

The Canvasses of this Summer and Fall.

We have always looked upon it as desirable that the active electioneering canvass for the Presidency, or for other offices, should be as short as possible, consistently with a full discussion of the points at issue, and the various pros and cons of the subject or subjects discussed.

The canvass, or election campaign proper, is generally understood to open with the placing in the field of the candidates of the respective parties, and therefore, for the reasons above stated, we have always heartily concurred with the general opinion or sentiment which has indicated the latest convenient day as the most proper and expedient for the meeting of the nominating bodies of the different parties, and thus we now concur in the eminent propriety of the course adopted by the Democratic National Convention, in fixing the time for the meeting of the Democratic National Convention at as late a day as the beginning of June next.

The Democratic party possesses the great advantage of being a homogeneous body, with defined principles, and not a mere tumultuary opposition, composed of jarring and conflicting elements, as is the case with its antagonists. It can, therefore, do what they cannot do. It can abide its time, and take its measures, irrespective of mere outside influences or extraneous circumstances, such as forced the Know-Nothing Convention at Philadelphia to make a nomination at so early a day, in the well-grounded apprehension that to delay it until a later day would be to lose the chance of doing it at all, because of the rapid and inevitable disintegration of the ill-considered structure—a structure containing no element of union among its parts, except a common dislike to the Democratic party—honestly inherited by the great majority of the organization from the old Whig party, and participated in by some former Democrats whose hopes of advancement had not been gratified by their former party associates.

Indeed, the desire for a postponement of the nomination was almost universally expressed by the press of the order until within a very short time of the day set apart for the meeting of the Convention, but as the time drew near, the evidences of the state of things to which we have referred became so strong and unmistakable, that an immediate nomination or none at all were felt by the leading spirits of the "order" to be the only alternatives presented. The former alternative was chosen, in the hope, the vain hope, we confidently believe, of arresting the progress of dissolution. It is no exaggeration to say, that the Convention and nominations, with all their antecedent and concurrent circumstances, are without parallel in the political history of the country, and are not calculated either to give assurance to the people at large or infuse confidence into the minds of the more reflecting members of the "order."

The council and the Convention themselves, in their extreme discordancy—in the impossibility of uniting upon common ground—in the demand on the part of the North for the abrogation of the famous 12th Section of the platform of 1855, and in the total destruction of that platform, 12th Section and all, and the substitution of a new platform, acknowledged on all hands to be a mass of verbiage upon which nobody could cordially stand, show badly for the permanence of the organization. The South lost what it said it would hold on to at all hazards—Northern anti-12th Section delegates, avowedly such, were admitted as full and good members, and yet large portions of the Northern order are not content, but insist that the South should be further thrust to the wall. The ticket itself is what must certainly in political parlance be regarded as a mongrel one. All parties admit that Americans should rule America, as it is inevitable that they should do, when it is borne in mind that of the voters of the United States fully eleven or twelve to one are natives of the soil, and that of the one-twelfth all have sworn allegiance to the Constitution and renounced all other allegiance.

But the real question is how Americans shall rule America—what line of policy shall be pursued upon the great questions which have from time to time agitated the country, or may hereafter agitate it. Here the Convention is silent—the Platform of the Council is silent—the Platform of the Council is silent—the nominations afford no light, for the gentlemen nominated as candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency have always been the political antipodes of each other, and it is unreasonable to suppose that the common assertion of a political truism, or the common opposition to particular classes of citizens, can reconcile the life-long differences of political opinion between a Northern whig and a Southern Democrat—the coalition must be hollow and unsubstantial.

What then is the duty of the Democrats in the meantime? It is chiefly to organize for the promulgation of Democratic truth—for the enforcement of Democratic principles—to circulate the documents—to know their strength and to be perfectly ready for the contest—to be ready to give an efficient and an understanding support to the nominees of the Cincinnati Convention, in the full confidence that the action of that Convention will leave no doubts as to how Americans are to rule America—in accordance with the constitution and the rights of the States—and that, in the hands of the nominee of that convention, the rights and interests of the South, and of the whole country, will be safe. Organization and the dissemination of Democratic doctrines is the business at present before us.

The pressure of other matters renders it impossible for us to do more to-day than to allude to the meeting held last evening at Commissioners' Hall. We feel a pleasing confidence that that meeting will be productive of the happiest results—that the feeling there manifested on all hands will tend to do away with prejudices and misunderstandings, and events in placing the relations between the sister towns of Wilmington and Fayetteville upon a better and truer footing. It is only necessary for the citizens of these sister towns to understand each other and to appreciate properly their mutual interests, in order to do away with jealousies and heart-burnings.

INVEST.—Coroner A. A. Hartsfield, held an Inquest Thursday over the body of a negro man, by the name of Major, who had been missing for several weeks, and found in the river a day or two since, the property of Miss Pope, of Halifax county. The verdict was, that deceased came to his death by causes unknown to the Jury. We believe the negro had been in the employ of the Wilmington & Weldon R. R. Company, the previous year, 1855, and was missing about the first of January last.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 27.—A large body of recruits left in the Prometheus this morning to join Col. Walker's forces.

The Western Railroad.

On Thursday evening we attended the meeting held at the Commissioners' Hall on the occasion of the visit to our town of the delegation on behalf of the Road from Fayetteville to the Coal Mines. We could not give "material aid," but we felt an interest in the matter in hand, and a desire to be fully informed in regard to the actual state and progress of the work. The attendance of those who could give such aid was full.

C. B. Mallett, Esq., the President of the Company, being introduced by the Chairman, gave a statement of the actual position of things. He spoke of the difficulties and struggles of the Company from the first, and announced that actual operations had at length been commenced. During the summer of last year a contract had been made with Silas C. Moore & Co., of New York, to complete the road, ready for the rolling stock, at the rate of \$18,250 per mile, at which rate the whole cost would be some \$784,000, to be paid in the following manner:—\$300,000 in bonds of the Company, \$400,000 in cash, and \$84,000 to be taken by the contractors in stock. To meet the cash payment, there was \$100,000 in Fayetteville bonds, and about \$125,000 in individual subscriptions, which it was understood would be raised to \$150,000, thus leaving \$150,000 still to be raised to secure the construction of the road. To stock the road fully would require a considerable additional amount, say not much under \$350,000, although it could go into operation with less—say one-half of that sum, or even one-third. But it is fair to presume that to finish and fully equip the road for the prompt transaction of the heavy business anticipated for it, an additional amount of half a million will be required. The road is to be forty-two to forty-three miles in length.

Work was commenced in August last, and is now in actual progress on one section of ten miles. The highest grade in the direction of the coal freighting business is 45 feet to the mile, and this only at one point. This is the present position of the Company—what has been accomplished and what remains to be done. In regard to its business prospects—no doubt remains of the abundant supply and excellent quality of the coal; a specimen from the Egypt mine was exhibited, which is believed by good judges to be fully equal to Canal coal for the production of gas, and is an excellent article for any purpose. It is designed to have a quantity of the coal fully tested, with reference to its value as a gas coal. The sooner this is done the better.

The country through which the road will run is a productive one, and the local business will go to swell the receipts of the Company. Geo. McNeill, Esq., one of the Directors of the Company, gave some statements of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the road, as made by the Engineer, which bear a very encouraging appearance. Unfortunately, most Railroad stockholders, and River Improvement stockholders, too, have been taught by painful experience to make large deductions from paper estimates; but, after making such deductions, it really does appear to us that there is the strongest ground for believing that this road, when built, will yield a liberal per centage upon the capital invested in its construction.

James Banks, Esq., of Fayetteville, also spoke upon the subject, with more direct reference to the capacity of the Cape Fear River, in its present state, to carry the coal down from Fayetteville. He would guarantee that a million tons could easily be brought down. He also spoke of the prospective extension of the Road West. Remarks were made by many of the citizens present; indeed, the participation in the discussion was general, and the interest lively. Every disposition was evinced to lend a helping hand, but, in the present stringent state of the money market, a cash subscription to any extent could not be made. It was therefore proposed to make subscriptions in the stock of the completed Railroads in the State, subject, of course, to the action of the stockholders of the Western Railroad, in accepting or refusing to accept such exchange of stock. The stock so subscribed might either be sold by the Company or used as collateral security in the negotiation of bonds. The Fayetteville delegation were not, of course, authorized to accept such subscriptions, but regarded the matter with favor, and would commend it to the attention of the stockholders. Some \$18,500 was thus subscribed in a short time, and we learn that a considerable amount in addition has since been put down.

The probable cost of bringing coal from the mines to Wilmington is estimated as follows—on the Road, to Fayetteville, \$1 25; on the boats from Fayetteville to Wilmington, \$1 per ton. We are not apt to view matters through a rose-tinted medium, and we give the state of things as they exist, as nearly as we can ascertain them. Before this work can be completed many difficulties will have to be overcome, and many strenuous exertions made. We think these difficulties ought to be overcome—these exertions made, and we trust that they will be.

As an evidence of our views in this connection, we may allude to a matter, of no manner of consequence in itself, and which we certainly would not allude to, except as furnishing this evidence—we refer to the resolutions of the meeting of Thursday night last, reported in the Herald as having been passed on motion of William A. Wright, Esq., which we believe is correct, and had they been written by Mr. Wright they would undoubtedly have been much better written, but such as they are, they were hastily pencilled off and offered by the editor of this paper, and certainly express views in which he coincides.

Long Creek, &c. Although acquainted with every citizen of Long Creek village and district, as, indeed, we are with a goodly proportion of the citizens of every section of the county, our business avocations have been so confining that Wednesday, the 27th of February, was the first occasion of our visiting that section personally, and really, much as we had heard of the growth and improvement going on there, we were still greatly surprised at finding so handsome a village grown up at the Bridge. The buildings would do credit to any town in the State, and there is a pervading character of good taste, and an air of prosperity which is cheering to behold. Everything is bright and in order and repair. There is, positively, more of a village than at many county seats, with fully as much show of business. The Creek is narrow at the bridge, and, like most of our low-country tide-water streams, it is quite crooked, but deep, and an excellent rafting and flating stream.

It would be well for those, who think it witty to east sneers at Long Creek, and other portions of New Hanover County, to see for themselves—to observe the quality and cultivation of the lands—the style of the improvements, and then to mingle among the people, either at their own homes, or at a gathering similar to that at Moore's Creek on the 27th, and they would be forced to confess that they had foolishly done injustice to an intelligent, generous and high-minded people, who have but one great fault in the view of a good many of their contemporaries—they will vote the Democratic ticket, and are given to reading the Wilmington Journal. In these, as in other respects, they are not at all singular—it is a way with a great many of the honest farmers in the Cape Fear country, and on the Neuse, too, to say nothing of several in our sister State of South Carolina.

Meeting of the Wilmington Democratic Association.

Pursuant to the call of the President, the Association met at the Court House, in Wilmington, on Friday evening, Feb. 29th. The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. J. D. Bellamy, and H. A. Bagg appointed Secretary.

The President announced the object of the meeting to be, to hear and act upon the report of the Committee appointed at a previous meeting to draw up a Constitution and By Laws for the government of the Association. That Committee through its Chairman, S. D. Wallace, Esq., reported the following: PREAMBLE. Believing that a devotion to the Constitution of the United States in its strength and purity, and a jealous guardianship of its reserved rights of the several States, as well as the full equality of all the confederated sovereignties under that compact; and that an honest and sincere attachment to the Constitution of North Carolina, and advocacy of only such amendments to that instrument as time and the wants of the free citizens of the State may seem to demand, (and as may be peacefully effected in the safe and conservative mode pointed out in the fundamental law) and believing that an earnest adherence to the fixed principles of the Democratic Party are essential to the permanence of the Union and prosperity of the whole country—principles by which we will stand or fall—principles indestructible and eternal—because they are the principles of Liberty and Union, we adopt them, and agree to the following rules for our government as members of the Wilmington Democratic Association:

1st. This body shall be known as THE DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION OF THE TOWNS OF WILMINGTON. 2d. Any citizen of the Town may become a member of this Association by enrolling his name as such, and adhering in good faith to the foregoing preamble, together with these and such other rules as may be adopted by a majority of the Association. 3d. A regular meeting of the Association shall be held on the second Monday in January of each and every year; and called meetings at such times and places as the President may designate, at the request of five members, public notice being given by him of the same. 4th. The officers shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be chosen *en masse*, by a majority of the members now present; and hereafter at each annual meeting in January. 5th. The Town shall be divided into Fifteen Wards, as per diagram annexed. 6th. There shall, at each regular meeting in January, be selected a Committee of Three for each Ward, (nominated by the President and confirmed by the Association), who shall select their own Chairman, and report to him, from time to time, in relation to all matters touching the interests of the Association in their several Wards. And such Chairmen shall meet monthly and report to the President of the Association. 7th. There shall be a Subsidiary Committee, consisting of three members, appointed by the President, and confirmed at each regular meeting in January, whose duty it shall be to make provision for the Association; collect funds and pay the same over to the Treasurer; but no appropriation of such funds shall be made unless by order of the President. 8th. The President and two Vice Presidents shall constitute a Vigilance Committee, whose duty it shall be to exercise a general supervision of all subordinate officers, and direct the Secretary in relation to correspondence. 9th. In case of vacancy occurring in any Committee, the President shall select immediately, to fill the same. 10th. In case of vacancy in the office of President, Vice Presidents, Secretaries or Treasurer, such shall be filled at the following meeting of the Association, in the same manner as required at the regular meeting in January. 11th. In the absence of all the presiding officers, the meeting may select a Chairman *pro tem.*, from its own members; also a Secretary, if necessary, and may transact business, subject to the approval of the next meeting at which one of the presiding officers shall be present.

The report of the Committee was approved unanimously, after which the association proceeded to the election of Officers to serve until the next regular meeting in January next. The following gentlemen were elected Officers: President.—Dr. J. D. Bellamy. Vice-Presidents.—Major John Walker and George Houston. Recording Secretary.—Charles H. Robinson. Corresponding Secretary.—James Fulton. Treasurer.—William C. Bettencourt. Subsidiary Committee.—Miles Costin, John C. Wood, Stephen D. Wallace. The President nominated the several Ward Committees, which nominations were unanimously confirmed by the Association. [The list of Ward Committees is still in the hands of the President to be arranged and copied off, but will be published in a few days.] George Houston, Esq., offered the following resolution, which was adopted by acclamation: Resolved, That our Corresponding Secretary, by circular, or such other mode as he may deem expedient, urge upon our Democratic friends throughout this Congressional District, to establish in each election precinct Associations similar to our own, with a view to the promulgation of Democratic principles, and a union of political interests throughout the District. Eli W. Hall, Esq., being called upon, made a few appropriate remarks urging vigorous and united action. On motion, Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Wilmington Journal, and all other papers favorable to the objects of the Association be requested to copy. The business of the meeting having been transacted, on motion it adjourned.

CITIZENS' MEETING. Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of citizens feeling an interest in the development of the resources of the State was held at the Commissioners' Hall, in the town of Wilmington, on Thursday evening, Feb. 28th. On motion, O. G. Parsley, Esq., Mayor of the town, was called to the Chair, and Henry Nutt and James Fulton appointed Secretaries. The Chairman explained the object of the meeting to be to receive and confer with C. B. Mallett and George McNeill, Esqrs. of Fayetteville, who visited our town as a delegation on behalf of the Western Railroad Company, now engaged in constructing a Railroad from Fayetteville to the Coal Fields, and thus opening communication from the mines to Wilmington as well as to Fayetteville. He introduced Messrs. Mallett and McNeill to the meeting. C. B. Mallett, Esq., explained, at some length, the position and prospects of the road. James Banks and George McNeill, Esqrs., addressed the meeting upon the same subject, as did also Messrs. McRae, Dickinson, Hill, Nutt, Parsley, and others, of Wilmington. On motion, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: Resolved, That we regard the Railroad now in course of construction from Fayetteville to the Coal Mines on Deep River as eminently a State work, and of the highest importance to the town of Wilmington as well as to that of Fayetteville. Resolved, That we will use our best efforts, and contribute to the extent of our ability, to push this great work forward to a speedy completion. After which a conditional subscription was immediately made to the stock of the Company, to a fair amount, and a resolution passed requesting the gentleman named as Commissioners to open books for subscription to the stock of the Company in Wilmington, to act as a committee to aid the gentlemen from Fayetteville in obtaining subscriptions among our citizens. There being no other business before the meeting, it adjourned. O. G. PARSLEY, Chairman. HENRY NUTT, JAMES FULTON, Secretaries.

There were many items connected with the celebration at Moore's Creek, to which we would have gladly alluded in the hurriedly prepared notice which we have made of that event, had time and space permitted. One or two we must refer to now, even at the risk of dwelling too long upon the subject. When the venerable and venerated "Parson Tate," arose to address those around him—to speak of the struggles of the revolution—when he turned to offer up his prayers to heaven—that peace and harmony might prevail throughout the country—that kindness and conciliation, love and mutual forbearance, might govern her councils, we could not but contrast the attitude, the feeling and the temper of that aged man of God, with the spirit manifested by such mis-named Reverends at the North, as Henry Ward Beecher and hundreds, nay, thousands like him.—What a lesson of Christian Charity those political divines, who make it the business of their lives to abuse the South and the people of the South, might learn from this aged North Carolina pastor!

We have said that much of the interest of Mr. Ashe's remarks arose from the fact that a great part of the history of those times was received by him by direct tradition from those who knew all the circumstances; we may here with propriety state what Mr. Ashe's delicacy prevented his stating at the time, that the gentleman from whom he mainly derived this information, was his father, Col. Samuel Ashe, than whom no man in the Cape Fear country was more beloved and respected, and none more deservedly so. But in saying that much of the interest of Mr. Ashe's remarks, was due to their embodiment of an unbroken and authentic history, we wish it also to be understood that his speech in and by itself, was able, eloquent and impressive—replete with information and imbued with the feeling of deep and earnest patriotism. The opening of Mr. Davis' address was exceedingly beautiful—his allusion to the spot on which he stood as holy ground, touched an answering chord in the heart of every man and woman present. He paid a graceful compliment to his friend, Mr. Ashe, in his allusion to the Ashe family. That portion of Mr. Banks' speech, in which he vindicated the fair fame and the patriotism of Cumberland and her sister counties, and spoke of the prompt movement of the Cumberland volunteers in the war of 1812, and in the war with Mexico, we have touched on but briefly, for the facts are too well known to the world to require that the citizens of these counties should require any endorsement. If ever the time should arrive when the services of an advocate may be required, Mr. Banks has shown himself both willing and able to assume the task. In his hands the honor of his county-men may safely be trusted.

The Treasurer's monthly statement, ending 25th February, shows \$22,714,956 23 in the U. S. Treasury. The depositary here has \$284 65 subject to draft. An additional sum of \$25,000 has also been ordered to be transferred to the Wilmington office. Important from Nicaragua—Decrease Annexing the Mosquito Territory. NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The steamer Star of the West, from Nicaragua, arrived this morning with \$300,000 in treasure. On the 10th inst., a decree was promulgated at the City of Granada, by General Walker, annexing the Territory of Mosquito Territory as an integral portion of Nicaragua. Shortly afterward, the Diplomatic corps, headed by Col. Kinney, arrived from San Juan, and had an audience with General Walker. On the following day Col. Kinney was placed under arrest, and subsequently banished the Territory of Nicaragua, and sent under the charge of Mayor Martin to the Atlantic Seaboard. The Star of the West passed on the 2d inst. the sloop-of-war Cayane.

NEW YORK AMERICAN STATE COUNCIL. CANANDAIGUA, Feb. 21.—The number of delegates in attendance at the State Council is much larger than yesterday, and more are expected. During the proceedings to-day, the statement made at Philadelphia by the "National Union" to a member of the Order, was contradicted by the President of Council 177, of Buffalo, who gave the assurance that he himself was present when the obligation of each of the degrees was administered to Mr. Fillmore, and that he is a member of the order in good standing. Great enthusiasm prevails, and the proceedings have been very harmonious. Telegraphic Dispatch. NEW YORK, March 1.—The steamship Arago, from Havre, with dates to the 13th, arrived here to-day. She had great difficulty with the ice on the banks of New Foundland. The Captain asserts that it was worse than he had ever known it. The Arago brings despatches from Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Mason and the English government. Supposed safety of the Pacific. HALIFAX, Feb. 29.—The passenger by the America report having seen, on Tuesday, the 19th February, a Collins steamer heading towards the English channel, with a signal of distress flying—probably the Pacific returning. The Baltic arrived on the 13th, so that the Pacific is the only Collins steamer which could have been in that locality at the time specified. The Missing Steamer Pacific. NEW YORK, March 1.—The Captain of the Barque Bogert, from Shide, reports, February 15th, a large steamer on the banks of New Foundland.—One wheelhouse was gone. It was blowing a gale at the time; the weather was thick, and the steamer was soon out of sight. Delivery of the Cincinnati Levitts. CINCINNATI, Feb. 28, 1856.—Judge Leavitt decided to-day that the fugitive slaves were in the custody of the United States marshal, and they were accordingly delivered over to him, and have just been escorted by a hundred specials across the river.—Intense feeling prevails among our citizens. Congress—Friday. SENATE.—A message was received from the President of the United States in relation to propositions for arbitration of the questions of difference between this government and Great Britain, as to the conduct of the late war, and the late Messrs. Seward, Pearce, Stuart, and Mason made some remarks in relation to the subject, and the message and documents were ordered to be printed. Mr. Iverson submitted resolutions having reference to an examination and review of the decisions of the naval retiring board, which he proposed to call up for action at some future time. After an executive session, the Senate adjourned until Monday next. The House was not in session to-day.—Union. SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS.—It is related of Mrs. Mary Dean, a market woman of Boston who recently died at the age of ninety years, that she clearly recollected that, at periods previous to the revolution, she saw loads of negro children carted about for sale. When she spoke of this circumstance she generally added that the first wheeled carriage she ever saw loaded with such slave children; that according to her understanding on this subject, when a cargo of slaves arrived in Boston there were sometimes a number of children among them from five to twelve years old, and as such children were not so much wanted in Boston as adults, they were carried out and disposed of at Roxbury, and Dorchester, Dedham, &c., at the best terms the vendors could make.—Intelligencer. The Authors.—Less than twenty-five years after the landing of the Puritans, their colony passed the fugitive slave law. This is a very important fact. Pitkin's Civil and Political history of the United States, vol. 1, pages 50 and 51 in alluding to the articles of government formed for the Plymouth confederacy, says:—It was also very wisely provided in the article, that RUNAWAY SERVANTS and fugitives from justice, SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE COLONY WHERE THEY BELONGED OR FROM WHICH THEY HAD FLED." Thus the north was the author of the fugitive slave law—kept slaves so long as it was profitable—and engaged in the slave trade until the government prohibited it. We have but little reason to reproach the south, whose climate and productions actually require the negro labor in some form.—Keene Republican.

The Amendatory Naval-Review Bill.

The so-called bill, to amend an act entitled "An act to promote the efficiency of the navy," was reported to the United States Senate on Monday by the Hon. Mr. Mallory, of Florida, from the Committee on Naval Affairs. It was read and passed to a second reading: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, upon the written request, made within thirty days after the passage hereof, by any officer of the navy who was dropped by the operation of the act of the twenty-eighth of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entitled "An act to promote the efficiency of the navy," the Secretary of the Navy shall cause the physical, mental, professional, and moral fitness of such officers for the navy to be investigated by a court of inquiry, which shall be governed by the laws and regulations which now govern courts of inquiry; and the Secretary of the Navy shall present the facts and the opinion of the court in each case to the President of the United States for his consideration and such action as he shall deem consistent with justice and the interests of the public service."

"SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the operation of the present law limiting the number of officers of the navy shall be suspended so far as to authorize the restoration, within six months from the passage of this act, by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of officers reserved or dropped under the operation of the act of the twenty-eighth of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entitled "An act to promote the efficiency of the navy." Provided, That there shall be no further promotions or appointments in any grade after said restorations shall have been made thereto, until such grade in the active service shall be reduced to the limits now prescribed by law. "SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That officers who were dropped, as aforesaid, who shall not be restored to the naval service within six months from the passage hereof, shall be entitled to receive one year's duty pay of their grades respectively; and the President shall be, and he is hereby authorized, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to transfer any officer from the furlough to the reserved pay list; and that so much of the act of February twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entitled "An act to promote the efficiency of the navy," as renders reserved officers ineligible to promotion, to be, and the same is hereby repealed. "SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That reserved officers may be promoted on the reserved list, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; but no such promotion shall entitle them to any pay beyond that to which they were entitled when so reserved, nor shall they, by such promotion, take any higher rank than they would have taken had they been retained in the active service of the navy; and the President shall be, and he is hereby authorized, to transfer any officer, at his own request, from the active list to the reserved list, when, in his judgment, the public interests require it; and nothing in this act, or in the act to which this is an amendment, shall be so construed as to preclude officers on the reserved list from wearing the uniforms of their grades respectively. "SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That captains in command of squadrons shall be denominated flag officers. "SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That the grade of admiral in the naval service, and the same is hereby revived; and that if, in the judgment of the President, the past eminent services of any naval captain shall entitle him to such distinction, he shall be authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to commission such officer as admiral of the navy. "SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That there shall be established a corps, to be called The Scientific Corps of the Navy, to be composed of the following officers: The Secretary of the Naval Observatory, the preparation of the Nautical Almanac, and such duties pertaining to the hydrographical department, and such other scientific duties connected with the naval service as the Secretary of the Navy may, from time to time, prescribe, or as may be prescribed by law. The Scientific Corps shall consist of— "One captain, two commanders, two lieutenants, and seven masters, who shall be taken from the active and reserved lists of the navy, and who shall be commissioned as belonging to said corps, and who shall, in all respects, as officers of the navy, and be subject to the rules and regulations of the navy and to the orders of the Navy Department. They shall rank with officers of similar grades in the active service of the navy, but shall not be entitled to military command. Promotion shall be within the corps, and shall be regulated by the rules which govern promotion in the active service, and the captain of the corps shall, by virtue of his office, be Superintendent of the Naval Observatory; Provided, That after the organization of said corps, as aforesaid, appointments thereto shall be made only from the graduates of the Naval Academy."

THE LATE JEREMIAH MASON.—Mr. Mason seldom wasted words on anything. When the Methodist elder, who had been indicted for the murder of Maria C. Avery for the alleged murder of Maria C. Avery, and announced to him in oracular language that the Angel Gabriel had appeared to him the night previous, and assured him that "brother Avery was innocent,"—and let him be summoned, "was his instant reply, without abating attention to his work, or raising his eyes a second from the table. The late Judge Smith of New Hampshire, was a man of infinite humor, and nothing appeared to please him more than to crack a joke with Mr. Mason, who was his contemporary at the bar. One day Mr. Mason was engaged in defending a man of the name of Smith for horse stealing. At dinner, the Judge, addressing Mr. Mason across the table, says, "Well, Mr. Mason, are you going to get your client off?" "Can't tell, your honor," "could, if it wasn't for his cursed name!"

SENSE IN A POLICE OFFICE.—The prisoner in this case, whose name was Dicky Swivel, alias "store pipe Pete," was placed at the bar, and questioned by the Judge to the following effect: Judge—Bring the prisoner into court. Pete—Here, I am bound to blaze, as the spirits of turpentine said when he was a fair fire. Judge—We will take a little of the fire out of you. How do you live? Pete—I ain't particular as the oyster said, when they asked him if he'd be roasted or fried. Judge—We don't want to hear what the oyster said or the spirits turpentine either. What do you follow? Pete—Anything that comes in my way, as the locomotive said when he ran over the little nigger. Judge—Don't care any thing about the locomotive. What's your business? Pete—That's various, as the cat said, when she stole the chicken off the table. Judge—You're near the line, I suppose. Pete—Together with the war, as the rope said when it was choking the pirate. Judge—If I hear any more absurd comparisons, I will give you twelve months. Pete—I'm done, as the beefsteak said to the cook. Judge—Now, sir, your punishment shall depend on the shortness of your answers. I suppose you live by going around the docks all day. Pete—Yes, sir, I can't get on my feet without a boat, and I ain't got one. Judge—Answer me: How do you get your bread? Sometimes at the bakers, and sometimes I eat tater. Judge—No more of your stupid insolence. How do you support yourself? Pete—Sometimes on my legs and sometimes on a cheer. Judge—I order you to answer this question correctly: How do you do? Pete—Pray, your honor, Judge, how do you do? Judge—I shall have to commit you, Well, you've committed yourself just, that's some consolation.

THE DISTANCE OF THE SUN FROM THE EARTH INCREASING.—The German journals have given some tables which show that the distance between the earth and sun is increasing, and they argue from it that the increasing humidity of our sunsets and the loss of fertility by the earth, are to be attributed solely to this circumstance. No credit has heretofore been given to traditions of ancient Egyptians and Chinese, according to which these people formerly said the sun's disk was almost four times as large as we now see it, for they estimated the apparent diameter of the sun as double of what it is seen in our day. If, however, we pay attention to the continued diminution of the apparent diameter of the sun, according to the best observation of several centuries, we must suppose that the ancients were not mistaken in the estimates they have transmitted to us. In the course of six thousand years from the present time, they assume that the sun will have increased that only an eighth part of the warmth we now enjoy from the sun will be communicated to the earth, and it will then be covered with eternal ice in the same manner as we now see the plains of the north, where the elephant formerly lived, and have neither spring nor autumn.

The Scotch parson was betrayed into more than he meant to make, when he prayed for the Council and Parliament, that they might hang together in those trying times. A countryman standing by cried out: "Yes, with all my heart, and the sooner the better; it's the prayer of all good people." "But, my friends," said the parson, "I don't mean together in accord and concord." "No matter what you say," the fellow sang out again, "so it's only a strong one."

An honest Dutch farmer thus writes to the Secretary of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society:—"Gentlemen, you will have the goodness to enter me on your list of cattle for a bull."

MARRIED.

On the 24th February, by Rev. A. GUY, MACOMBER CARROLL, Esq., of Sampson county, to Miss MARY ELIZABETH daughter of Hiram Murray, of Duplin county. On the 11th March, in this town, on Tuesday evening, 26th of February, by Rev. A. GUY, MACOMBER CARROLL, ALDERMAN, to Miss LAURA HANKIN, daughter of John Nutt, Esq.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Natal Scenes.—Dip and Scrape Turpentine are without change. Turpentine declines—last sales \$1 75, which we think is more than it has obtained for some time.—Roshin \$1. Sprites Turpentine 36 cts. Grains—Wheat, 100 bushels, 1 25. Corn, 100 bushels, 54 cts. and of up River yellow 55 cts. Beans, very light. Wheat has declined, about 300 bushels of mixed stock, last sold for \$1 54 (100 lbs. Cotton—No sales to report.

TARBORO', Feb. 29.—Turpentine, Dip, \$1 75 @ 2; \$1 60 @ 25; Scrape 30 @ 45 cents @ 100 lbs. Corn \$2 00 @ 2 1/2; 3 1/2 @ 1 1/2 @ 13; Bacon 11 @ 12 1/2 cents. Cotton 8 @ 8 1/2.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 16.—Cotton has advanced 1/4 @ 1/2. Sales of the week 92,000 bales. Opening prices are: Orleans middling 5 1/2 @ 16; Fair 6 1/2; Upland middling 5 1/2 @ 16; Middling fair 6 1/2; Week middle 5 1/2 @ 16; Middling fair 6 1/2; Stock in port, 409,000, including 260,000 bales of American. 6 1/2; Balmora 5 1/2 @ 16; Ohio 2 1/2 @ 16; American 11; red Ids. Corn has declined 1/4; white and yellow 22; mixed 3 1/2 @ 3 1/2. Pork, Western prime, 80s; Eastern 160 @ 160 1/2. Sugar has declined 1/4; white and yellow 22; mixed 3 1/2 @ 3 1/2. Rosin has slightly advanced; American 40 @ 40 1/2; non-speculative demand at 40 1/2; for common; fine at 40 1/2. Lard—Cotton 55 @ 55 1/2. Coffee is steady and prices unchanged. Rice has declined 1/4. Sugar has declined 1/4; white and yellow 22; mixed 3 1/2 @ 3 1/2. Metals—Wells are quoted at 10 1/2 @ 10 1/2 @ 10 1/2. The Money market is more active and interest at 4 1/2 per cent. Consols are at 91 1/2 @ 91 1/2 during the week, but on Friday declined to 90 (109).

London, Saturday, 3 P. M.—Consols for money closed at 90 1/2 @ 90 1/2.

HAYANA, Feb. 22.—Sugars.—The advance in price, reported by the Persia from Liverpool, 26th January, has had the effect of raising the pretensions of the planters, and prices are consequently very firm at 4 1/2 @ 4 1/2 cents above last quotations. The demand for Spain and Java is not so good, and maintains prices, which otherwise could scarcely keep up. In the face of the reaction which has taken place in the British market, the planters here are not so sanguine about 90,000 boxes, against 135,000 boxes at the same period last year.

The unfavorable weather since the commencement of the grinding season, has indited great injury to the crop, and it is currently calculated will not exceed that of last year. The price of flour is consequently very firm at 4 1/2 @ 4 1/2 cents above last quotations. The demand for Spain and Java is not so good, and maintains prices, which otherwise could scarcely keep up. In the face of the reaction which has taken place in the British market, the planters here are not so sanguine about 90,000 boxes, against 135,000 boxes at the same period last year.

ARRIVED. Feb. 28.—Schr. Mary Powell, Church, from New York in ballast, to J. & D. McKee & Co. Steamer Flora McDonald, Hart, from Fayetteville, to T. C. & B. G. Worth. Steamer Fanny Lutterloh, Steadman, from Fayetteville, to Lutterloh & Elliott. Feb. 29.—Schr. D. C. Hulse, Overton, from New York, to T. C. Worth. Schr. Albion, Newcomb, from Jacksonville, to J. H. Flanner, with ballast. Schr. Magnolia, Barber, from Fayetteville, to Lutterloh & Elliott. Schr. Radiant, Whitehurst, from Hyde county, to DeLesse & Brown, with corn. Schr. John Guthrie, from Hyde county, to DeLesse & Brown, with corn. Schr. S. B. Strong Hallock, from New York, to A. D. Cazaux, with mdze. Schr. A. S. Mitchell, Brewster, from New York, to A. D. Cazaux, with mdze. Schr. Adele, Coffin, from New York, to J. H. Flanner, with mdze. Fr. Brig Triumph, Atkinson, from New York, to Adams, Bro. & Co. Schr. Ben. O'Neal, from New York, to George Harris, on Friday morning last, the second mate, Jacob Johnson, was lost overboard.

CLEARED. Feb. 29.—Schr. G. R. H. Second Hill, for New York, by Jno. A. Stanley; with naval stores. Schr. Wm. Davis, for Little River, by J. A. Stanley. Schr. Albert Willis, for Newbern, by Jno. A. Stanley, with naval stores. Schr. Wm. H. Howard, Brown, for Sloop Point, by Rankin & Miller. Schr. Fanny Lutterloh, Steadman, for Fayetteville, by Lutterloh & Elliott. Feb. 29.—Schr. Mary Abigail, Morse, for Little River, by Geo. Harris, with naval stores, cotton, &c. Schr. John Barton, for York, by George Harris, with naval stores, cotton, &c. March 1.—Schr. S. Catharine, Taylor, for Newbern, by Peckham & Co., with mdze. Schr. E. G. Oist, Miller, for Newbern, by Jno. A. Stanley, with molasses, salt, &c. Schr. Dixon Semblin, Babitt, for Washington, by Wilkerson & Co., with mdze. Schr. Curran, for Newbern, by Jno. A. Stanley, with molasses, salt, &c. Steamer Magnolia, Barber, for Fayetteville, by Lutterloh & Elliott. MARCH 1.—Schr. Jos. Lawrence, Rogers, for Boston, by P. Prioleau & Co.; with naval stores. March 3.—Schr. Purse, Moore, for Swanboro', by J. M. Sternum, with mdze.

MEMORANDA. Schr. John McRae, Marshall, arrived from Liverpool on 2d Feb. with cargo of sugar, &c. Schr. Mary Elizabeth and Exchange, from this port for Baltimore, were at Annapolis 28th ult., and would proceed on their way up, as the harbor had been opened for the season.

WILMINGTON BOOK-BINDERY. (One door below the Cape Fear Bank, up Stairs.) LEATHER binding done in every variety of style. I print, and sell, all the new books published in England, Ireland, and America. Also, all the new PUBLICATIONS. Also, all the new PUBLICATIONS. Libraries re-bound to order; Paper and fancy goods made and repaired. March 6.—PHILIP HENNINGBERGER, SWANBORO' MALE AND FEMALE ACADEMY. THE SPRING TERM of this institution will open on MONDAY, March 10th, 1856. The building is a fine structure, adjoining