southern people, especially to the people of this State as eminently worthy of their support and fully prepared to accommodate them with anything in its line they may require.

Taxes.

As we remarked some weeks since, the first efforts of hostile criticism bade fair to be directed against the action of the last Legislature on account of what it had omitted to do, rather than on account of what it had actually done. Such was the fact. Every section of the State—every county, we might almost say—was an applicant for State aid. Those who got this "State aid" were jubilant, those who did not, were irate and dissatisfied.

But, as might have been expected, after the first burst was over, the most sensitive point, the pocket nerve, being attacked, *would* claim a hearing, and *would* be heard. "State aid" as an inevitable consequence involves taxation. "State aid" means money. The people constitute the State, and the money *must* come out of the people's pockets. That is the whole story. Those who go for a "liberal system" must not feel at all surprised at its results. "The State" has no private purse. We, all of us, in general, are the State. Its "liberal system" is our system; the money to carry it on is our money. If the cost overcomes the profit, then let the "liberal system" alone; if, on the other hand, we think the game worth the candle, then let us burn the candle without grumbling. We do not believe that the Revenue Law of the last Legislature will raise one cent more than the necessities of the State Treasury absolutely require. In the amount or mode of expenditure, the Executive has little to say.

The "liberal system" being an admitted fact, to which, if the last Legislature had not conformed its action, it would have had to encounter the loudest and most obstreperous denunciation, we do not see how any reasonable objection can be taken against the aggregate amount of taxation, which has, indeed, been absolutely indispensable to maintain the faith and credit of the State pledged by former Legislatures. The only fair question now is whether or not such taxation presses equally upon the various interests within the State, in proportion to the amount of benefit and protection which they receive from the State government.

If it does not—if it imposes unequal burdens—if particular interests are compelled to bear an undue proportion of the general expense—then, to such interests, the law is oppressive and tyrannical in its operation, whatever it may have been in the intention of its framers.

The fact about the matter is that taxation is a subject less understood in this State than almost any other. Heretofore the very small sum required for the support of a frugal state government wholly out of debt gave little exercise to financial ability in the way of raising it, and now when a larger sum is required we are without the knowledge that only experience can give.

How many members went to Raleigh with any views upon the subject of taxation? How many went without some project which would render taxation necessary. Every man was so busy with his own local schemes, that we question if one half knew a thing about the Revenue law. The whole responsibility ought not to be thrown upon the framers of that law, who acted to the best of their ability.

New Hampshire.

At the recent election in New Hampshire, Mr. Baker, Democrat, received 27,108 votes. The year before he received 29,798, showing a falling off this year of 2,680, or about 9 per cent upon the Democratic vote. Last year the "Whig" Branch of the Abolition party in New Hampshire received 16,888 votes,—this year 3,500, being a loss of 13,388, or 79 per cent Last year the "Freesoil" Branch of the same party received 11,151 votes, and this year it received 1,093 votes, being a falling off of 10,059, or about 90 per cent.

These facts show the nature of the contest—how nearly the Democratic party came to polling its full strength, and to what an extent the various branches of the abolition party became merged in the Know Nothing coalition; 79 per cent of the so-called whigs, and 90 per cent of the "Freesoilers" by name went right into it.

This exhibits one aspect of this contest which the Democratic party is called upon to maintain against the isms and coalitions of the day, and of the terrible tests to which its principles and organization are subjected. The position and principles of the candidates will show the character of the K. N. victories at the North. While Mr. Baker, Democrat, was a supporter of the Fugitive Slave Law and the Kansas and Nebraska Bill, Metcalf, K. N., was a ranting anti-slavery man in every sense of the word. This is a slight glance at one K. N. victory. Will any one deny its Whig and abolition character.

All Fools' Day.

The first of April having come on Sunday, to-day, we suppose, is to be considered entitled to all the honors and prerogatives of that august occasion.—The powers that *were* in Raleigh during the winter, have provided for its proper celebration by the enactment of a Revenue Law, which seems likely to cause the beginning of the first fiscal year of its operation ...o be memorable, if not glorious. The mercantile com-...unity appear totally at a loss to perceive the point ...a joke which extends the April Fool to the end of ...season. The new reading of the old proverb says ...what can't be endured must be cured. Any fea-... of the now existing law which may be found ...endurable in practice must be cured by the next Legislature, though, for our part we can see no greater oppression in the imposition of a State Tax of five per cent on the wholesale trade in Liquor, than for the town of Wilmington to charge $300 for a license to retail. The truth about the matter is, that if it is lawful or right to sell liquor at all, it ought to stand as other lawful and right occupations; if it is not, it ought not to stand at all.

The first of April may pass as all other such days have passed, but whether the fools will all depart this life at 12 o'clock at night, precisely, is a matter which admits of serious question. We rather lean to the opinion that they will *not*. The world, morally and mentally speaking, keeps moving in a circle, and the "new orders" and "new ideas" of this age are in general but the exploded humbugs of some past age, rehashed and warmed up for present use. The real knowledge of the world has been gained by the sad experience of ages, each of which has contributed its quota to the general store, and this quota of genuine knowledge has borne a very small proportion to the great mass of pretentious impositions which have passed out of sight, to be occasionally revived by some "original thinker" or "great reformer," in whose diatribes they will flourish as the "Spirit of the Age" to again pass away and be forgotten. As a writer in the last number of Harper very properly remarks, it is not in the *Spirit of the Age*, but in the *Spirit of the Ages* that we are to look for and find those great truths which experience has elevated into axioms.—*Isms* and *orders* rise like unwholesome exhalations, and so pass away, after having worked their allotted amount of evil; ascertained truths only remain. But all the fools never die, and no humbug is so gross as to want supporters.

The Herald of Saturday last, commenting upon our analysis of the vote of the recent election in New Hampshire, as compared with that of a year ago, in which the striking fact is exhibited that the Know Nothing party has risen upon the ruins of the "Whig" and "Free Soil" branches of the Abolition party, having absorbed 79 per cent. of the one and 90 per cent. of the other, asks us to account for the six thousand votes which are not thus accounted for, being in fact the increased vote at the last election as compared with the preceeding one. We presume these six thousand were composed pretty much in the same manner as the rest, mainly "Whig" and "Free Soil" abolitionists with a slight sprinkling of Democrats.

The Revenue Law.—Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and others interested in the provisions of the New Revenue Law was held at Commissioners' Hall yesterday afternoon. A general feeling of opposition to the Law was manifessed, and by some it was denounced as not only arbitrary and oppressive, but even as unconstitutional. It was resolved to take legal advice upon the matter. A report is to be made to a subsequent meeting. The law bears heavily upon the mercantile community.

Left Off.

The Goldsboro' Telegraph, of the 28th inst., in an editorial article, intimates that the editor having taken charge of that Journal as a Whig paper, a few months since, but now finding that the Whig party has mysteriously disappeared, leaving the contest to be fought between the Know Nothings and Democrats, and not being able to side with either party, he retires from the field of politics, and hoists the banner of Temperance.

Hon. Wm. S. Archer, of Virginia, for some time United States Senator from that State, expired at his residence, in Amelia county, on Wednesday morning, the 28th inst., after an illness of only a few hours. Mr. Archer was generally respected.

ARRIVAL OF THE ASIA.

Seven Days Later from Europe.

Halifax, March 30.—The Cunard steamship Asia arrived here last night, with Liverpool dates to the 17th—being seven days later than previous advices.

The news is not important.

Cotton has declined. Wheat is firm under a slight advance.

An advance has taken place in consols, which is regarded as a favorable augury by the friends of peace.

No event of striking importance has occurred since the Atlantic's advices.

Public attention is centred on the Vienna conference, which was formally inaugurated on the 15th. Hopes and fears are equally balanced as to the probability of peace.

From the seat of war the most important statement is, that the allies have reopened their fire upon Sebastopol with great effect.

In the British Parliament Mr. Roebuck's committee is still prosecuting the inquiries into the conduct of the war.

The manifesto from the Czar to his army is interpreted as a warlike demonstration.

From Berlin and Vienna we have the most contradictory rumors in regard to the prospects of peace; but it is generally believed that weeks must elapse before the real intentions of the new Emperor can be known.

Napoleon's contemplated journey to the Crimea is supposed to be postponed.

The crisis in Belgium affairs still continues.

An interesting communication from Concha respecting the late Cuban conspiracy had been laid before the Spanish Cortes, recommending large concessions to the Cubans. His recommendations were unanimously adopted by the Cortes.

A new Bavarian loan has been promulgated.

THE CZAR ALEXANDER'S MANIFESTO.

The following is the manifesto issued by the Czar Alexander to the Russian army:

St. Pesersburg, March 5th, 1855

"Valiant warriors—faithful defenders of the Church the Throne and the Country: It has pleased Almighty God to visit us with a most painful and grievous loss. We have all lost our common father and benefactor. In the midst of his unwearied care, Russia's prosperity and glory, and Russia's aims, the Emperor Nicholas Paulovitch, my most blessed father, has departed eternal life. His last words were: 'I thank the glorious loyal guard who, in 1825, saved Russia, and also thank the brave army and fleet, and pray God to maintain the courage and spirit by which they have distinguished themselves under me. So long as this spirit remains upheld Russia's tranquility is secured both within and without—and woe to her enemies.'

"I loved my troops as my own children, and strove as much as I could to improve their condition.—Though not entirely successful in that respect it was from no want of will, but because I was unable to devise anything better or do more.

"May these ever memorable words remain preserved in your hearts as proof of his sincere love for you, which I share to the largest extent, and let them be a pledge for your devotion for me and Russia.

Signed, ALEXANDER."

A postscript to the manifesto presents to the Guards the uniform worn by the deceased Emperor, and directs them to retain on their accoutrements the initial of "Nicholas." The manifesto concludes as follows:

"May the sacred memory of Nicholas survive in our ranks as a terror to our foes and the glory of Russia."

From the Richmond Enquirer.

A Warning to Virginia.

The name of George B. Loring is familiar not in Virginia only, but throughout the entire South. The firmness with which in the case of *Anthony Burns*, he resisted the pressure of a fanatical public opinion, and upheld the constitution and the laws in the midst of almost universal disloyalty and revolt, and, at the hazard of a severe personal penalty, attracted the attention of the country to a man who thus fearlessly maintained the independence of the Judiciary, and thus nobly illustrated the devotion of the patriot. In Virginia, especially, the rights of whose citizen he so faithfully protected, his conduct excited the greatest admiration. And, when he was stricken by the vengeance of abolitionism, and in the loss of office was made to endure the penalty of devotion to duty, we were not backward in expressions of sympathy with his sufferings and indignation at his wrongs. But his dismissal from a professorship in Harvard University, by a Board over which the Know-Nothing Governor of Massachusetts presided, did not appease the vengeance of the Abolitionists. They resolved to deprive him of the judicial commission which he holds under the State government. A Legislature, in which the ascendancy of Know-Nothingism is without dispute, eagerly entered on the work of persecution. A petition for his dismissal was referred to a special committee, which has just reported in favor of removing him. It is already understood that the Know-Nothing Governor, to whom the power of removal belongs, will promptly respond to the request of the Know-Nothing Legislature. Meanwhile, the Know-Nothing Abolition press of Massachusetts is preparing the popular mind for the sacrifice, by traducing the character of the intended victim. Theodore Parker and Wendell Phillips are conspicuous among his persecutors. In the agony of this severe trial, Judge Loring bears himself with the composure of conscious rectitude, and the dignity of a truly heroic nature. He can have no doubt of the issue of the attack, but, in his misfortune, he may be assured of the sympathy and applause of all good men in every quarter of the country. He will fall a victim of the ferocious phrensy of Abolitionism, and a martyr to his intrepid devotion to the Union and the Constitution. In the South the memory of his patriotic service will be cherished with grateful admiration.

This is the man who ventured to utter a warning to Virginia in the present perilous crises of its fortunes. And surely no man has a better right to speak a word of admonition to Virginia, and from no man will Virginians receive words of counsel with more respect and gratitude. His personal character, his distinguished ability, his well-tried and well attested patriotism, to say nothing of his special service in defence of the rights of the South, combine to open for him a ready access to the heart and judgment of the people of this State.

The letter from Judge Loring, in another column of this paper, will be read, we doubt not, by every citizen of Virginia, with attentive and impartial consideration. Apart from the interest which must attach to the solemn warning of a person sustaining such peculiar relations to the South, touching the great issues which at this moment engage the most anxious thoughts of the people of Virginia—apart from the authority which belongs to the deliberate opinion of a man who gives us the conviction of a sound judgment and the results of a close and accurate observation of the character and tendency of Know Nothingism in the quarter whence it originated and where it has attained its greatest power—apart from all these accessory circumstanses, there is enough of eloquent appeal and irresistible argument in this letter from Judge Loring to produce an immense and decisive effect on the popular mind of this State and of the whole South. No honest man, of whatever party, can read it without a conviction of the truth of its representations. No intelligent man will fail to admire its compact logic, and its manly eloquence.—But to the Democracy of Virginia—to the old State-rights Republican party which reveres the memory and cherishes the principles of Jefferson and Madison—to the party which in every crisis, from the era of Alien and Sedition laws down to the last and most repulsive development of anti-slavery Federalism, has stood steadfast by the Constitution and the Union this letter appeals with a fervor and a force which it is impossible to resist. To the people of Virginia we commend it as supplying unquestionable and conclusive evidence of the alliance of Know Nothingism and Abolitionism in the Northern States. It corroborates the emphatic testimony of Judge Douglas, and of every other national man in the North. It pictures the true nature of Know Nothingism, as we see it in its political development.

LETTER FROM JUDGE LORING.

Salem, (Mass.) February 25, 1855.

Dear Sir:—In yours of the 6th inst, you remark: "Strange, strange times these, when such heresy comes from Massachusetts," as is promulgated in the Know Nothing address of Governor Gardner. The times are, indeed, strange; and, considering the position of Massachusetts, as a State abounding in wealth and intelligence, it is a matter of interest to every patriot to inquire in what way she has reached her present anomalous political condition. More particularly is it a matter of interest to every Virginian, whose political lessons have taught him that his own State and Massachusetts have always occupied the opposite poles of the political universe, and who is now invited to follow the lead of his long-established and natural political opponent. Let him look well to the political history of Massachusetts before he follows her example. Let him remember, that in the earliest days of our Republic the principles which received the support of Jefferson and Madison, met here with their bitterest opposition. Let him remember, that the peculiar doctrines, whose establishment in the Constitution has given tone to our whole Union, started forth from Virginia, and were received with bitter hostility on the very boundaries of Massachusetts. And, as he surveys the political condition of this latter State, let him shrink back in horror and disgust at lending his hand to plunge the Old Dominion into that "lower deep" which now furnishes "room and verge enough" for every species of Massachusetts' fanaticism, and arrays her against the safety and prosperity of our Union.

It cannot be that Virginia and Massachusetts are destined to travel together the road of Know-Nothingism. Here the way has been prepared By slow and persistent labor the popular mind of Massachusetts has been cultivated for just the political paradox which now startles the prudent and patriotic portions of the community. In no State in the Union have there been such pertinacious resistance to the prevailing sentiment of the times—such determined devotion to selfish interests—such disregard of the rights and wants of other sections of the Union—such bigoted political faith, and such short-sighted political endeavor, as have marked the course of the dominant party here for years. Massachusetts federalism, however honorable it may have been in its origin, has at last brought forth that very fruit which its early rejection of the true intention of our government promised. Devoted in its youth to measures of such doubtful utility that the nation speedily repudiated them, it passed on into a manhood which has left not one brilliant republican act to adorn its history—and it has now found its culmination in the monstrous political thoughts and deeds, which make Massachusetts' politics a reproach in the Union.—This is no fiction of the imagination. Her devotion to the "alien and sedition" laws of John Adams; her opposition to the large, pure, liberal democracy of Jefferson, her declaration in the Missouri debate in 1820, through her Senator, Mr. Otis, that the States were subservient to the Federal power, and that "if the Constitution is not strong enough to restrict slavery, we must make it so;" her determination to exhaust the rest of the Union for the benefit of her own manufactures by protective tariffs; her support of an inflated national currency; her bitter and unrelenting hostility to the compromises of 1850; her progress into the maddest abolitionism; her howl of phrensy when the principle of non-intervention and the sovereignty of the people was established by the territorial bill of Nebraska and Kansas; her present spirit of nulification, and of religious proscription, are facts known throughout the length and breadth of the land. It is these things which are now having their jubilee in Massachusetts. Is it not so? Does not the message of Gov. Gardner contain the whole dark list of dangerous political heresies which I have just enumerated? Massachusetts has indeed found the harvest for which its political field has been so long cultivated. The stiff and proscriptive Americanism of John Adams, the nullification of Gov. Strong, the Abolitionism of Otis, the protective doctrines of all her Whig statesmen, have culminated in the sophistries of Gov. Gardner's address, in the abolitionism, and proscription, and anti-Republicanism, which pervade it, and in the popular sentiment which sends Abolitionists to Congress, and cherishes Garrison and Phillips as household gods at home.

This is Massachusetts Know-Nothingism. It is the adoption by the people, misdirected by old party leaders, of the theories of that party, and their expression, in the crude and fanatical manner which we now behold. Can you conceive of a more glorious opportunity for abolitionism? The popular mind, tainted by long previous teaching, and the popular feeling perverted during years of political heresy, have burst forth into a revolution, which fanaticism seizes upon with natural avidity. And a free and republican people, clamorous for Americanism, and red-mouthed in their denunciations of Jesuitism, bind themselves by party ties, which nothing but perjury can break, subject themselves to obligations upon which their very livelihood depend, and are willing to be confined within the limits of orders, whose lines are as fixed as the castes of the Hindoos. Is not this a political paradox indeed? Can a State be proud of the political history out of which such a monstrosity has grown? Is there any temptation in this, that Massachusetts should be followed by her sisters in the confederation? It is indeed "strange that such heresy should come from Massachusetts;" strange that with her intelligence and her interests, she should have pursued the path to such conclusions. But it would be passing strange if she met with a response from Virginia. I cannot conceive of that madness which would lead the people of Virginia at this hour to follow "the lead of Massachusetts"—that lead which dissevers the States, arrays sectional interests against each other, proscribes foreign industry, and destroys that religious freedom which forms a great element of the Constitution. Virginia would develop her resources. Can she, then, shut the doors against the entrance of adopted citizens, without whom even Massachusetts could not have attained to her wealth and prosperity? Virginia would maintain her doctrines of State-rights, which she has set forth in the great crisis which have heretofore threatened our national fabric. Will she then place her destinies in the hands of a party, whose whole vitality consists in the very hottest of abolition dictation? Virginia would enlarge her universities, and multiply her schools, and extend her churches. Can she do it by adopting a system of religious intolerance? Virginia would maintain a standard of honesty and freedom of political opinion among her citizens Can she do it by reducing the standard of truth to the morals of a Know-Nothing lodge, and by the voluntary submission of her citizens to the discipline of this proscriptive Order? Virginia, "the mother of States and Statesmen," would stretch forth her arms and embrace a confederation bound by mutual regard for the rights and privileges of each other. Can she do it if the doctrines of Know-Nothingism prevail, and she finds a Gardner to rule her at home, and federal abolitionists to represent her in the national Councils?

It cannot be for a moment supposed that the principles which a majority of the people of Massachusetts have declared themselves in favor of, are consistent with the perpetuity of this Union, or are such as the leading minds of the country would attempt to advocate. And yet the overwhelming success of the Know-Nothings here, has already operated as a remarkable stimulus to this extraordinary party elsewhere. It is on this account that I would have the political peculiarities of Massachusetts fully understood by the people of other States. Here, more than any where else, have the Democracy struggled against tremendous odds. Their success has always been short-lived and doubtful. The party which has maintained its ground, fighting in the minority of those doctrines which have generally controlled the policy of the country, has been fearless in defence of that policy, and has met with corresponding opposition.—This aspect of things has not changed. Those elements which have been divided in this State, merely by personal differences, have taken advantage of the protection of secret conclave, to join in an united onslaught upon the Democracy. This is the legitimate business of Know-Nothingism. It is the weapon employed by the party out of power and their sympathising malcontents to overthrow the party holding power in the country. And to ovethrow it for what? Solely because it is democratic; because it is that party which supported Jefferson and Jackson and has preserved untarnished the simplicity of our republican government; because it is that party which has endeavored to mete out "equal and exact justice to all men," and has maintained an indiscriminate regard for the welfare of every section of the Union; because it is that party which has not allowed itself to be led away by sectional issues, and has regarded the requirements and guaranties of the Constitution, as superior to temporizing and short-sighted compromises. It is this party which Know-Nothingism is constituted to oppose. You will look in vain for a national Whig organization. That party which has been reduced from its former greatness to being a simple opponent of dissatisfaction, is now clothed in new armour, and combines the heterogeneous forces of abolitionists, malcontents, disunionists, into an unprincipled, and, as I believe, short-lived party organization. You can readily perceive why such an organization should have sprung up like a mushroom out of the ripening and putrifying mass of Massachusetts politics. But it should not flourish elsewhere. The very nature of this opposition should teach Virginia Democrats what a depth of disgrace their adversaries have reached. It should teach them that those adversaries have been obliged to resort to the charms of secret manœuvres, in order to give new strength to their decaying powers. It ought to confirm them in their faith in the truth of Democracy, when they look upon the disgraceful weapons which are brought to bear against them. If any in this world should infuse new life into your party, it is the character, itself, of Know-Nothingism. And when you consider that the mass of people in Virginia have stood for years opposed to all the temptations of the enemy, it seems impossible that they should yield to its last and most comtemptible of all foes. The same causes which gave Know-Nothingism success in Massachusetts, ought to everwhelm it and rout it beyond redempton of Virginia. Here it flourishes because the whole power and all the blandishments of the State have been exerted to their utmost to break down the Democracy. There it ought to wither because it stands just where the enemies of the Democratic party have always stood, with all their weakness and fallacies. Here it should succeed, because federalism and abolitionism in some form have always held the power. There it should fail, because Virginia has always been true to the Democratic faith. Know-Nothingism is indigenous to the soil of Massachusetts; but, unless the people of Virginia are struck with judicial blindness, it can never take root among your valleys and mountains.

It is entirely unnecessary for me to occupy your time with a delineation of the practical working of Know-Nothingism here. You have learned its political designs already, and you can easily conceive of the political debauchery which goes with it. Questions which were formerly settled by free and open discussion, are now decided by the iron rule of council. Capacity and intelligence which, however much mistaken, once controlled the acts of the old Bay State, are now banished from an arena which is occupied by the fruits of secret intrigue. The path to preferment, which formerly led over the summits of the everlasting hills of knowledge, now lie among the low and swampy abodes where nothing noble dwells. The mass of the people are excluded from all participation in those matters upon which depend their social and civil privileges. The voice of the people is dumb. The elect point out the way, and under threats of oppression, and proscription and persecution in every walk in life, men who call themselves American freemen, submit to the dictation of this last and most ingenious form of worse than fabled jesuitism. This is the operation of the thing here. If Virginia hopes for honor and prosperity, she had better drive it from her borders with scorn and contempt.

When I remember that Washington and Jefferson, and Madison, have left the glory of their great names as a legacy to Virginia, and remember too, that the party which now claims to be the American, would have proscribed these heroes, had they not submitted to the iron rule of this order, which every statesman must despise, I am astonished that it should have found, for a moment, a foothold of power in our country, or even have threatened your State. As Virginians value the pride of their State, let them reject it. Let the Blue Ridge be the barrier beyond which no wave of this political mania can pass on. And let the present condition of Massachussetts prove as a warning to that State which was the first to consolidate the Union, and should be the last to strike a blow at its existence.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEO. B. LORING.

Hon. Henry A. Wise,
Only, near Onancock, Accomac Co., Va.

Three at a Birth.—Mrs. Richardson, wife of S. S. Richardson, Esq., of Northboro', Mass., presented her husband with two boys and one girl at a single birth, on the 26th inst. They were small, but are doing "as well as can be expected."

Remarks of Mr. Houston, of Duplin,

On the Fayetteville and Beaufort Railroad Bill.

Having studiously abstained from consuming the time of the House heretofore, I trust I may ask with impunity, its brief indulgence while I submit a few remarks in favor of the bill now under consideration. The liberality of the legislature, has been heavily taxed by the propositions of the friends of the eastern and western extension, but in voting for the amendment to the charter of the North Carolina Road thereby extending it east to Beaufort and by paving the way for its gradual extension west to the Tennessee line, this legislature has done that which, in my opinion, will in time to come, secure to the State a store of wealth and prosperity that will cause us to look back upon it with feelings of gratulation and pride.

But, sir, much as I am inclined to laud the motives and objects of those with whom this great scheme originated; favorable as I am to it—and sanguine as I feel for its ultimate success, I am sincerely of the opinion that it is insufficient, of itself, to secure the cherished object which the people of the State have in view *and expect* to accomplish by its completion—that is the building up of a commercial city at Beaufort Harbor And why, sir? My reasons shall be briefly given. The section of country traversed by the North Carolina Railroad is admitted to be populous and productive; and its citizens enjoy a far and wide reputation for intelligence and State-pride.—My own acquaintance with them, though slight, enables me, as I do with great pleasure, to accord to them this distinction. But, sir, while state pride gives impulse to works of Internal Improvements—while an aversion to occupy a Rip-Van-Winkle position among our sister States prompts us to activity in building railroads, there is a pocket-pride common to us all that will compel us to leave those roads to languish and decay, cause grass to grow up in the streets of those towns to which they lead and drive us with our produce to other markets outside of the State. I regard it as an axiom that trade like water will seek its level, and if we would change its direction we must first check its course by damming its original current, and then furnish another channel and another basin as natural and capacious as the former. Norfolk and Petersburg are as acceptable to the central counties, traversed by the North Carolina road, as any Eastern towns are—they are much more convenient to the Northern and North-Eastern counties than any markets within the limits of this State, and while they continue to hold out these inducements and invitations, which now command the trade of these sections, is it not reasonable to presume that they will continue to control it? Can we expect the people of this portion of the State to feel the interest or anxiety for the welfare of our own markets, that is felt by other sections? Can we expect them, thus abundantly supplied, to aid the building up of new markets at a pecuniary sacrifice? Sir, it is vain to expect it. It is unreasonable and perhaps unjust to demand their co-operation, until the concentration of other energies and resources shall have built up a market within our borders to which transportation is as cheap, at which goods and groceries may be purchased as cheap, where they may sell their Pork, Flour, Bacon and Tobacco for as much as they can get elsewhere. When this is done—when they can consult their interest as well as that pride which such results would kindle in the bosom of every Carolinian, then we may safely conclude that the current which sweeps the rich products of our State into Virginia markets, is permanently *dammed* up and that they will then be forced to seek sale or shipment at our own ports. Besides, sir, may not the same inducements take off from Beaufort produce of the West? See the gauntlet to be run by a bag of cotton from Cabarrus for instance before it reaches Beaufort. At Raleigh it encounters the agents of Baltimore Norfolk and Petersburg. Their eloquence in setting up the superior advantages of their markets in all probability will secure a triunph and take the trade, but should State-pride stand out stiffly and stubbernly and refuse to yield to the predominating influence of dollars and cents it proceeds on its way to Goldsboro' where it encounters the influence of Wilmington and Petersburg. Passing this point it is next brought up at the ancient town of Newbern. Here it is confronted with long dormant capital of the ancient metropolis whose capitalists zealous in rivalry with the merchants of Beaufort make the last strong effort in competition with that young daughter of the Atlantic. These large cities from their situation with reference to the North Carolina road acquire decided advantage over Beaufort so far off, and interpose so many points and localities at which produce may be drawn off that we cannot reasonably expect, by means of this *single road* to gratify the hopes and expectations of the people by building up a Commercial City on the Harbor of Beaufort. Do we expect to build a city without trade or commerce? Can we expect that commerce to be fed by the means of communication now supplied? Clearly not sir. Indeed sir it is impossible to build up a city by means of one road alone at any point, not supplied with water communication with the interior unless that is employed in transporting to that point, not merely general produce, but some valuable commodity, and that commodity must be supplied in such quantities and so concentrated as to attract shippers and consumers to that point *alone* for their supplies. Now sir is Beaufort that point? Is the North Carolina road *that one road?* If so where is the valuable commodity to be transported? For the sake of individual enterprize and the millions of dollars expended by the State I trust I am mistaken but my religious opinion is, that while Beaufort Harbor is the point the Fayetteville, Beaufort and Coal-field Road is the only *means* and coal the only commodity that can be so concentrated as to attract shipping enterprize and capital, and thereby speedily accomplish what the state, at great cost has attempted. My attention is called to Wilmington, a town whose people I am proud to claim as North Carolinians, a town which, when her population numbered but little more than three thousand, conceived and actually executed the monster design of building the present Wilmington and Roanake road. That road has unquestionably benefitted Wilmington in various ways, her population has increased ten fold, her wealth in a greater ratio. The improvements infused new life and activity into the energies of her people and stimulated them to other enterprizes. But sir it must be remembered that Wilmington had considerable commerce, and an extensive inland trade before that road was built. It must be remembered that she has her river which with its tributaries navigable for the distance of 50 and one hundred miles to penetrate the surrounding country and bring to her wharves, timber and staves, articles that are incapable of Railroad transportation and for which Wilmington must ever be the principle market in the State. Without the Cape Fear, Wilmington with all her highways could never have reached her present position, and on the other hand had she the harbor of Beaufort, I feel that I hazard nothing in the assertion that she would now have a population of fifty thousand instead of ten thousand. Beaufort has the harbor but no river.

We must supply the want which nature has denied her by giving her another road, by chartering according to the bill now under consideration, the Fayetteville and Beaufort coalfield road. And what, sir, are the objections to the bill? I am happy to learn that they are few and not very potent. The first objection alledged is that it will conflict with the interest of the State in the North Carolina road. Gentlemen are laboring under some misapprehension. They do not seem to understand that the amendment of the gentleman from Pitt, cuts off the road at the coalfield, and it extends no farther West. It does not intersect at Greensboro' as proposed in the original bill. The gentleman from Wayne certainly misapprehends the amendment if he supposes the passage of this bill will amount to ripping up the iron of the North Carolina Road. The friends of this road do not desire its extension beyond the coal fields, for they are the friends of the North Carolina Road as their votes will show.

Give us this road beginning at a point fifty miles from the N. C. Road, and although it runs parallel with it, it is at such a distance from it that time will show how futile is the argument. As a friend of the N. C. road I advocate and always have advocated the Fayetteville road as a scheme more beneficial to it than otherwise, because the means of more speedily building up Beaufort and thereby drawing down to that market produce which would *leave the road* and be carried to other markets. So long, sir, as that road promises to benefit the State as a stockholder, or tends to the growth and prosperity of our own towns, I shall remain its friend; but if it is to be a monstrous engine of power, absorbing and controlling every other interest—a heavy burden upon the revenue—a suicidal stab in the heart of the State, to pour out its life's blood for the agrandizement of Virginia, the sooner the iron is torn from its sills, the sooner its bed is covered up, and all Legislation upon the subject forgotten, the better it will be for the tax-payers of North Carolina.

But sir, there is another objection urged by gentlemen, to this bill. I regretted Mr. Speaker to hear the arguments of the distinguished gentleman from Bertie and the eloquent member from Pitt in opposition to the Western Bill. I say, sir, I regret that at such a time, when every section and portion of the State, teeming with latent wealth and inviting the hand of improvement, when the will of the people reflected here by their representatives admonished us to extend the hand, when the friends of Improvement had made common cause, and its very genius seemed to preside over this general assembly, that the voice and the influence of such men, coming from such a quarter, should be raised and extended for its annihilation. The great objection of the gentlemen (the argumentum adhominem) the ad captandem employed, is "ruin and taxes," I admit sir, as the gentleman from Bertie has truthfully remarked, "there is not much poetry in a tax bill;" and sir I am as much opposed to a wild and reckless system of Railroad making as any man upon this floor. I am as much opposed as the gentleman himself to see the State involved in debt. Sir, the people have as much intelligence as we have, they know what it is that has created the necessity for this very "unpoetical tax bill," they know that the three million debt for the North Carolina Road was created by past Legislatures. We are not responsible for that. The Eastern and Western extension was required of us as party men, by our party platform—in a dilemma we had to take hold of one horn or the other; we had to choose between losing the two millions already spent to let the road go down, to sink again into a Rip-Van slumber of twenty years, or expend two millions two hundred thousand in order to save all. The latter course has been taken, and now gentlemen complain of the debt. It is a debt and must be paid. My own constituents pay largely into the public treasury—they never have asked one dollar from it; when they are called upon they will pay their tax cheerfully and without a murmer; the people are not so apt to complain at the amount they pay, as they are at not being admitted to equal enjoyments in what they pay for.

When they pay the heavy tax of the next two years, and remember that it is created by works of improvement by which they can never be directly benefited, and that their own application for similar works and for much less aid has been rejected, may they not in justice complain? Will not such a state things lead them to look with contempt and jealously upon the work that is thus burdensome? It is not calculated to breed lasting opposition to improvements in the State? Such is my opinion, at least, sir. While we have raised a tax for its accomplishment we should adopt a system that will benefit as many sections of the state, as were able by this means to sustain a road, (and I think you have now supplied all but my own,) and my word for it sir, where the people see that the benefits are impartially distributed you will never hear them complain. Give to my people this road and endorse their bonds for Eight thousand dollars per mile, and I assure you sir, they will build the road, pay their taxes, and remain as patriotic as ever.

The distinguished gentleman from Bertie refered us to the State of Pennsylvania and the consequences brought upon herself by reckless Legislation upon the subject of railroads. Sir, I recollect a few years ago, that nothing was more commonly seen in the newspapers, than the ruin of that State. I read its story often when a school boy. I remember to have seen on one occasion the financial condition of that State eloquently contrasted with that of North Carolina, and the "clean bill of health" made out for our own State. I doubt not it was a cause of infinite delight to her statesmen; little more than ten years have elapsed since that time, but sir I would like to see the relative positions of the two States portrayed before this house. I think, sir, it would have some good effect upon this bill to see the ruined State of Pennsylvania, emerging from desolation, clothed in wealth and splendor, with her towns, cities and villages, her commerce, agriculture and manufactures, her railroads, canals and navigable rivers, her dense population, fertile soil and flourishing univerisities, and last, though not least, the number of her delegates in the national council, which by every census gains one while North Carolina loses one. And all is superinduced and brought about by Internal Improvements. At the beginning of the republic New York and North Carolina were about equal in population and importance, but while the one by nursing her resources has grown to greatness and renown the other rejoicing in the moral worth, stern integrity and strict economy of her people, has neglected to avail herself of the facilities with which nature has supplied to give magnificence and independence to her as a State. I point sir with pride to a Southern State, the State of Georgia, a State which in the origin and character of her people, as well as in the nature of her soil and her climate, is the very prototype of North Carolina. She has more miles of railroad than any State in the South, and many of them have been built at fearful cost, but that State has never been intimidated; on the contrary she has pressed on, and continues to press on in her own improvement, and what are the consequences to her? Magical! I say magical, sir Inland villages have sprung up and expanded themselves into large cities as if by magic; an almost universal enhancement and improvement have been going on, and Georgia, the last of the old thirteen, is now the empire State of the South; and who, sir, has ever heard the wailing cry of ruin, destitution and destruction coming up from her borders? It never was heard. On the contrary, the hum of industry, the din of business, unmistakable evidence of general prosperity fall upon the ear and greet the eye of the traveller. I say again, sir, railroads never impoverish States.

But, Mr. Speaker, to return more closely to the subject, I have not advocated this road because it will *not* ruin the State, but because, in addition to reasons already advanced, it will become a great channel for the produce of the State, and one which cannot fail to carry its produce either to Beaufort, Newbern or Wilmington, and one which will carry to each of their markets, respectively, such products of the State as are best for those markets, thereby creating a competition between the towns of the State, which must redown to the good of the agricultural interests of all sections.

I have advocated it becase I believe it will be a road easily and cheaply built. Prof. Emmons makes a calculation upon the transportation of coal, by which it seems to be worth per annum a sum equal to 25 per cent. upon one million of dollars. If a road can transport either to Beaufort or Wilmington one-half this quantity of coal, (a thing by no means unreasonable,) the road will be paid for, out and out, in ten or twelve years, a period much shorter than has heretofore brought the stock of our roads to par, or their operations to a dividend.

It has been insinuated that this scheme is antagonistical to the interests of Wilmington. This, sir, I deny. If ever it proves so, it is not now the intention of its friends to make it so. If it is ever so, it must be by the default of that town holding out those inducements which, in fair competition, invite and control trade. That town, her people, her politicians her press have never raised a word of objection to this enterprise. The intelligent gentlemen, who represents her interests upon this floor, have never murmured an objection; for, sir, representing the prosperous, thriving and public spirited constituency of Wilmington, they know that empty legislation can never make cities, and that if Beaufort ever rises to be her superior, it must be done by enterprise and capital combined, industriously and honestly exerted. If this road was, in my opinion, calculated to injure Wilmington, I could not conscientiously support it—Duty, as an humble representative, will not allow me to legislate against the interests of any place or section to promote another.

My duty to my constituetns, who are largely interested in the welfare of Wilmington, compels me to regard her interests. I am for doing justice to all our towns; but while I am anxious to see Wilmington become the Rome, it will also be my pleasure to see Beaufort become the Thebes of North Carolina.

I wish to see all portions and sections improved—I wish to see the East and the West break down the natural barriers that have so long separated and alienated them. I am anxious to succor our citizens who are locked up in the mountain fastnesses of the west, by giving them outlets and means of intercourse, but in doing so, I must ask that they will encourage the sea-ports of their own State, give them a fair trial—If they fail, I am then ready to grant the right of way to any State that will extend to them those facilities which their own State withholds, but never until the

☞ The Washington Union, of the 29th inst., says that a telegraphic despatch from Detroit announces the death of the Hon. Thomas Fitzgerald, formerly United States Senator from the State of Maine.