

93-An absence of even the briefest duration involves an accumulation of matters requiring notice at our hands. Having returned last evening, and seeing for the first time in eight days any North Carolina paper, with the exception of one issue of our own daily, it will be impossible for us to-day to pay our respects to our cotemporaries generally as we could wish. We will merely glance at some points, touching first upon such references to the Journal as are to be found in the Fayetteville Observer of the 9th inst. The Observer says that the Standard and Journal represent the members of both Houses as having been welded at will by General Dookery, although the General was in a hopeless minority. What the Standard may have said, we do not know; but it is not important that we should leave that paper to take care of itself, a duty to the discharge of which it is fully competent. The allusion made by the Journal was in reply to the attempt of the Observer to deduce an attack upon the Democratic party from some rather forcible remarks of the Journal on the passage of the Cheraw Railroad bill. We said then, as we say now, that the fact of the sponsor and most efficient friend of the bill being General Dookery, the leader of the opposition, the standard-bearer whose name graced the head of the editorial columns of the Observer, is sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of the attempt to make a party question of this affair, or to coin party capital out of it, against the Democratic party.

Let us look again at this matter. When we spoke of cutting the throat of the State, and drew from that the illustration we did, we supposed and still suppose that every man of common sense understood that we simply meant it as an illustration, and not as a suggestion. We trust that nobody takes us for fools enough to suggest such a slaughtering course to be pursued towards men, many of whom are personal friends, neither could we, nor can we for an instant place so low an estimate upon the intelligence of the editors of the Observer as to believe that they did. But even assuming for a moment that we had suggested such a course, the result would have been to leave 22 Democratic survivors and only 7 opposition votes on that voting in the House, so that adopting this test the Democrats would stand three times better than their opponents. Seventy Democrats voted upon the bill for the Cheraw and Coal Field R. R., forty-eight for it, twenty-two against it, that is to say that rather more than two to one of the Democrats voted for the bill. Thirty-five opposition votes on the bill, precisely one-half as many as the Democrats. The opposition vote stood twenty-eight for the bill, to seven against it, being precisely four to one opposition votes in favour of the bill, so that even upon this point the position of the Democrats was near about twice as good as that of their opponents.

But again, since the Observer will have it, let us turn to General Dookery. Did not General Dookery represent himself as the fast friend of Wilmington, and of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad? Certainly he did. He had presided over the last meeting of stockholders of the company organized for the construction of that work, and when he advocated this Cheraw scheme as a project beneficial to the interests of Wilmington and its railroads, what wonder if gentlemen of both parties from other sections believed in and acted upon his representations. With General Dookery's motives, or other people's motives, we do not propose now to interfere, but these are the facts.

We have shown, we think, conclusively, that the attempt to make party capital out of this matter of internal improvements must prove futile, as it is certainly wrong and impolitic. We have never treated it as such. We have taken our own course plainly and decidedly upon our own convictions of what appeared to us to be for the best interests of the State. For that course we are responsible as citizens of the State and residents of Wilmington, not as Democratic partisans. If we allude to the matter at all, in a political point of view, it is simply for the purpose of meeting attacks upon the Democratic party, which we feel to be as unjust and disingenuous, as we know them to be detrimental to the cause of internal improvements, and injurious to the best interests of the State. It may be, that feeling warmly, we may, at times, have expressed ourselves strongly. Those opposed to us may make what capital they can against the Journal on this point. They can make none against the Democratic party.

Daily Journal, 14th inst. THE CLOSE OF THE ELECTION.—On Wednesday the 11th inst., we witnessed the last scene of the Presidential election—the final counting of the votes in the hall of the House of Representatives, in presence of the members of both Houses. The Senate, in a body, led by its President, came in and took the seats assigned. The President of the Senate was president of the convention of both Houses, and took his place in the Speaker's chair, the Speaker of the House on his left. Tellers on the part of both Houses took their place at the clerk's desk. The President of the Senate stated what was to be done, and commenced by opening the vote of Maine and handing it to the tellers, by whom it was read and taken down. So on with all the other States. The vote of Wisconsin purported to have been cast on the 4th of December, instead of on the 3d, the day required by law. In reading the vote of Wisconsin, and in stating the result, the tellers allude to this fact. The President of the Senate in announcing the result, gave the vote including that of Wisconsin. Many gentlemen arose and recorded their protest against this, as likely to form an unsafe precedent, and a motion was made to reject it. The President of the Senate being in the Chair, decided against putting such motion. The Senate was there as the Senate, and not as blended into the House. The bodies were separate and were only together for a specific purpose, not for joint voting. General Cass arose and stated his views. The House could only entertain motions in their own chambers, and organized according to the Constitution. The Senate retired to its chamber for consultation, and the House, with the Speaker in his seat, took up the matter, but did nothing. The certificate was made up as in 1821, when there was a doubt about Missouri. The return of the tellers will show the vote with and without counting Wisconsin, and the election of Buchanan and Breckinridge in either event.

Mr. Horne, agent for obtaining subscriptions to Dr. Hawk's History of North Carolina, is now in town, and will wait upon as many of our citizens as he can. He is stopping at Holmes' Hotel, where he will be pleased to see such persons as he may not be able to call upon, and who may desire to subscribe.

The Chesapeake is said to be entirely clear of ice, and the Norfolk boats have resumed their daily trips to Baltimore in connection with the Seaboard and Roanoke Rail Road.

The Directors of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company met at this place yesterday, we believe, for the purpose of making some arrangements relative to the progress of the Road.—We shall probably be able, in a day or two, to give some information relative to the matter. They met again this morning. All the Directors are present except one.—Daily Journal, 13th inst.

Letter from the Editor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1857. I regret to have left for home this morning, and therefore, did not think it worth while to write. I find that, in all probability, I may not leave for a day or two, and, therefore, think it best now to drop a line.

On Monday (yesterday) an effort was made to get up our Cape Fear bill, under a suspension of the rules. A change of four votes would have rendered the effort successful. Had it been got up it would have gone right through. Our friends do not give it up. They are still determined to keep trying. One day, there will be no difficulty. I think it will go through yet, and at this session. The Committee on Commerce very courteously allowed the bill to get out of their hands and to be reported separately, and following up their lead Mr. Winslow obtained the floor for his motion to suspend the rules, which was courteously entertained by the House, and it appeared as though a two-thirds vote could be obtained for the suspension, but unfortunately it just failed. Better luck next time. Our representative and his bill are both popular and have warm friends, and no fair means to obtain success will be left untried by Mr. Winslow and other gentlemen of the delegation. I might mention names and particulars, but this would be useless, and might be improper at the present time. He has been here since the early part of last week. I need hardly add that his efforts are energetic and well directed.

On examination, I discover that a rather mistaken impression has been entertained among us with reference to the Marine Hospital appropriation; at least, I confess to have been under this impression. That is, that unless made available within two years from the commencement of the fiscal year for which it was appropriated, it would lapse. I find that it is two years from the close of that year. This gives another year from the first of next July. The sooner action is taken the better, however. I will be home in two days, and will then state what I understand to be the wish of the Department.

To-morrow both Houses will go into Convention for the purpose of opening and counting the votes for President and Vice President. It will be quite a ceremony, and the galleries and lobbies will, of course, be crowded. It will be only a ceremony.

Cabinet speculations are still rife. Rumor points to the Secretary of State as the critical, or, at least, the most disputed point. The same rumor correctly connects the name of Hon. Robert J. Walker, of Mississippi, with that high office. It is certain that this has been on the cards. Whether it is now or not, I cannot pretend to say. The same rumor that represented Walker stood as rather down a few days since, now represents it as above par. There would appear to be some approximation to truth in what rumor says in this matter. While here, Mr. Buchanan solicited and obtained the views of gentlemen from all States and sections, gave them a careful consideration, but reserved his own ultimate decision to himself.

There is a department of immense importance to which the attention of the South has been too little drawn. That of the Interior. It is to the South, perhaps the most important department of the Federal Government. It makes treaties with the Indians, controls the Land Offices, it fixes the Indian reserves west of the Mississippi, etc., etc. From these Land Offices, Indian Agencies, and so forth, proceeds an influence calculated to seriously affect, if not, in fact, to decide, the future character of the prospective territory. The men connected with the agencies and offices, are the first white men of any account in the unsettled portions of the public domain. Their post from the nucleus of settlements to which they give tone, and these again give tone to the territory and State soon to be formed. Men prejudiced against the South and Southern institutions, could have no more formidable position from which to labor for their exclusion from all the new territories, and the South has never seemed to think of this, it seeming to be taken for granted that the Secretary of the Interior should always come from the North or North-West. This is a great mistake, and, I fear, a fatal oversight.

The weather here for the last two days has been cold but pleasant, and people generally seem to be in good spirits. I hear of applicants for clerkships having come from Ohio and elsewhere. They are early in the market.

The treaty with Great Britain, with reference to Central American affairs, seems to be in doubt. It contains certain objectionable features, one of which is a sort of British Wilmot Proviso over the Belize Islands, a nominal sovereignty in which is surrendered by Great Britain to Honduras, with the stipulation that slavery shall be forever excluded. There are said to be other unacceptable features, but this one seems to be definitely known.

There are but faint hopes, if any, of a reduction of the revenue at this Session, which is deeply to be regretted, as the accumulation of money in the vaults of the Treasury, threatens the country with a commercial revolution. It is a great pity that the thing could not be perfected and promptly passed.

I happened to-day to notice Gen. Cass crossing the rotunda of the Capitol, looking younger than I ever saw him look, and I think better. He is certainly a remarkable man.

The new wings of the Capitol are tremendous works. Nothing but the treasury of a great nation is equal to such demands. The new halls will be parallelograms, not circles or parts of circles as the old one are. They will be larger and more splendid. The iron roofs are on and the interiors of the roofs are being painted red gilded. They will be very rich. The Committee rooms are to be all painted in fresco, as several of them already are. Captain Meigs, the Superintendent of this immense work, receives the magnificent salary of seventeen hundred dollars a year. But he is independent and has the honorable ambition to connect his name with something enduring.

Having exhausted my paper, I must conclude.

DESTRUCTIVE FRESHETS.—The breaking up of the ice and a general melting of the frozen waters at the North has caused a very extensive destruction of property in the cities. At Albany the loss is estimated at \$2,000,000. At other places property to large amounts have also been swept off.

George Davis, Esq., of this town, delivered a lecture in Petersburg on Wednesday evening last—subject, "the administration of Gov. Martin, the last of the Royal Governors of North Carolina."

Poisoning Case in Boston. BOSTON, Feb. 11.—The sudden death of Mr. Gardner, postmaster at Hingham, Mass., led to an investigation of the case, and the circumstances were such as to warrant the arrest of his wife on suspicion of poisoning him.

The Burdell Murder Trial. NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—Very little additional testimony was given yesterday in the Burdell case. An attempt was made to show that Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham were the parties who entered a store to purchase a dagger on Friday before the murder, but the witness failed to identify them. Mrs. Cunningham has been committed to the toms.

A genius out in Iowa has just invented a wooden horse that will jump thirty miles an hour. The motive power is a bag of fleas. Who says this is not an age of progress?

COAL FIELDS RAILROAD.—We learn from the Observer of the 12th inst. that a meeting of the Stockholders of the Western Railroad Company was held in Fayetteville on the evening of the 11th inst. The meeting was well attended. Archibald McLean, Esq., presided, with J. M. Rose, Secretary. The Observer says:

C. B. Mallet, Esq., President of the Company, entered into a detailed statement of its affairs, from which we learn that the grading of ten miles of the track is almost completed, (will be done this week or ten days.) That \$67,719 58 has been paid in cash, and \$98,000 in town bonds. That the cost of the work done, grading, engineering, &c., and the purchase of real estate for a depot, has been about \$52,500. That there is on hand, applicable to the work, \$94,000 in town bonds, and \$39,662 91 in good individual subscriptions, as yet unpaid. That the grading, bridges, road crossings, possible rock excavations, cross-ties, and all other expenses to fit the road for the iron, will cost, according to the detailed estimates, (prepared on a liberal scale,) \$279,000; to be done this week or ten days.) That \$67,719 58 has been paid in cash, and \$98,000 in town bonds. 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