

State Matters—The Government.

There are two things evident in connection with State matters during the present year. Either the people of North Carolina are to choose a Governor for themselves or they are to have one put over them by Abraham Lincoln.

It is a catastrophe to be averted, does it not appear evident to even the meanest comprehension, that the people of the State, equally with the people of the whole Confederacy should be a unit, and that all causes of division, or risk of division, of the drawing of party lines, or the stirring up of local or sectional jealousies, or the revival of old animosities, should be removed, or at least avoided?

If this be so, and we think it will hardly be disputed it would seem that the stumping of the State, the canvass by rival aspirants, the bitterness of politicians, ought of all things to be avoided, and if there be individuals who will not avoid it, then the remedy remains with the people.

It would seem that the man who is first in pushing for a canvass, will be last when the votes are counted, and there will be less desire to rally parties for self-elevation.

Possibly we may not quite understand the position of what seem to be parties in this State. We had thought that, for the present at least, and for the purposes of achieving independence, there was but one party; we think so still.

With others we thought, after the formation of the Southern Confederacy, that the place of North Carolina was beside her Southern sisters, and not with the Northern States, that had chosen Lincoln on a basis of avowed anti-Southern sectionalism.

Events, however, progressed rapidly. Every hope of compromise or reconciliation passed away. The so-called "peace Congress" could effect nothing, because the Northern delegates would yield nothing.

The efforts of John J. Crittenden and other compromisers failed. The people of the border, or semi-border States, who had sent delegates to the peace Congress, or who had made other efforts at compromise, saw themselves pressed to the wall.

If we would realize what our position might have been had we remained united with the Lincoln government, it is only necessary for us to point to the humiliations to which old Mr. Crittenden and others representing or assuming to represent slave States at Washington, are subjected; we need only turn to the debates in the Lincoln Congress, to the abolition measures passed in contempt of their begging appeals.

As the Northern programme more fully revealed itself, we felt that we were indeed drifting rapidly towards the rocks upon which we would split, and in this critical emergency it was not the time for any one to cry "Watch and Wait!"

It is easy enough, we think, to define pretty satisfactorily what the man to be elected to fill the gubernatorial chair of North Carolina ought to be, but when we approach the question of who that man is to be, we become deeply conscious of the delicacy of the discussion.

It is evident, however, that that question also must be decided. All that are named cannot be elected. Many may be nominated but only one chosen. To avoid divisions of any kind, it is desirable that opinion should be quietly concentrated in some way, and that the people generally should agree upon the man whom they will call to the high honorable but still more highly responsible position of Chief Executive officer of the State.

We put out of the calculation altogether, the duty of adjudicating upon the claims of rival aspirants. These things ought to have no place in the present picture. The country alone has claims. Aspirants for individual promotion ought to stand aside, or merge their personal ambitions in self-sacrificing efforts for the common good.

But while this is so, it is not to be forgotten that the friends of prominent citizens may insist upon the fitness and capability of their respective favorites, as affording reasons why they should be chosen, even if they do not constitute claims to be urged in their behalf, and this individual partisanship may not be at all chargeable to any individual efforts or manoeuvres of the gentlemen whose names are or may hereafter be used.

Much the greater portion of the names brought forward in this connection, are those of gentlemen residing West of Raleigh, and it may be said that the papers at and West of Raleigh, have had the discussion of this matter pretty much in their own hands, the fact being that the people and the papers of the East have had their eyes too earnestly fixed upon other points, their

thoughts too firmly concentrated upon other matters, to indulge in any premature speculations upon the result of an election to be held in August next. To this may be added the fact, that the papers of the East are now few and far between. Their number has grown small by degrees, and beautifully less. Perhaps, also, the idea has gained strength, that inasmuch as the two Confederate Senators were chosen from, though not by the East, to the West should be conceded the selection of the next Governor, even though the last regularly elected Governor was from the West.

There may be some force in this, though less, we think, than appears to be attached to it in some quarters. We mention this, however, simply as a fact, without proposing to discuss it at the present time.

Some time since we respectfully solicited a suspension of all the irritating discussions which seemed likely to arise upon this and upon other subjects. We renew that request. There is no need for haste. We have nearly four months before us. We have held of April, and all of May, June and July between us and the State elections. Three months and a half in such times as these, is equal to ages at other times. We know not what a day or an hour may bring forth; what nicely laid plans may be disconnected; what opinions may be changed; what unforeseen action may be called for.

The State Convention will reassemble on Monday next, the 21st, and even in that body, although authoritative, and although its members are paid for their attendance, it is much to be doubted whether the Eastern portion of the State will be fully represented. How much less then the chance of any adequate representation being present at a mere voluntary Convention, without power, without party stimulus, and generally without personal motive.

If party stimulus is expected to be given to any voluntary State Convention, such body had better not meet at all, under the present state of things. If personal motive—the desire for individual promotion, is to draw particular parties together, we have no ambition to bear a hand at turning the grindstone upon which they may seek to sharpen their private axes.

We are forced, with all due deference to the very many of our most respected contemporaries, to dissent from the proposition to hold a Convention. The dislocation of party organizations has left available no machinery adequate to bringing out a full or fair representation, even if the state of the times was favourable, which it is not.

May we be permitted to make a suggestion, and we do it with all respect to the views of others. First, permit us to assume that a canvass would look strongly indecorous with so many of our citizens absent in the field;—second, that a heated canvass through the papers would be only less so;—third that all agree in applying the language of Patrick Henry in the first Revolution to our present position in this, that it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in chains and slavery; and that to avoid this it is the duty of all to forget self—to ignore former disputes and heart-burnings, and act with that unity and harmony so essential to success.

That in this feeling the conductors of the several papers throughout the State meet at Raleigh on the 20th day of next month, to consult together in a spirit of patriotism in reference to the course to be pursued by the press of the State, so that it at least may exert a harmonizing and conservative influence, and not be responsible for any divisions or unnecessary excitements. Between now and the 20th of May many things which are now dark will be made clear, many important movements, now impending, will have taken place; public opinion will by that time, perhaps, have assumed a more tangible form, while the presence of the Convention, with the numbers drawn together by its sessions, will give to the representatives of the press opportunities for adding to the knowledge of the wishes of the people in the different sections which they may have already acquired, and of enabling them to agree upon an intelligent and harmonious course of action.

If they can agree upon supporting one man, so much the better. If they can not, they can at least agree not to engage in criminations or re-creminations, or demagogical appeals or stump orations.

We have assumed that the State Convention will remain in session for at least a month. Judging from the past history of that body, we may fairly assume that it will remain much longer. There are several things that it seems that it ought to, and indeed ought to have done long since. There are other things that it seems it had better let alone, but which it will be certain to take up. A consideration of these matters is not necessary to the subject we have been discussing, and will come more appropriately in a different connection.

May we not ask of our State contemporaries to consider our suggestion and make some response. We speak in all sincerity, and not without reflection.

We have a letter from a friend in Florida dated about a week since, which gives us some items of information about things in that State, the most important of which are as follows: "I am happy to inform you of the entire safety of the rifles and munitions recently brought into Smyrna by the Carolina. Fifty wagon loads have already passed through this place, and, within the next week, the balance will be several hundred miles out of the enemy's reach. While occupying both Fernandina and Jacksonville, in force, the Yankees have not yet ventured into the interior, although they threaten, I understand, to march through the State from East to West and conquer us within sixty days.

"Our forces (Confederate and State) are now within three miles of Jacksonville, endeavoring to draw the enemy out from his gunboats, but have thus far effected little more than capturing all the enemy's pickets who venture outside the limits of the town.

"Our guerrilla parties occupy nearly every hammock and cross-road in the East, and have already struck terror to the enemy by their bold attacks upon their pickets. Florida, I think, will be able to take care of herself."

We acknowledge the receipt of a check for Fifty Dollars from James Dawson, Esq., for the Gunboat Fund, and also of Twenty Dollars for the same Fund from Sergeant Thomas E. Lawrence of Howard's Cavalry, which will be turned over to the proper Committee.

We would remark that Wm. A. Wright, Esq., is Chairman and acting Treasurer of the Gun Boat Committee.

In this connection, we would state that we received yesterday the following letter. As it expresses its object plainly we can most satisfactorily comply with its request by copying it in full:—

LUMBERTON, N. C., April 14th, 1862. MESSRS. EDITORS: Please announce in your paper that Mrs. Daniel French and Mrs. Capt. Godwin have opened subscriptions in Lumberton, Robeson county, to aid in building an iron-clad Gunboat for the defence of Wilmington, and they will gladly receive any contributions, no matter how small. No doubt there are many who will say I would gladly contribute, but have no money. To remedy this excuse, please state that they will gladly receive produce of any kind, which can be left either at Mr. D. French's or J. C. McQueen's store, where it will be sold and the money appropriated to the building of the Gunboat. Very respectfully, F. GODWIN.

The telegraph brings us a considerable amount of something, whether it be good or bad, reliable or unreliable, our readers must decide for themselves. It appears to be certain that the enemy is about to make his greatest effort on the Southern Peninsula of Virginia. His forces are gathering around Hampton Roads in immense numbers, and his fleets threaten Norfolk and Yorktown, while the peninsula itself, nowhere over five miles wide in its lower part, is at one point only seven miles wide. Washed on one side by the James River, and on another by the York, and rounded off at its lower extremity by Fort Monroe, which looks into Hampton Roads on the South and West, and the Chesapeake Bay on the North and East, the Peninsula offers to the invaders an opportunity to avail themselves of all their resources and advantages. Their forces no longer swarm on the Potomac, and the Confederates have approached Alexandria without even seeing a foe. When the battle does come off, it will be a fearful one, for the stake is enormous, being nothing less than the fate of Virginia. Having taken months to prepare, having assembled such a force as the world has not seen since Napoleon advanced into Russia, McClellan feels that to him defeat would be ruin, while the Confederate soldiers and leaders feel that not only their fate, but the fate of their country, is staked upon the issue, and they cannot afford to be defeated. The contest cannot long be deferred. The news of a terrible battle may startle us at any moment. We trust that our people are prepared, not only to call upon God to defend the right, but, under God, to defend it themselves, with brave hearts, strong arms, and sufficient numbers.

Wave, Richmond! all thy banners wave, And charge with all thy valour! For not only the fate of the temporary seat of government, but of Eastern Virginia, and even more than that, trembles in the balance. We presume that President Davis himself will be on the field as he has intimated. He will share the fate of his soldiers in life or death, in victory or defeat. The New York Herald thinks that the drama is soon to close with a bloody tragedy of surpassing grandeur, when McClellan is to be rewarded by the capture of the Confederate Cabinet and Congress. The boastful confidence of the Northern press and authorities is something that affords a very strange contrast to the dismal universal howl that arose after the battle of Manassas last July, and the impartial observer may well be puzzled to decide on which of the two phases of character is entitled to the largest measure of contempt.

It will be seen that the Federal papers claim a great victory at Pittsburg, as they call the battle-field of the sixth and seventh instants. They admit a loss of twenty thousand, and assert the Confederate loss at thirty-five to forty thousand. That they admit their own loss to be larger than it is, we cannot suppose, indeed their claiming a victory, shows that they will lie to make a good showing. Of our own loss, we have no official report, but it is not over one sixth of the amount stated by them. They will be certain to pour down all their hosts to endeavor to change their defeat into final victory. Reinforcements are pressed forward and General Halleck, their commander-in-chief west of the mountains, has gone to the scene of action. Buell's fall appears to be confirmed, as also the defeat of a portion of the Lincoln army at Nashville. Thank God, Beauregard is not dead!

Reorganized for the War. We learn that on the 12th instants, the 25th Regiment, N. C. T., now stationed at Kingston, reorganized for the war by re-electing Col. Lane and Lieutenant Col. Lowe, and electing Captain S. D. Lowe Major.

The larger portion of our twelve months regiments, or at least the Companies composing them, have entered for the war, but we think the 25th is the first to perfect its re-organization as a regiment. It will soon have many companions.

Caught. A private dispatch from Atlanta, Ga., dated April 14th, states that the train recently stolen on the Atlanta and Western Railroad had been caught within eight miles of Chattanooga.

The Federals at Stevenson, Alabama, had come within five miles of Bridgeport, burned one bridge and returned.

VIRGINIA SMALL NOTES.—Small notes, commonly called "shipplasters," are frequently sent by mail for subscriptions to the "Journal." The local value of these notes we do not know, but their value is local, or at least they will not pass here, and therefore cannot serve our purpose; so that of course we cannot receive them as payment. In fact, all notes under the denomination of five dollars, except those of the States of North and South Carolina, may be said to be uncurrent here. We beg subscribers to bear this in mind in sending for papers.

We have confused rumors of a recent collision between a portion of Spruill's and a force of the enemy, but all the accounts are so vague that we find it wholly impossible to bring any order out of them. The most current version, for which we do not vouch, is that a portion of this regiment, under Lt. Col. Robinson, had attacked a portion of the enemy, killing some and capturing others;—that subsequently, an overwhelming force came up on the other side, and succeeded not only in re-taking our prisoners, but also in capturing a number of our men. Rumor also has it that Col. Robinson was either killed, wounded or taken prisoner, neither of which, we trust, is so.

The only thing that seems to be nearly certain is, that some collision has taken place between some of our Cavalry and some of the enemy's, but how large the force on either side was, where the affair took place, under what circumstances, or with what result we cannot say. Of course it was in some of the counties adjacent to Newbern. The accounts that reach us of the doings of the Lincoln soldiers in that section are only less outrageous than the conduct of domestic traitors there.

MANY of our readers will recollect the name of the lady referred to in the following paragraph, which we find in the last Richmond Enquirer, evidently cut from the details of foreign news received by a late arrival.—Mrs. Watson was here last summer, at the time when a ship, name now forgotten, was detained here, but finally permitted to depart, as being Southern property. The vessel appears to have got out of her way, and grounded under the guns of Fort Caswell, at the time when Col. Cantwell was at that point, and Captain Jones at Fort Johnson. The vessel lay for some time at the wharf nearly opposite Messrs. Harris & Howel's.

DEATH OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE TRADER.—Mrs. Watson, we lay awake at night, and have been thinking of her lately, as she has recently died in Cadiz, Spain. There were three indictments against her in New York, for fitting out slavers, and she fled to Spain to avoid them. She died at Cadiz, but the United States consul at that point, being advised of her movements, withdrew the registers of the vessels and they could not sail. It is said that the female slaver then resolved to drink and die. She was a native of New York.

GENERAL BROCKENBROOK, by his most gallant conduct at the battle of Shiloh, has given the best answer to those in this State who were disposed to suspect his patriotism and sneer at his courage. Without employing the somewhat inflated language of the telegraph, that he has covered himself with glory, it is enough to say that he was among the foremost where all pressed forward, among the bravest where all were brave. We sincerely trust that the report of his being dangerously, if not mortally wounded, may prove to be groundless or at least exaggerated. It is only proper to add that the sneers to which we have alluded, did not come from his former open opponents. They recognised the gallantry of the man even while they opposed him.

Personal Experiences in Lincolnland.

We determined at any sacrifice of feeling not to appear dejected, and for every year and just at our expense, we returned it double fold. As they were determined to make us out not only a scotch, but a big one, we told them we were either Jeff. Davis, Floyd, or Jenkins, we did not know exactly which, but like the shrewd man with the lion and the dog, might take their choice.—Wearied out we fell asleep.

You have doubtless realized the confusion of ideas incident to awaking for the first time after any great change in your circumstances. It was so with us. We had been dreaming pleasantly of "home, sweet home," and the first objects our waking eyes beheld were a group of sleepy men, trying to keep awake, and a pile of straw on the floor. It was some seconds before we could take it all in.—the stern reality, however, forced itself upon us. We were visited by our friendly captives, who removed us to another tavern, and gave us temporary use of his room;—by and by we were visited by a sort of extemporary and self-constituted committee of safety. Owing to the prevalence of secession doctrines among the well-to-do and more respectable members of the community, the direction of the control of the country, by some very questionable parties, assisted by the military. There was neither town nor county officers, and consequently, no jurisdiction. The Judge (Mr. Rice), Sheriff, and every officer downwards, had been declared incompetent by Lincoln, and it was doubtless feared that an election then would result in simply a change of men, not principles. The commissioners could not have taken under the bar. We closed the books of the existing state of anarchy, to be either acquitted or referred to some competent jurisdiction. We were determined to do this, and consequently, refused answering the numerous questions put to us—asserting our innocence of any crime against any law—for we could not find out what we were accused of, nor could any one present bring any known charge against us—that we were a British subject, lately from New York, and were on a coal investigating trip up the Sandy. We stuck well to the coals, until they burnt our fingers. We gave references to several Consuls, to Washington, and to Cincinnati, but these fellows having the responsibility of the entire country weighing upon their shoulders, unused to the official work, were not going to be hoodwinked: So we were adjudged guilty of suspicion, and returned to our captivity in a room specially appointed, and with which we had ample leisure to become acquainted, for, despite every protest, we were detained a closely guarded prisoner for nearly three weeks. The guard varied from three to seven men, night and day.—For about the first week we were the guest of the 14th Kentucky Regiment, not then fully organized, and the special charge of our friend, the Captain, and after their removal to Louisiana, 25 miles up the river, to be sworn in and incorporated with Nelson's Brigade, we were turned over to the keeping of the Lincoln Home Guard, as motley a set of fellows as you might conveniently meet in a long day's ride. A part of the 14th Regiment, 3 to 400 strong, under the leadership of a *soldatino* Colonel Vincent, had had the honor of being chased by the rebels at Pickett, and now there was a slight correction for the Colonel, and the regiment between this Vincent and a fat, 250-pound Louisiana lawyer, called Loeb Moore. The former was an acknowledged brave man, but, unfortunately, an ardent devotee of "John Barley Corn," and was so drunk at the late engagement that he could not be "brought up to time," whereas our man of law and fair proportions was accounted a "very clever fellow," and, of course, he was elected. How well he justified the sagacious choice of these Lincoln *freemen*, may be ascertained at the same time that Col. Moore explains his stampede from Louisiana to Catletburg, scared out of his wits by Marshall and Floyd's phantoms, for neither of them were within thirty miles of us here, and his subsequent and sudden retirement into the bosom of his family and the peaceful seclusion of his grateful village. His friends averred that his removal was not the result of a prudent choice of these Lincoln *freemen*, may be ascertained at the same time that Col. Moore explains his stampede from Louisiana to Catletburg, scared out of his wits by Marshall and Floyd's phantoms, for neither of them were within thirty miles of us here, and his subsequent and sudden retirement into the bosom of his family and the peaceful seclusion of his grateful village. His friends averred that his removal was not the result of a prudent choice of these Lincoln *freemen*, may be ascertained at the same time that Col. 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