THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1856.

MOORE'S CREEK CELEBRATION.

We are requested to state that a public meeting, of the citizens of Wilmington, will be held at the COURT HOUSE, to-morrow (FRIDAY) Evening, the 15th inst., at 7½ o'clock, to take measures for participating in the approaching celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, on the 27th inst.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY MEETING.

In accordance with the usage of the Democratic party, a meeting of the Democratic citizens of New Hanover county, will be held at the Court-House in Wilmington, on Tuesday Evening of March County Court, (the 11th) for the purpose of appointing delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to meet at Raleigh on Wednesday, April 16th, and for the transaction of such other business as the Democratic citizens may deem necessary and proper.

Smoothing Things Down.

Congress did little or nothing last week. Mr. Banks has not yet announced his committees, which is the first great move to be taken after his election.

We feel pretty certain that our conjecture of a few days since will turn out to have been correct. Banks is Speaker. He has been elected by a purely sectional vote. So much for that. But, still, it is by no means certain that he will walk up to the line prescribed by Greely & Co., because his doing so would be the death-knell of his party, and the end of his own chances for power.

The New York *Herald*, a paper having a strong bias towards Know-Nothingism, after an examination of the votes leading to the election of Banks, says: "By this exhibit it will be seen that the only party having a national phase at all is the Democratic party. Its weakness in the North comes from the elections of 1854; could it have had the benefit of the reversal of the popular judgment of 1855, it is manifest that it would have signally triumphed."

Of all this Banks is fully conscious, as are also the great body of his Northern supporters, elected in 1854 by the coalition of the Know-Nothing and Abolition influences. He and they see very plainly the re-action which has already taken place in favor of Democracy, and they know that to go the full extent prescribed for them, and indeed promised by them, must make that re-action perfectly overwhelming, even at the North, and deprive the opponents of Democracy of even their last feeble hope of obtaining any support at the South.

Their course will be a wiley one. They will attempt to veil their real projects under an assumption of moderation, so as, if possible, to put the South off her guard; for any national triumph over Democracy, the great obstacle in the way of Banks and his friends, can only be gained by such a course as will unite all the elements of opposition to that party. Know-Nothingism, *per se*—Abolitionism, *per se*, or Maine Liquor Law-ism, *per se*, must inevitably fail. A course will, no doubt, be pursued to get all these together for the prostration of Democracy at the coming contests of this year. *That* done, something may be done in the Abolition line; but, *until* that is done, these factions are perfectly conscious that none of their cherished projects can be realized.

We ask of all men, Democrats, old-line Whigs, and members of the new order, to keep a sharp look out for the movements of the Northern opposition—its efforts to try and smooth down, so as to beguile the South from her resolute and watchful position—efforts which the zeal of party and the bitterness of opposition to Democracy, may lead some politicians, even at the South, into the grave error of sanctioning—than which no graver error could be committed—no more suicidal course be adopted.

☞ England and her continental allies entered into the war against Russia with different views and for the promotion of different objects. Russia enters the field as competitor of France for weight and influence in Germany and southern Europe, and she threatens Sweden and the other Baltic powers at their own doors; and it is on these fields that France and the other powers wish to restrain the influence or curb the advancing march of Russia. On the contrary, Asia is the quarter in which England and Russia are most likely to come in contact. It is towards the east, in the direction of Hindostan, that England is anxious to obtain *prestige* and influence to oppose the growing power and influence of Russia in the same direction. It is on this account that England will be apt to insist upon the dismantlement of the Russian strongholds on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, while her allies will be comparatively careless upon this point, they having no interests to be affected by it. The Austrian authorities and journals—which latter cannot speak without the approval of the authorities—seem terribly in earnest in desiring peace, and in wishing to coerce England into sanctioning any arrangement that may meet the views of the continental powers, while the English journals give manifest evidences of dissatisfaction with any projected arrangement or construction of the preliminary arrangement which does not imply and insist upon a permanent dismantlement of Russian fortresses in the Black Sea, and the weakening of Russian power on the side of Asia. All this, of course, ostensibly in the interests of Turkey, but really looking to the promotion of British interests in connection with her Asiatic possessions. An opinion seems to be gaining ground, in England, that France, Austria and Russia are going to fix up matters to suit themselves, leaving to Russia her career of Asiatic advancement unchecked, and only demanding from her some slight concessions on the side of Europe, sufficient to meet the views of the continental powers, but affording England no compensation for her efforts and her sacrifices.

☞ We notice, by an advertisement in one of our exchanges, that "Thursday, the 14th inst., was St. Valentine's Day." etc. By the bye, speaking of Valentines, Miss Pastrana, the "Bear-woman" arrived here on that day. A hint to the gallant ought to be like a word to the wise, sufficient. How many valentines did that lady received from her devoted admirers? We have seen her daguerreotype, and can "bear" witness to the fact that she is really a very queer looking person, indeed unlike anybody ever seen that we know of.

Valentines are going fast out of date, as is right they should, since the observance had become perverted from its original character of sociability or tenderness to the purpose of tasteless folly or brainless malice. There is one thing; the law requiring prepayment of postage, spoils the joke of sticking in the victim had of "misplaced confidence."

TAXATION.—The rate of taxation in Philadelphia for the coming year is proposed to be fixed at $2 03 per $100. This is ruinous, being fully one-third higher than the highest known before consolidation and the accession of the "Order" to power.

☞ The new Cunard steamer Persia, about whose great size and power so much has been said, arrived at New York on Saturday. She had rough weather, and, therefore, her first trip is not decisive of the question of her ability to cross the Atlantic in a shorter time than that voyage had previously been made in. Her news is not particularly important. The *probabilities* of peace are said to be on the increase, and that is about all. The report is that the Emperor of Russia had given orders to his generals in the Crimea to desist from hostilities for the present, although no formal armistice has been concluded. This, even if true, amounts to nothing, since no active movements could be undertaken in the Crimea on account of the season, which enforces a virtual armistice until April.

Cotton is reported to have slightly advanced; breadstuffs and naval stores declined. It may seem contradictory, and we know it is hard, still we must express our decided opinion that the *permanent* interests of those *permanently* engaged in the naval stores business will be eventually promoted by a high ruling of cotton and a present depression of naval stores. When naval stores were very high, and their production looked upon as an exceedingly profitable employment of labor and capital, an undue amount of both was abstracted from cotton and other culture; new sections of country were brought into the business, which was rather overdone. The present reaction will bring things to their proper bearings, and, although, for a time loss and suffering must ensue, a favorable reaction is inevitable, and a better, steadier and more satisfactory adjustment of prices obtained, arising from a fairer balance of the amount of demand for consumption and the amount of supply from production.

The Deep River Coal.

By a letter from Wm. McClane, Esq., Superintendent of the Egypt Coal Company's Mines, to a gentleman of this place, we learn that on the 8th inst., the shaft which has been sinking there for some months past struck the vein, and they commenced cutting coal. Mr. McClane adds that "it is a beautiful sight, we are all delighted with the result."

There is now not the slightest doubt about the abundance and quality of the coal on the Deep River, nor that it will prove profitable to the companies engaged in mining it, and afford remunerating employment to the improvements constructed for its conveyance to market. It will probably be sometime in the summer, say May or June, before the conveyance of freight on the improvements of the Cape Fear and Deep Rivers can be calculated upon with any certainty. The shaft is sunk to the depth of about two hundred feet, and is between one hundred and fifty and two hundred feet from the river.

☞ General Cass on the 8th inst., while coming down the steps at the east end of the Patent Office Building, slipped upon the ice and was thrown to the pavement, a distance of some four or five steps. He was taken up insensible and did not recover consciousness for about half an hour. He bled quite profusely from his head where he struck, and fears were entertained that his brain might have been injured. We are pleased to learn by the lastest advices from Washington City, that his injuries are less serious than had been feared. He is now considered out of danger by his physicians. General Cass is so well known and so much respected in Washington, that a deep feeling of sympathy was awakened on hearing of the accident, as on account of his advanced age reasonable apprehensions were entertained that it might prove fatal.

SUPERIOR COURTS.—The Superior Courts in this Circuit commenced on Monday last, with the extra Term for Cumberland County—Judge Caldwell presiding.

The regular Circuit will commence on Monday next, the 18th inst., and will continue, as follows:

Moore,	Monday, Feb'y	18.
Montgomery,	" "	25.
Stanly,	" March	3.
Anson,	" "	10.
Richmond,	" "	17.
Robeson,	" "	24.
Bladen,	" "	31.
Columbus,	" April	7.
Brunswick,	" "	14.
New Hanover, (2 weeks).	" "	21.
Sampson,	" May	5.
Cumberland,	" "	12.

Mr. C. C. McCrummen will as usual attend the Superior Courts of this Circuit and settle accounts due the *Journal* Office.

☞ We have had placed at our disposal a letter received by a friend from one of our young citizens now in Rome, which we should have published today but for its extreme length. We shall lay it before our readers in a few days.

☞ The Fayetteville "Argus" hoists the name of Millard Fillmore for the Presidency, subject to the decision of a National Convention.

☞ Hon. Stephen A. Douglass, passed through Baltimore last week on his way to Washington. We presume he will enter on his Senatorial duties this week. He was at the President's reception on Friday.

ROBBERY.—On last Friday night the provision room of C. I. Oates' Hotel was broken open and about 150 lbs. of bacon hams, some lard, and a quantity of sweet potatoes taken therefrom. Mr. Oates desires to know what the Town Guard are doing when thieves are passing about with stolen plunder.

The abolitionists of Massachusetts, and elsewhere demonstrated their ecstasy at Mr. Banks' election by illuminations and firings of cannon. The Boston Post has the following:

"Mr. Banks' friends were jubilant in Waltham on Saturday evening, where the news of his elevation was received by express. Mrs. Banks illuminated her house, but dismissed those who called to congratulate her, by informing them that she was attending upon her sick mother. At the residence of his parents and sisters the crowd gave nine cheers. Rev. Mr. Foster was called out in his night shirt—quoted Shakspeare—said he saw the outstreched arm of Almighty power staying the tide of oppression, and the 'old fireship of slavery stranded on the firm Banks of Massachusetts'—and fancied also that he saw Banks stiffening the backbone of the north. Messrs. Perry & Pope furnished refreshments for those whose backbones had been limbered by their tumultuous rejoicing."

NEW POST OFFICE.—A new Post Office has been established at Outlaw's Bridge, Duplin county, N. C., and Mr. John W. Whitfield appointed P. M.

☞ Mr. Wm. Johnston, of Charlotte, has been elected President of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad, in place of Mr. Palmer, the former energetic President of the Company, who had presided over its affairs from the first inception of the project up to the present time, but who now declines a re-election. Mr. Johnston we know to be a very worthy gentleman and an industrious business man.

RECEIVED.—The Clerk of New Hanover County Court, S. R. Bunting, Esq., requests us to state that the Revised Statutes of the State have been received by him, for distribution amongst the Magistrates of this County.

☞ The American steamship Pacific, which left Liverpool on the 23d ult., has not yet been heard from, and considerable uneasiness is beginning to be felt with regard to her.

☞ Wm. E. Murphy, pro-slavery, has been elected Mayor of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Herat.

Russia borders upon and influences Persia—Persia is only separated from British India by the mountainous country of Afghamstan, a country about four times as large as the State of Virginia, and containing some five or six millions of people, who, at different times, when combined under able leaders, have spread their arms over both India and Persia. They are now, however, very loosely held together; formerly a monarchy, the country is now held by any number of petty chieftains, with three principalities claiming a sort of pre-eminence, viz:—Herat, Cabul and Candahar. Herat borders upon Persia. Cabul, with the tribes under her nominal sovereignty, commands the Kyber and Bolan passes into British India So jealous have been the British authorities in Hindostan of any advance from the West that when, in 1839, a Persian army laid siege to Herat, a British army advanced to Cabul, with the ostensible object of reinstating the deposed Sovereign, Shah Soojah, but really for the purpose of setting a puppet of its own on the throne of the most important of the Afghan States, to strengthen its influence there and establish a barrier against any Persian or Russian advance from the West. British Engineer officers assisted in the defence of Herat, and British diplomacy threatened Persia with the presence of a fleet and army in the Persian Gulf. The attacks upon Herat failed, and the ill-advised movement on Cabul resulted in the most disastrous defeat which the British arms had ever sustained, and one of the most terrible massacres recorded in history. In 1842, Ackbar Khan the son of Dost Mahommed, the sovereign in whose stead the British had set up their puppet, Shah Soojah, gathered a force and compelled the evacuation of the country. In their retreat, the Anglo-Indian Army were set upon by the Douranee tribes of the mountains, and thousands upon thousands slain. McNaughten the British Resident at Cabul was assassinated. The British again entered that Country to retrieve the *prestige* of their arms,—took the main fortresses, blew up the finest buildings in Cabul, and then retired, never to return.

Among the advices by recent arrivals, we find the announcement that "the Persians have taken Herat," and thus has been accomplished the very thing, to frustrate which, the British undertook their disastrous expedition of 1840 against Cabul, and under circumstances now of a nature far more alarming than surrounding it in 1839, had it even then fallen, which it did not; because now there can be no question of Russian hostility, or of her influence over Persia, at the same time that vast bodies of troops have been withdrawn from British India to swell the ranks of the Crimean army. An attack upon Persia through the Gulf would throw her openly into the arms of Russia—make her an open enemy of Turkey and of England. The British exaggerate the cruelties perpetrated by the Persians in their capture of Herat, with the view of rendering them and their Russian backers odious to the Afghans and Hindoos, while they threaten retaliation for an assault upon one of their allies; a treaty, offensive and defensive, existing between Herat and the Anglo-Indian government. But, with all these efforts, British influence has been weakened in Asia, and one barrier between Russia and Hindostan has been destroyed.

☞ The proceedings of the meeting held at Long Creek Bridge, on Saturday last, with reference to the proposed celebration of the Anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek, have just been handed to us, and will be found to-day in our columns. The promptness with which the matter was taken in hand by the citizens in the upper section of the county, merits, and will, we trust, meet with a prompt and hearty response from Wilmington, and, may we not also trust, that the patriotic citizens of the other Cape Fear counties will adopt measures for taking part in the celebration.

It is for our citizens to consider the best course to be adopted. We would suggest the holding of a public meeting this (Friday) evening. What say our citizens—what our papers? Of course, some prompt action will be taken. It must be prompt.

New River Improvement.

A letter from the President of the New River Navigation Company, in Onslow County, informs us that the survey of the work has been completed, and the dredging machine, which is being built at Jacksonville, will be finished about the first of March next, when the work will be commenced. We have also received the report of Mr. Abert, the Engineer, which we take pleasure in laying before our readers to-day. We are pleased to learn that there is a firm determination on the part of the friends of the improvement to push the work on as fast as possible. We hope the people of Onslow may fully realize their expectations in this improvement, and thus procure a more convenient outlet to the different markets than they have heretofore enjoyed. We wish them all possible success in this important enterprise.

The Missing Steamer.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—The steamer Alabama sailed hence this afternoon in search of the missing steamer Pacific, whose non-arrival causes much anxiety. She is now nearly 19 days out. The Alabama has been amply provisioned for the occasion by Mr. Collins.

Lieutenant Hartstein has telegraphed to the Secretary of the Navy for permission to sail in the steam brig Arctic in search of the steamer Pacific, and to relieve other vessels in distress.

The Cincinnati Fugitive Slave Case.

The examination of witnesses before the United States Commissioner at Cincinnati, in the case of the fugitive slaves who were arrested in that city recently, at the instance of their owner in Kentucky, was closed on Tuesday, and the argument commenced.—The counsel for the slaves, Mr. Gitchel, contends that the defendants, if they ever were slaves, having come into the State of Ohio, by consent of the claimant, thereby become free, and cannot again be reduced to slavery.

He also argues that the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 is unconstitutional and void—because

1st. Congress has no constitutional power to legislate upon the subject.

2d. It provides for a trial of a constitutional issue between the *parties* designated thereby, by officers not recognized by any Constitution, State or nation.

3d. By its provisions, persons may be deprived of *liberty, without due process of law.*

4th. It denies to the defendants the right of trial by jury.

5th. It virtually suspends the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus.

Arrival of the Steamer Tennessee.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The Tennessee, from Laguayra on the 27th, arrived up this forenoon.

The cholera had disappeared from Caraccas, but was making awful ravages in the other provinces. Political affairs were quiet.

There was no sickness at St. Thomas, but the cholera was raging with terrible fatality at Porto Rico. Nearly 30,000 cases had occurred since the 21st of November, and upwards of 5,000 deaths.

Paying of Members of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—To-day the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Glossbrenner, drew from the United States Treasury about $80,000 in gold, which amount had been advanced by him for the pay of members, Mr. Banks, late on Saturday night, having signed a draft for that purpose; $23,000 are yet due members, which will be drawn from the Treasury during the week.

FIRE.—We learn that the Toll-House of the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road Company, on Haymount, in this vicinity, caught fire from a spark this morning, and was totally destroyed. The Toll-Keeper's furniture was saved.—*Fay. Obs.*

The Presidency.

There are several names brought forward or spoken of as likely to receive the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, and all of them, in our opinion, good and safe men; and, so far, we can see no harm likely to result from this, nor from any fair expression by the friends of any particular gentleman, of their confidence in and preference for him as their first choice. All this is usual, it is right and proper. But it is evident that this thing may be carried a step farther—may go on to a point that must inevitably injure the cause of Democracy, as well as the prospects of individuals. That point will certainly be reached, when any considerable portion of the friends or favorers of any particular gentleman, instead of confining themselves to an advocacy of the claims of their favorite candidate, shall deem it essential to their success to depreciate those of other gentlemen, whom they may regard as possible competitors before the convention; or worse, where papers or politicians laying claim to Democracy, and affecting to desire its success, confine their efforts to attacks upon some individuals who may be obnoxious to them, with a view of ruling them off in advance. The effect of all this must be bad. The actions of a prominent man's friends have their effect upon his prospects, even although such friends, or persons claiming to be friends, act not simply without authority from him, but even in complete opposition to his wishes. For instance, the "Democratic Review," pending the last nomination for the Presidency, opened a series of attacks upon what it was pleased to call the "Old Fogies," meaning thereby every prominent Democratic statesman to whom years and long service had given a position likely to bring them into competition with Senator Douglas. We never believed that Mr. Douglas sanctioned this wild foray, and he has since, as indeed, he did at the time, disclaimed and disowned all connection with or sympathy for such a course. But this thing had its effects, the most immediate of which was to render the nomination of Mr. Douglas impossible, by putting compromise upon him out of the question.

At the present time, let individual politicians or party presses say what they will, we feel assured that General Pierce is the strongest man at the South. Even South Carolina, seldom fully satisfied, is fully satisfied with his course; we assume no resposibility in saying that he is the first choice of the Democracy of North Carolina, and we feel equally certain, that, with him for our candidate, we have no fears but that we shall carry the State in November.

But, with all this before us, do we say—would we be justified in saying that we go for Pierce or nobody? Not at all. The Democracy of the Union, we are proud to say, has other noble men within its ranks, upon whom, should the nomination fall, we would be fully satisfied, and this, we believe, is the universal feeling of those who took to Mr. Pierce as their first choice; they are not illiberal or exclusive or narrow-minded. What we say is that, in a time of terrible trial, General Pierce has thrown the influence of his high position into the scale of right and justice,—that we respect him for so doing, and would rejoice in an opportunity to evince that respect for him at the polls. But should another, equally sound, receive the nomination, he should receive our ardent support. The first choice of North Carolina in 1852 was Mr. Buchanan—that did not prevent her going for Mr. Pierce in November.

In contrast to this course is that of some presses and politicians, who, not content with preferring other gentlemen to Mr. Pierce, as naturally will happen, appear to consider themselves called upon to make the most violent attacks upon him. The New Orleans Delta, a Fillibustering organ, pitches in because the President will not turn Fillibuster. The extreme "Hards" in New York, more orthodox on Southern rights than South Carolinians themselves! denounce him as unsound. The Washington Sentinel, disappointed in not getting the Senate printing, "spreads" itself, so to speak, against the powers that be; it is strongly in the interest of certain Virginia politicians, who hang their hopes on Mr. Hunter. And a new series of the Democratic Review seems to spend all its little strength upon an advocacy of the One Term principle, under all which is evidently to be seen the desire to estopp Mr. Pierce's chances for a re-nomination.

All this sort of thing is wrong, and, really, we can have but a poor opinion of the Democratic consistency of the persons pursuing such a course

MOORE'S CREEK CELEBRATION.

For the Journal.

Public Meeting at Long Creek.

At a large and respectable Meeting of the Citizens of Long Creek, and several of the adjoining Districts, assembled at Long Creek Bridge, on the 9th inst., to make some movement towards celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek. On motion, Jas. Garrison, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Jno. Robert Larkins and S. H. Bell, were appointed Secretaries. On motion, J. P. Moore, John Larkins, F. H Bell, T. M. Chatterton and Dr. S. S. Satchwell, were appointed a Committee to draft resolutions for the action of the Meeting. Whereupon, said Committee after a few moments consultation, reported through Dr. S. S. Satchwell, the following resolutions, accompanied by a few pertinent and well timed remarks from that gentleman:

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of this meeting, that the history of the struggles of the Revolution has not attached sufficient importance to the battle of Moore's Creek, and feeling that the reminiscences of that event can only be kept alive and made to become dignified history by suitable appreciation on the part of the people,

Resolved, That we recommend to the people of New Hanover, and the neighboring counties, to unite with us at Moore's Creek Bridge, on the 27th inst., for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of that day.

Resolved, That we suggest to the people of Wilmington, and all others concurring in the movement, to appoint committees to co-operate with us in making suitable arrangements.

Resolved, That we appoint on behalf of the people of the county a committee of arrangements, consisting of the following gentlemen:

Geo. J. Moore, Francis Lewis, John T. Moore, Wm. S. Pridgen, J. J. Pridgen, A. J. Mott, Simon Lewis, Wm. Keith, John D. Powers, T. H. Williams, John R. Hawes, Alex. A. Hawes, Owen Fennell, John S. James, Thos. Tate, Rev. Robert Tate, D. W. Mott, Rich. L. Bourdeaux, J. P. Bannerman, Robert Bannerman, David Williams, Amos Rochel, John Shepard, J. M. Foy, N. F. Nixon, David Sanders, Richard Beasly, Jas. Garrason, W. S. Larkins, John Jones, C. W. Murphy, Owen Alderman, Joel L. Moore, Cornelius Murphy, Wm. Woodcock, Saml. B. Rivenbark, James McDuffie, Levi Coston, Michael Register, M. C. Collins, M. T. Bourdeaux, Evan Larkins, John Corbett, Chs. Henry, Washington Marshall, George Larkins, E. D. Walker, sen., John F. Moore, A. D. Bourdeaux, S. S. Henry, S. H. Bell, J. Robert Larkins, J. P. Moore, P. Montague, Alfred M. Moore, John Rooks, sen., John D. Moore, Alex. Hewlett, J. A. Sanders, Jash. Pickett, Thos. Pickett.

Resolved, That Hon. W. S. Ashe, George Davis, and T. H. Williams, Esqs., be appointed Orators for the occasion, and that the Chairman be instructed to request their acceptance.

Resolved, That the several committees of arrangements be requested to meet at Long Creek Bridge, on Friday, the 22nd instant.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the Editors with a request to publish.

JAMES GARRASON, *Chairman.*

J. ROBERT LARKINS, } *Secretaries.*
S. H. BELL, }

Town and other papers requested to copy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LONG CREEK, Feb. 11th, 1856.

HON. WM. S. ASHE:

Dear Sir:—By reference to the published proceedings of a public meeting held at Long Creek Bridge, on the 9th inst., you will see that I was instructed to inform you of your appointment as one of the Orators for the occasion of our celebration, and to request your acceptance of the same.

Public assemblages for such laudable and patriotic purposes have almost the right to demand the services of their wisest heads to minister to their entertainment and instruct them in the history of the struggles of our forefathers, of which it is the common privilege of us all to fell proud.

Allow me sir, while performing the duty assigned to me by the meeting, to add my own solicitation to that of those whom I represent, and to hope that you will cheerfully comply with the request of your fellow citizens.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES GARRASON.

WILMINGTON, Feb. 13th, 1856.

JAMES GARRASON, ESQ.,

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 11th inst., containing an invitation on behalf of the meeting held at Long Creek Bridge on the 19th inst., to attend the Celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek, on the 27th inst., and address the assemblage of my fellow-citizens on that occasion, has just come to hand. No one can more highly appreciate the laudable and patriotic spirit which has given rise to this movement for the celebration of so important an event in the revolutionary history of our forefathers than I do, and I can only regret that the shortness of the time, and the pressure of business engagements, will place it wholly out of my power to prepare anything in the nature of an address suitable to the occasion, or worthy of the subject. I shall, should no unforeseen circumstance prevent, be present to participate with my fellow-citizens and contribute my feeble efforts.

Accept, sir, for yourself and those whom you represent, the assurances of my highest regard, and believe me to be

Very respectfully yours.
WM. S. ASHE.

Similar letters to the one addressed to Mr. Ashe were also addressed to T. H. Williams and George Davis, Esqs. The following are their replies:

WILMINGTON, Feb. 13th, 1856.

JAMES GARRASON, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—Your invitation to attend the celebration of the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, on the 27th inst., and to address the assembly on that occasion, is just received. I highly appreciate and heartily applaud this patriotic movement of my fellow citizens, and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to accept their invitation; but I shall be absent at Sampson Court all next week, and shall really have no time for the preparation of an address. I will attend the Celebration, should nothing prevent, and the best I can promise is, that if they should fail to obtain an orator, and be willing to listen to any crude remarks I may be able to make without notes or preparation, I will be at their service. I know this would be making the occasion of too little dignity, and, therefore, sincerely hope that you may find some gentleman who has more time, and better information for the task.

Very Respectfully yours,
GEORGE DAVIS.

LONG CREEK, Feb. 11th, 1856.

JAMES GARRASON, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I have just received your letter informing me of the action of a public meeting held at Long Creek Bridge on the 9th inst.

I very much regret that my health will not allow me to comply with the request of the meeting. Having suffered severely during the Fall and Winter with a disease of my throat and lungs, it would be hazarding too much to undertake to speak in the open air to as large an assemblage as I hope will be there on that occasion. Had I been present at your meeting, I would have promptly declined, and directed your attention to some other person in my place. I feel grateful to the meeting, however, for the honor, and beg to assure you that necessity alone prevents my acceptance; for nothing would afford me more pleasure than the opportunity of contributing my mite to honor the memory of those neglected by history, and, I fear, almost forgotten by their own descendants.

I am glad to see that the meeting extended a similar invitation to Hon. Wm. S. Ashe and George Davis, Esq. This community, I know, will be gratified at their acceptance.—The one, a direct descendant from one of the bravest of the many gallant heroes of revolutionary times—the other, not a far-off heir to the same stock, who but recently have added much to the fame of "the early settlers of the Cape Fear country." Such speakers, upon such an occasion, and upon such a *rostrum*, as the battle-ground of Moore's Creek, may expect to find a sympathizing and appreciating audience, by representing in person, if not in their eloquence, the virtue and patriotism of our fathers To stand upon a battle-ground of our revolution—to realize all the scenes of the day that have made it memorable, is, itself, above all oratory—it is grand, sublime eloquence. "Far from me," says Dr. Johnson, "be such frigid philosophy as may conduct us unmoved and indifferent over any ground which has been dignified by wisdom, bravery or virtue. That man is little to be envied whose patriotism would not gain force upon the plains of Marathon, or whose piety would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona."

Very Respectfully,
T. H. WILLIAMS.

New River Improvement.—Report of the Survey.

To the Board of Directors of the N. R. Company:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the survey of New River and Inlet, together with a chart and plan for improving the navigation, and thereby increasing the depth of water upon the Bar.

The advantages of this improvement have long been evident. The first effects of its accomplishment will be an increase in the value of lands adjacent to the river, stimulus to improved tillage, a ready sale for all marketable products, including pine, oak and cypress lumber—the enhanced value of the fishing interest, and a consequent increase in the tonnage engaged in the coasting trade.

The produce which is now conveyed to Wilmington, Beaufort and Newberne, by land, will find a cheaper and more expeditious transit by way of the river.

I leave these important considerations to those immediately interested.

A description of the distinguishing features of the river is necessary to an appreciation of the plan which I have to submit.

The length of its course from Jacksonville to the bar is about 25 miles; its average width is nearly two miles. The first five miles is of a fluvial character. Thence the course is more direct, the river having much the appearance of a lake with headlands and bays bounded by firm banks which rise, in places, in a perpendicular escarpment of clay, to a height of 25 feet. The average depth of the channel—which is 18 to 20 feet at Jacksonville—is 7 feet. The tide does not extend four miles above the mouth of the river. It thus forms a large slack-water basin, without a definite channel, almost without a current, and without the more recent alluvial deposit, by which the banks of most rivers are demarked from the surrounding country. One striking exception to the latter peculiarity is found at the mouth of the river.

These features, and the predominance of the tidal influence in the lower compartment, give it an esturial character.

The obstructions occupy three successive portions of the river. Careful consideration is necessary for determining a plan which shall apply remedially in each compartment, and possess consistency of principle, and such unity of design, as to admit of combination into one harmonious whole.

A plan, designed in this way, could be carried out at different periods without affecting its efficiency.

The obstructions may be defined in the order of succession. First: A collection of islands or shoals, consisting of oyster shells, extending along and across the channel for a distance of more than half a mile, form the most serious impediment to navigation.

Second: In importance, is the testuous and ever-varying channel at the entrance into the ocean.

Third: Difficulty demanding attention is found at the Bar, which is subject to constant change in depth and position.

A clear understanding of the laws controlling the formation of these difficulties is indispensable for maturing a plan for their removal or reduction.

The tidal influence cannot be said to extend above the highest shell island—not three miles, in a direct line, from the Bar. Attention was given to the rate of flow and amount of retardation of the tidal wave in its passage up the river.—Tide scales were placed at seven points designated (T S) upon the chart. A level line was run between them to reduce the observations to the same horizontal plane. No. 1 determined the rise and fall upon the coast; No. 6 was placed at camp below the shell obstructions; and No. 7 was at fishing station above them. The remaining were placed along the main channel, through the marsh.

Diagram No. 1 shows the interesting character of the results obtained; those bearing specially upon the improvement are shown in the following table:

Stations.	Rise.	Above datum	Dist.	Duration of slack. H. water	Duration of slack. L. water
				h. m.	h. m.
1.	4.03	4.02			
6.	0.95	1.42		0 25	0 25
7.	0.27	1.20		1 15	1 55

The average rise at Fishing Station was not quite three-tenths of a foot, while at Camp below the obstructions the rise was nearly one foot. Slack-water sometimes lasted for three hours and a quarter at the upper station. The important influences from these results will be more apparent from an inspection of diagram No. 1. It will be seen that the shell islands, or "Oyster Rocks," prevent the tide wave in passing up the river and detain the ebb tide above them; that the anomalous character of the tides is due to the winds; and, lastly, that the tide upon the coast falls one foot below and rises nearly three feet above the surface of water above the shell impediments.

The practical inference deducible from the last fact is, that the tidal capacity of the estuary of New River exceeds the supply by an amount sufficient to ebb for seven hours, through a channel three thousand two hundred feet wide and twelve deep. The theoretical depth of water upon the bar, after deductions for friction, resistance to the wave stroke, &c., should be 6.6 feet at mean low water. This conclusion leads at once to the principle specially applicable to the improvement of the Bar, viz: An increase in the tidal supply.

The character of the formation of the shell Islands also leads to facts equally important in their relation to the plan of improvement.

It appears difficult, at first glance, to discover any law or order in the disposition of these islands. They may be, generally, seen at half tide, appearing above the surface of the water. The shells which compose them are in different stages of disintegration. The slope is occupied by the inferior species of Raccoon Oyster. This oyster is a cause of constant disturbance to the current. Preferring a salter water than the more edible species, it usually grows across the stream, and between the high and low water surfaces.

The shell Islands vary in length from 30 to 1300 feet. The upper surface of the ledge, composed of the more perfect shell, is 8 feet in width. Borings were made to a depth of 8 feet, showing shells in a state of comminution, which increased with the depth. This pulverization is evidently the result of wave-action still in progress. In turning up the surface, a concentric or parallel arrangement was observable, corresponding with the principle axes of the shoals. By reference to the chart, it will be seen that the axes of the larger shoal are perpendicular to the prevailing winds, which have the longest sweep, viz: the N. W. winds down the river and N. E. winds from Wilson's Bay. The winds from these quarters control the heaviest wave-stroke, in obedience to which the small concretions of dead oyster shells are heaped up in ridges perpendicular to the direction of its force. Modifications of this form are attributed to the eddies and cross currents, and to the increase of the Raccoon oyster, conformable to the laws of its growth.

The channel at this point is very irregular, disturbed by eddies and whirls, having, at low-water, a depth of less than 2¼ feet. The "oyster rocks" are, in fact, a series of jetties, and furnish the strongest argument against the injudicious use of that structure.

The bottom presents no great difficulty to dredging by steam power. A sand shoal has formed at the confluence of Stump Sound and the river. A natural jetty, near the head of the marsh, has diverted the flood stream into this sound. At this point the river suddenly contracts, finding its way by a winding channel 300 feet in width, through a large alluvial marsh. Although, probably ages in forming, is a more recent deposit, *caused* in part by the ocean since the river began to flow within its present boundaries. Having all the peculiarities of a delta formation, it exhibits the same anastomising character in reverse with blind coves, remarkably analogous to the great delta of the Mississippi. The channels through it appear to have attained a fixed regimen, notwithstanding the yielding nature of its banks, honey-combed by the golden crab. Borings were taken, which confirmed its alluvial character; and rock was struck at a depth of 11 feet, supposed to be of shell-limestone.

A remarkable change has taken place at the mouth of the river since the survey of Lieut. Maffit in 1851. The channel of that date has closed, and a new one opened to the north and east of Wright's Island. Another change, of greater importance, may be expected. The river begun to wear a passage for itself through this island. Serious obstruction may result from this.

We now come to the consideration of the Bar. The stormy weather before and after Christmas compelled the relinquishment of our investigations. The more important observations were taken after disbanding the party.

It will be observed that the river debouches upon an open coast, exposed to all the fury of the waves and storms from the Southern quarters. It has, also, the disadvantage of being at the middle or an arc of coast, which has Cape Lookout and Cape Fear for its too extremities, with a ver-sine or saggita of less than 1-5 its chord. The tide wave running up the long Atlantic slope, reaches the mouth of the river with a head of 4 to 5 feet, and a greatly diminished velocity. Although a counter flow to the gulf stream might be inferred, I was unable to discover a literal current, the predominent force being with the tide wave, perpendicular to the bend of the coast. The variable character of the quicksand bar is well known. A bar beset with such difficulties, would appear to present insurmountable obstacles to an amelioration of its condition. Much can be done by a strict conformity to well established principles. The existence of such a difficulty is due to the equilibrium of certain forces. Careful determination of the value of these forces, will enable us to estimate the amount of disturbing influence necessary to bring about a new equilibrium, which will give a greater depth of water. History of the successive difficulties has now been given, which will afford a means of determining the value of the expedients designed to meet them.

It is evident that a plan for the complete improvement should embrace three requisites.

1st. A channel of sufficient dimensions through, or avoiding the Oyster Shoals.

2nd. The fixation of the tortuous and variable terminus of the channel through the marsh. And,

3rd. That the plan should be such as to give a greater depth of water upon the bar.

I have two plans to offer for the attainment of these objects:

Plan 1st. I propose to avoid the shell obstructions, by dredging a channel through the marsh, which shall enter the marsh at Cedar Creek Cove, and passing through the cove, to join the main channel by an easy curve. This cut will have a mid-channel 60 feet wide by seven deep, terminating with a surface width of 300 feet. The stream should be confined at the entrance between dykes submersable at half-tide. The direction of the new cut should be adjusted to curves, which shall compell the momentum of the tide in an invariable line of exertion. In no case, except between incorrodable banks, are straight cuts advisable. Nature never adopts them. Rivers develop their length according to an invariable law, which determines the tenacity of banks capable of resisting a certain velocity I recommend an artificial development conformable to this principle. I think it important to close the old channel at its junction with the new, by a hearting of clay and fascines in an embankment of earth. Wood cannot be used, unless protected from the action of the toredo. Shells, the most available material, loses its weight and cohesion after a short exposure. The cost of imported stone will greatly increase the estimate for structures which require the use of that material. I propose therefore, it is found less expensive to use Biton or hydraulic concrete, which has the advantage of being made upon the spot, of any required size.

I estimate for the cut through marsh, 62,000 cubic yards, at 20 cents per yard,	$12,400 00
Add 20 per cent. for reflow,	2,480 00
Add for transportation of material for dykes	380 00
Add for closing old channel	870 00
	$16,130 00

This plan proposes another cut through Wright's Island. This should afford a deep and easy passage for the tidal water. The principle which should determine its dimension, should be that by which the supply was made equal to the available tidal capacity. I propose to commence the cut with three hundred feet, gradually widening.

Permanency can be given to the new banks by the use of Biton. I would recommend closing the N. W. branch, and also the closing of the old channel, by the interposition of a solid embankment between the new cut and the N. E. branch.

I would advise against the closing of those channels which can be permitted to remain without injury to the improvement. The banks would be unable to withstand the increased velocity of the current, without additional protection. Nature meets the demand upon her by a net-work of small channels. The objection, therefore, is one of economy. The necessary increase of velocity can be met by sloping the bank and protecting by shells at exposed points. Sketch No. 2 exhibits the appearance of the river after this improvement. The letters D show the points of deposit, and C the centre of scourage. The red lines show the position of the guiding walls of hydraulic concrete.

The length of the cut is 1,770 feet, having a mid-channel 40 feet wide by 10 deep.

Amount of drudging 173,480 cubic yards of lighter material at 16 cents per yard	$27,765 00
2,000 yards Hydraulic Concrete, at 5 cents per yard	10,000 00
Cost of closing water way	880 00
Cost of improvement through Wright's Island	$38,645 00

This plan would, I believe, give one foot greater depth upon the bar.*

The second plan proposed, is to cut a channel through the oyster shoals and Shell Islands, sixty feet wide and seven feet deep. The dredged material should be placed on each side of the Channel, between those shoals which are perpendicular to its course, and the heads of the shoals afterwards linked together, so as to become subservient to the place of improvement. The dredging should be continued through the sand shoal opposite Swan's Point. From the S. W. point of the marsh, a jetty should be constructed of the following dimensions. Commencing at the marsh, to extend 584 deg. 3 min. W, 182 metres, then N 84 deg. 45 min. and 150 metres. Lastly N 63 deg. 20 min., W 168 metres, its total length being 1,640 feet. It can be composed chiefly of shell dredged from the new channel and from nearer points.

The dredging for this cut will amount to 20,000 cubic yards at 20 cents per yard	$40,000 00
Add 20 per cent for reflow	800 00
Material for jetty, 4,400 cubic yards at 20 cents	880 00
Cost of dredging through the oyster Islands	41,680 00

This cut is longer by ¾ of a mile than that through the marsh.

It will be necessary to remove the natural shell jetty, near the head of the middle channel. The course of this channel should be freed from shoals, the sharp angles cut off, and a uniform section formed for the alvious of the river. The N. W. branch should be closed, and also, the passage next of the dry middle shoal. It may be found necessary to form a shoal at the mouth of the N. E. Branch.

Wright's Island should be protected from abraison. The entrance to the ocean should be enlarged and deepened, and guiding walls of Hydraulic concrete or stone, should be built as shown upon the sketch No. 3.

These objects can be accomplished by the expenditure of $15,100 00.

A few words in regard to the *permanancy* of the improvement. The marsh being an alluvial deposit at the point of conflict between the landflood and the ocean, a question very naturally arises at to its rate of increase. The gradual elevation of the bed of the river above the *obstructions* may also be looked for. A comparrison with the survey of 1837 shows a remarkable permanance in the boundaries of the marsh. An appreciable deposit over the bottom of the river below Sneads Ferry was detected. The small amount of the deposit and the space afforded by the large indents, furnish good grounds for the conclusion that many years must elapse before danger need be apprehended from this source. The improvement will cause the deposit to take place in the indents. The river, however, labors under some difficulties that engineering science can hardly obviate. The growth of the Raccoon oyster has a constant tendency to obstruct and divert the channel, thus producing serious changes. The Quicksand Bar must ever be subject to the varying influence of storms.

I must acknowledge myself greatly indebted to the Superintendent of the coast Survey, for instruments and projections used in the progress of the operations.

I am, very respectfully, gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
S. MAYER ABERT,
Civil Engineer.

*Decision between these two plans involving a question of expenditure with limited means, I leave the selection to the judgement of the Board.

Queer Action of the Massachusetts K. N.'s.

On the 28th of June last the K. N. State Council met at Boston and unanimously adopted an address, of which the following is a portion:

"A platform expressive of the principles of a majority of the National Council has recently been adopted and made public, attested by the signatures of its officers. This platform contains views and declarations on the subject of slavery utterly repugnant to the convictions of the American party of Massachusetts, and which are deemed by them *inexpedient, untrue and unconstitutional.* Their *most sacred duty* to their country, to posterity, and to themselves, constrains them to *utterly repudiate* those views and declarations, and to *utterly dissever themselves at once from all political fellowship with any organization which proclaims such a platform as its rule of action.*

In accordance with this determination the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That this organization be henceforth known as the American party *in Massachusetts*, and DOES HEREBY SEVER ALL CONNECTION with the majority of the national American Council recently assembled in Philadelphia.

Now, by order of the president and secretary of the State Council, delegates have been chosen to the convention called by that portion of the party which adheres to the odious pro-slavery Philadelphia platform!!!

NON INTERVENTION.—Among the bills introduced into the House of Delegates of Georgia, we notice one "to promote the settlement of Territories of the United States." It provides for State aid to companies of Georgians, organized for the purpose of emigrating to Kansas, but who may be disabled from so doing for want of funds. It proposes that the leader or captain of the company shall give bond and security for the faithful disbursement of the funds, and within twelve months after the receipt thereof transport one hundred emigrants to Kansas. It proposes that the aid shall be given in sums of $50 to each emigrant, not to exceed in the aggregate $50,000, and that the money so expended is to be reimbursed by a special tax on slaves.