THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C.,
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1866.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Closing Days of the Session—The passage of the Railroad Bills in the Senate, after three days Struggle—The Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad Bill Rejected—Col. Richardson and Relief for the People—Personal—Death of Mr. Judkins, of Warren.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 20th, 1866.

Dear Journal:—But one more working day remains before the recess, as Saturday will be principally devoted to the administration of oaths to Governor Worth. As is usually the case, much business is being transacted and the General Assembly is laboring with a zeal and earnestness, which, if it had been characteristic of the earlier days of the session, would have caused the entire business that makes necessary the adjourned session to have been completed.

The House of Commons have passed no important bills during this week, except Mr. Richardson's Homestead bill. The Senate have had under consideration the various Railroad bills which have been the most prominent and interesting features of the session, and with the exception of the Raleigh and Chatham Railroad and the "Consolidation bill," have been finally disposed of. The former is retained by the judiciary committee, and the latter by the committee on Internal Improvements. It is now too late to be acted upon this session. As predicted in my last letter, the Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad met its doom at the hands of the Senate, receiving only nine votes.

The bill to enable the Fayetteville and Western Railroad to extend its road to some point on the North Carolina Railroad, was the centre of attraction, being the pioneer of the railroad bills in the Senate and not quite as strong as the others. It formed the entire subject of debate on Monday, and the greater part of the day on Tuesday, passing its second reading Tuesday night, by the casting vote of the Speaker, there being twenty-one votes on either side of the question. It passed its third reading last night by *one* majority. The debate on this bill was very interesting and most ably conducted, with possibly a little too much feeling. Messrs. McLean, Hall, Avery, Love, Leach, Robins and Gash, were the advocates of the measure, and Messrs. Wilson, Clark, Moore, Wiggins and Berry opposed it. Some amendments of an unimportant character were made in the Senate, but the bill as passed and ratified is enclosed.

The Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, and the Western Extension bills were manfully fought by Messrs. Wilson, Berry and Moore, but passed by some eight or ten majority. It is due Mr. Wilson, the able Senator from Mecklenburg, to say, that upon the incorporation of Col. Hall's amendment requiring the Company to pay the debt due the State whenever the Bonds of the Company to the amount of $4,000,000 shall have been negotiated, he voted for it. The bill as enrolled is enclosed.

Col. Hall's bills to amend the charter of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, giving the Company power to build branches and providing for a Vice-President, have passed the Senate.

Mr. Richardson, of Bladen, who has devoted his entire time and abilities to his duties, has the reward of presenting the only bill for the "Relief of the People," which has stood the test of either House. His bill to exempt from seizure under executions or attachment, certain personal property, passed the House yesterday, and is now in the hands of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, but can hardly be reached this session. Mr. Richardson has endeavored to afford relief to the oppressed people of the State, within the bounds of the Constitution, and his efforts have met the approval of the House of Commons. The speeches of Messrs. McClammy, of New Hanover, and Allen, of Brunswick, in support of this measure, are spoken of by the members of the House in the highest terms. The bill, as passed the House is enclosed for publication.

The two Houses adjourned at an early hour to-day, in consequence of the announcement of the death of Mr. Judkins, one of the Commoners from the county of Warren. He has been a member of the House, almost continually, for thirty-five years. Appropriate resolutions were adopted and addresses delivered by Messrs. Davis, of Franklin, Waugh, of Surry, and Holderby, of Rockingham, in the House, and by Messrs. Thornton, Wiggins and Hall in the Senate. E.

Holden & Co.

The subjoined correspondence of the New York *Times* in regard to what the disinterested, self-sacrificing, patriotic and generally sweet-scented guardian of the interest and honor of North Carolina, are doing to promote the objects of their chief solicitude, will be read with much delight and edification by that large class who constitute the "outs" in the State. The forty legislators, and the forty thousand voters mentioned in the correspondence, like the loyalty of the Ex-Provisional Governor, are apocryphal, and of this fact the Congress are fully aware. They despise the professions of the Ex-Provisional Governor almost as much as all the honest people of the State laugh at them. Thaddeus knows William very well as a politician, and estimates him by his record, not by his new-born zeal. But the amusement ceases when we read that christian sentiment of the correspondence which invokes "imprisonment and murder" upon the Ex-Provisional Governor's political enemies in retaliation for (imaginary) crimes of the same sort inflicted on him. We protest that though the Ex-Provisional Governor is dead politically, he has not been murdered—except suicidally. And if all who do not possess his peculiar species of loyalty are to be murdered, every honest man in the State had better say his prayers:

"THE NORTH CAROLINA MEMORIALISTS.

"Governor Holden, John Pool, James F. Taylor and Messrs. Harris and Jenkins, of North Carolina, who have been in Washington for several days have left the city, and are now on their way home. They were appointed a committee to come hither in the interest of the loyal people of that State, and they represent the views of about forty of the one hundred and seventy members of the Legislature. They say that the bill prepared by them, and introduced yesterday by Representative Stevens, to remand North Carolina to a territorial condition and to provide for a convention to form a new State government, stands a good chance of being passed, and that the leading Republican members have privately expressed themselves in its favor. These delegates have distributed among Congressmen a circular, showing that a test of loyalty in the insurgent States is essential. Its application, they say, would effectually place the government of the Southern States in the hands of the Union men, and preclude every secessionist; and no other test can do so without excluding thousands, who, at the first, were misled, but who repented and afterward periled their lives and estates in support of the Union. There need be no apprehensions that their oath would be falsely taken.—The *status* of every man at that time was distinctly known to his neighbors.

"The line was clearly drawn upon this test, and upon it hundreds were imprisoned and murdered. By the same measure let the persecuted unionists have their reward. They are now discouraged and paralyzed because, while the President would boldly deliver them over to degradation, incurred on account of their adherence to the Union in the darkest days of treason and blood, the Congress seems to make no definite distinction between them and their late and present persecutors and enemies; but should Congress recognize and uphold them by some just and discriminating action, they would take courage and boldly and successfully work for the interest of the Union. Thus would the true element of the South stand prominently forward and make secession and treason bow its head. Now traitors are bold and arrogant, while the true loyalists are mystified and silent.—The peace of the country is still disturbed, and the Union still unquestionably in danger."

In the views we shall to-day present, we shall assert principles which will conflict with those heretofore advanced and supported by the practice of our agricultural citizens since the first opening of our country. No less will they be at variance with that class who have made the naval stores and lumber trade their exclusive occupation.

Formerly there were those who argued wisely against that system of labor which, while certain staples were produced, apparently with great profit, sent the proceeds of that skilfull labor to foreign countries, or, what was really worse for us, to the New England and Northwestern States, to supply us with the merest necessaries of life. We can now see, that instead of securing ourselves at home, we become, with all our great resources, perfectly dependent upon others for not only the luxuries, but the indispensable supports of existence, bread and meat. The first great object in the cultivation of the soil should be to make *subsistence* as cheap as possible. The reasons for this are apparent upon the highest investigation. Aside from this, placing us beyond anxiety, it will keep in our midst the whole of the proceeds from the market crops, and enable us to develop the great mineral and manufacturing power of our State, and to improve in every branch of agricultural industry. It will cause to flow into our sparsely filled districts industrious immigrants, who, upon coming, will know that their wants can and will be supplied at living rates; and it will be the means of securing labor at wages which can be paid and leave a fair profit to the land owner. This last is the end most to be desired. Can any one doubt that, if to-day, corn were selling at fifty cents the bushel, and bacon at ten cents the pound, our farmers would feel the same hesitation in beginning work for the coming year? If the abundance which our lands are capable of producing were now in the country, would there be that dreadful apprehension which so many experience?—Will not the planter, be his crop what it may, be far better off with an ample supply of everything upon his plantation necessary for its support, with half his staple crop for market, than with the whole of that market crop, when in the latter case he would have to spend full the half for bacon, corn, flour and the animals necessary to make the coming crop.—We are convinced that if in the past year the rule had been adopted and followed of planting a full provision crop, the South would have been better off than now. There is hardly a section of the country where enough has been raised to supply itself with food. This has been owing partly to the great drought, but equally as much or more to the desire of every one to have as much cotton as possible. Who can raise cotton *now* and sell it for thirty cents the pound, when he works *freedmen*, and pays twenty-five cents the pound for bacon, and one dollar and a half per bushel for corn; when sugar is twenty cents, and an ordinary milch cow is regarded as cheap for sixty dollars, and when every necessary article is at equally high rates? Out of the earth must come our rise from the terribly depressed condition of the present. The wisest legislation, and the most generous terms from our conquerors, in the place of vindictive, malicious and unprecedentedly severe exactions in the form of taxation, together with all that our good old State can do for us, can avail nothing, until the products of the earth shall be sufficient, first to supply our wants, and then to send abroad for market those staples which will command money for any enterprise.

While we urge all to look well to the present in this, we would also impress them with the necessity of not forgetting that this change is to be permanent. Let every land owner do all that he may to improve that land. Labor is scarce, but it will, in many cases, yes, in most, be in the power of all to do that which will in a few years hence return a reward far beyond what the most sanguine could hope. The new year is almost here. From the experience of '66 let '67 derive such lessons as shall make us one year hence independent, at least, so far as to have food. It is folly, madness, to look for the same results now as those obtained before our great and disastrous revolution, unless as great a revolution be wrought in our agriculture and its products.

Gen. Sickles' Order.

The Raleigh *Standard* quotes some remarks we made a few days since, relative to the late order of General Sickles, and concludes by saying:

"It would be well if Gen. Sickles would put his finger on this farthing candle, the Wilmington *Journal*, and extinguish it."

We are greatly indebted to the *Standard* for the contempt which it seems desirous to bestow on this paper. We advise the *Standard* man that we are quite of age and have some regard for the laws of the State and of the United States. We have not yet betrayed our country or friends, and never expect to. We refer the *Standard* to the decision of the President in relation to this very matter.

An Interesting Incident of the Revolution of 1776.

In 1781, there were in Bladen and several of the surrounding counties, many disaffected persons, particularly among the Scotish population, whose conduct as Tories was very embarrassing to the State authorities. It was thought necessary to suppress this spirit, especially as these men were known to be in constant communication with that daring, but infamous miscreant, Col. David Fanning, of Randolph (then Chatham county.) In pursuance of this purpose of dispersing these Tories, General Griffith Rutherford was sent to Elizabeth Town in Bladen, and as the call for this service was sudden and unexpected, no commissariat was appended to the forces under the General's command. He had, therefore, to improvise one from day to day. The small detachments which were sent out to forage, were ordered also to arrest and bring to camp any of the suspected. One morning there was brought before the General, a tall and venerable old man, who, though very plainly clad, had an air of superiority in his bearing which struck all present. Soon after he was ushered into the presence of General Rutherford he was asked by that officer, "who he was? and why he was there?" With that calm self-possession which marks the demeanor of a gentleman, even in the most embarrassing situations, he replied: "My name is *Duncan Stewart*, I am "from Scotland—the fortunes of my family were cloven down in the disastrous "battle of '*Culloden*,' in which I and all "who were loyal to their King and country (and could be present) were engaged, "and you know the issue of that fatal day. "Being very nearly allied by blood to my "King, and so known to the usurpers who "were then and are now in possession of "the Crown, I had no hope of safety to "life or property, if I remained in Scotland, and therefore left it with my family "for this Province of North Carolina. All "my feelings are *with* the Colonies in their "resistance to those base usurpers the "'Guelphs,' but you see by my age, I can "do no more than *wish* them success."—"To the other question 'why I am here?' "perhaps those who seized an aged and "helpless man can better tell you than I "can—they asked me no questions and "permitted no explanations." Much interested by his history and appearance, Gen. Rutherford apologized to him for the mistake of his men, and directed one of his officers to accompany Mr. Stewart to his home and see that he was treated with proper respect. He asked Mr. Stewart to show the officer where he could obtain such supply of provisions as was needed. This officer, who was a Captain in the Continental army and at home on furlough, had agreed to accompany the General in this sudden visit to Bladen, under the hope that, being down there, he might exert some influence on the disaffected. He was well educated, and the story of Mr. Stewart had deeply affected him. He knew the fate of that unfortunate race, and finding that even in the wilds of America their destiny still pursued them, he employed the first hour of the journey towards Mr. Stewart's home in conversation relating to his family in Europe. While thus occupied, the officer observed that they passed several well stocked farms, but he did not stop, as Mr. Stewart had promised to show him where he could be supplied. After riding several miles, Mr. S. halted in front of a very humble dwelling, and where the appearances were most unpromising for a supply of what they needed. Struck with the contrast between this and other farms they had passed, the officer asked Mr. Stewart why he had brought him so far and to so meagre a looking place when he might have supplied himself amply without traveling a third of the distance. Mr. Stewart's reply deserves to be written in letters of gold—it was—"The farms you passed, Sir, *belonged to my neighbors*"—*this is my own*, I bid you *welcome to whatever is here*"——! The officer, bowing to him, said, "If fortune has frowned on your family, it seems unable to deprive them of the loftiest and most generous sentiments."

It may not be interesting to our readers to know that the officer here alluded to was *Alfred Moore*, subsequently Attorney General of North Carolina, Judge of the State Courts, and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.—And we may add that the family of Stewart continued to reside for many years in Bladen—that one of the sons of the venerable gentleman mentioned in this incident, was for several sessions a member of the Legislature of North Carolina, removed to Mississippi, of which State he died Lieut. Governor, and we have pride and pleasure in stating that two of the most conspicuous junior members of the Wilmington bar, (Messrs. Devane,) are direct descendants of this illustrious exile of Scotland, and who are worthy of such a descent.

Passage of Rail Road Bills.

It affords us pleasure to record this morning the passage of the bill for the relief of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, by the Senate on last night. Our people and those on the line of said road will hail this news with much satisfaction, and also of the passage of the bill relative to the Fayetteville and Western Railroad.—It will be seen by our special telegrams from Raleigh, that both of the above bills passed the Senate, the first with an amendment and the latter with *amendments*. We are not advised as to the purport or force of the amendments. We presume from the nature of our telegrams, that they are not very material, yet the bills will necessarily have to go back to the House of Commons, for concurrence.

The anniversary of the battle of Nashville, Tenn., was celebrated in that city on Saturday. General Thomas was presented with a gold medal.

The ship Neckar, from Hamburg, arrived at New York on Monday with 460 passengers, and six cases of ship fever among them.

Sames Jordan, a clerk in the postoffice at Motgomery, Ala., has been sentenced to the Penitentiary for twenty-one years for stealing letters.

The Tammany Society of New York have resolved not to sell "Tammany Hall," but to have it repaired and improved in appearance.

THE ELECTION.—On Thursday the election for Mayor and four Aldermen for this city was held.—The opening of the polls was attended by an eager crowd, all anxious to see the man of their choice put forward. Never in the annals of the place has an election of a similar character been attended with more interest and excitement. The supporters of the respective candidates exhibited an ardour in favor of their side, warm in the extreme, but the conflict of efforts attendant upon the electioneering strife which necessarily ensued, was productive of no hostile movement except in a very few instances, when blows were resorted to. The instances were very few, and we are pleased to add no general free fight, of usual occurrence at elections, was indulged in.

As the day grew older, the excitement, observable in the morning increased, and continued without abating till the polls were closed. The announcement of the result was made a short while after dark, which was received with the customary satisfaction by the triumphant party.

The total vote polled, 781, far exceeds that of the previous election.

The following is the official announcement of the result:

MAYOR:

JOHN DAWSON	437
JOHN L. WOOSTER	341
SCATTERING	2
Total	779
One vote was thrown out.	
Majority for DAWSON	95

ALDERMEN:

FIRST WARD;

S. D. WALLACE	85
JAS. F. POST	84
SCATTERING	12
Total	181
Majority for WALLACE	1

SECOND WARD:

ELI MURRAY	99
JAS H. RYAN	89
TOTAL	188
Majority for MURRAY	10

THIRD WARD:

A. ADRIAN	98
A. G. PARSLEY	70
TOTAL	168
Majority for ADRIAN	28

FOURTH WARD:

W. S. ANDERSON	126
W. A. WRIGHT	61
TOTAL	187
Majority for ANDERSON	65

[REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR THE JOURNAL.]

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18.

Mr. Speed, from the Joint Select committee on the Insane Asylum, made a lengthy report and bill, recommending the adoption of the same, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Cunningham from the committee on Propositions and Grievances, to whom was referred a bill to repeal an act requiring persons 45 years of age to work on public roads, recommended its passage.

Mr. Clark, from the committee on Corporations, to whom was referred a bill relative to the construction of a street railway in the town of Fayetteville, recommended its passage.

By the same from the committee on Public Library, who were instructed to inspect the Library, reported that they had found everything in great order, and to all appearances the present incumbent had discharged his duties.

Mr. Hall, from the committee on the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum, reported a resolution and a report favorable to the present condition of the institution, which on his motion was made a special order for to-morrow evening at 7½ o'clock.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a resolution for the relief of the estate of the late Seth Jones, suggested an amendment and recommended its passage.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

Mr. Gash, a resolution ordering that from to-day the body hold evening sessions. Adopted.

Mr. Koonce, a bill to incorporate a board of trade in the city of Newbern. Referred to the committee on Corporations.

Mr. Hall, a bill to amend an act to incorporate the Military Academy at Hillsboro'. Referred to the committee on Education.

Mr. Thompson, a bill to change the name of Wayne Female College to that of the Goldsboro' Female College. Referred to the committee on Corporations.

On motion of Mr. McLean the rules were suspended, and the bill to incorporate the Newbern Steam Fire Engine Company was taken up and passed.

Mr. Harris, of Rutherford, arose to a personal explanation in regard to his trip to Washington. He stated that it was not the object of his friends or himself to overthrow any civil government, but to displace the present military government which we are under and establish a civil government in its stead. That he endorsed the bill as published in the *Standard* this morning with the exception of the clause relative to negro suffrage. He made this statement because he feared that the evidence he gave before the Judiciary committee might be misconstrued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The bill to enable the stockholders of the Fayetteville or Western Railroad Company to complete their road, was taken up and an amendment offered by Mr. Adams was adopted. Mr. Wilson moved to postpone its further consideration until the 22d of January next. Messrs. Hall, McLean and Avery, opposed it and the motion was lost.—Mr. Wilson offered an amendment, the ayes and nays were called and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 31 ayes, to 14 nays. Mr. Wilson offered another amendment proposing to fix the rate of interest, adopted. Mr. Moore offered an amendment which was rejected. The bill was discussed at considerable length, Messrs. Adams, Avery, Hall and McLean, urging its passage, and Messrs. Wilson, Wiggins, Speed add Berry, opposing it. Before coming to a vote, on motion of Mr. Moore, the Senate adjourned until to-night at 7½ o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, Dec. 18, 1866.

Mr. Waugh, from the committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported a resolution for the relief of the poor of Stanly county.

Mr. Kenan, from the Judiciary committee reported back unfavorably, a resolution proposing to give the appointment of Flour Inspectors in the city of Wilmington to the Mayor and Commissioners of said city.

Mr. McNair, from the committee on Corporations, reported back favorably a bill to incorporate Perquimans Male and Female Academy, a bill to amend the charter of the N. C. Joint Stock Publishing Company, and a bill to incorporate the town of Madison.

Mr. McClammy, for the committee on Private Bills, reported a bill to permit the people of Currituck county to elect Commissioners of Wrecks.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Morrisett, a resolution that no new bills be introduced prior to the recess of the General Assembly. Lies over one day.

By Mr. Davis, a joint resolution to raise a commission to inquire into alleged mismanagement of the affairs of the North Carolina Railroad company. Adopted.

By Mr. Shelton, a resolution looking to a reduction of salaries and fees of public officers. Referred.

BILLS.

By Mr. Black, a bill to grant the aid of the State of North Carolina to the Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad company.

By Mr. Lowe, a bill to amend an act entitled an act to regulate salaries and fees.

[This bill proposes to repeal so much of the act recited, as allows County and Superior Court Clerks and Clerks and Masters in Equity, fifty per cent in addition to the fees allowed in chapter 102 of the Revised Code.]

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Lowe, and the bill passed its second reading. After some discussion in which Messrs. Black, Crawford, of Rowan, and Richardson opposed the bill and Messrs. Lowe and Russ defended it, it was referred to the Finance committee, on motion of Mr. Crawford, of Rowan.

Mr. Waugh rose to a question of privilege, and requested the Clerk to read from the *Standard* of the 18th instant, an article, entled "THE INSOLENCE OF TREASON," animadverting upon the action of the House in summoning Mr. Blythe and others, before a committee of the House to give evidence relative to alleged persecution of Union men.

Mr. Waugh stated that Mr. Blythe (in the discussion of the resolutions introduced by Mr. Russ, asserting the loyalty of the State and denying that Union men were persecuted,) said he could not vote for the resolutions because they were untrue. With a view to punishing these persecutors of Union men, if such there were, he had introduced a resolution requesting an investigation. For this he and those who acted with him were now assailed and denounced as disloyalists who were attempting to intimidate and brow-beat Union men. He was willing to compare records with the editor of the *Standard* as a Union man. For one he did not believe that Union men had been persecuted at all, and the investigation had confirmed this belief. He regretted exceedingly the state of feeling that existed, a condition of things for which he was not responsible. He would not pursue the subject further.

[The remarks of Mr. Waugh were followed by Messrs. Hodnett, Jenkins, of Gaston, Mr. Davis, of Franklin, and Mr. Blythe, whose remarks we are compelled to omit until to-morrow.]

SPECIAL ORDER.

The special order being a bill to change the jurisdiction of the courts and the rules of pleading therein, reported from the Relief committee, was put on its second reading.

Mr. Moore, of Hertford, explained the provisions of the bill at length, and at the close of his remarks, the bill was referred, on motion of Mr. Richardson to the committee on the Judiciary.

The Senate by message refused to concur in the resolution passed by the House this morning to raise a commission to investigate the affairs of the N. C. Railroad Company.

An engrossed bill to amend the charter of the town of Morganton had its second reading.

ON CALENDAR.

A bill to extend the corporate limits of the town of Wilson, and a bill to incorporate the town of Marshall passed their several readings.

An engrossed bill to extend the corporate limits of the town of Elizabeth City was laid on the table, on motion of Mr. Latham, of Washington.

A bill to amend the charter of the Oceanic Hook and Ladder Company of the town of Beaufort, passed its several readings.

A bill to raise Revenue was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Waugh the vote was reconsidered by which the House laid on the table, on yesterday, the bill to allow fees to Justices of the Peace in certain cases. The bill after discussion, in which several gentlemen took part, passed its second reading. Mr. Holderby, in order to explain his vote, requests us to state his position. He said a day or two since he moved to table this bill, believing it allowed Magistrates fees in civil as well as in State cases. In this he was mistaken. He had always thought that those who danced should pay the fiddler, and if he should knock his neighbor down it was but sheer justice that he should pay the Magistrate who had to neglect his business in order to try the case, and recognize him to appear at Court. He should therefore support the bill.

On motion, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Dec. 19.

Mr. McCorkle from the committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred a bill to incorporate the North Carolina Land Emigration aid Company asked to be discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. Clark from the committee on Corporations, reported back the following bills, recommending their passage, viz: A bill to incorporate the Thomas Gold Mining Company, in the county of Franklin. A bill to incorporate the Sturgis Gold Mining Company. A bill to incorporate the Collins Gold Mining Company. A bill to incorporate a board of trade in the city of Newbern. A bill to amend chapter 42d, private laws. A bill to change the name of Wayne Female College.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

Mr. Bullock, a resolution limiting debate on any one subject to 15 minutes. Adopted.

Mr. Matthews, bill to prevent litigation and the ruinous sacrifice of the property of honest debtors. Ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

A message was received from the House transmitting the following communication from the Hon. M. E. Manly:

To the General Assembly of the State of N. C.:

I deem it proper to announce as I now do, before the close of this session, my grateful acceptance of the high office of United States Senator to which I have been called by the joint vote of the Assembly.

It is deemed proper at this time also to state, that I purpose, before the close of the adjourned session and prior to the fourth of March, to resign my position as Speaker of the State Senate and representative in that body from the county of Craven. To the end that another person may be elected Speaker, and if need be, Senator for the county.

After consultation with friends in and out of the Assembly this course has been decided upon as most proper and convenient, and as entirely consistent with the wishes of my constituents.

With the highest respect,

MATTHIAS E. MANLY

On motion of Mr. Leach the rules were suspended and the bill for the relief of wounded soldiers was taken up, passed its several readings and ordered to be enrolled. (This bill provides for those who cannot receive any relief from the original resolution on the subject.

On motion of Mr. Clark the vote was reconsidered by which a resolution from the House relative to the raising of a Joint committee to investigate the books, &c., of the North Carolina R. R. was rejected on yesterday, the resolution was amended and concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Speed, the bill relating to the Insane Asylum, was made the special order for to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

RAILROAD BILLS.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday having been set apart for the consideration of Railroad Bills, said bills came up in order as follows:

A bill to enhance the value of the bonds to be issued to complete the Western North Carolina Railroad, on its second reading. On motion of Mr. Wilson, the Ayes and Nays were called and the bill passed by a vote of 34 Ayes to 15 Nays.—Messrs. Avery and Love urged the passage of the bill.

A bill to amend the Charter of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Company passed its second reading.

Bill to grant aid to the Cheraw & Coalfields Railroad Company, was amended, on motion of Mr. Jones, and was rejected on its second reading by a vote of 34 to 9. (Messrs. Jones and Richardson urged the passage of the bill, and Messrs. Hall and Wilson opposed it.)

Bill to amend an act to incorporate the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad Company, now known as the Wilmington and Weldon Road. Passed its third reading.

Bill to enable the Fayetteville or Western Railroad Company to complete its road to some point on the N. C. Railroad, on its third reading this bill was discussed at considerable length. Messrs. McLean, Hall and Leach, urging its passage, and Messrs. Wilson and Moore opposed it. Before coming to a vote the Senate adjourned until 7½ o'clock to-night.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Waugh, from the committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported back a bill for the relief of Jas. S. Snow, Sheriff of Halifax county, and a resolution in favor of maimed soldiers, recommending their passage.

Mr. Kenan, from the Judiciary committee, reported back a bill to punish unlawful hunting, recommending that it do not pass.

Also favorably from same committee, a bill to give Buncombe Superior Court entire jurisdiction of Buncombe Turnpike Road.

Mr. Cowan, for the committee on Internal Improvements, reported back favorably, a bill to amend the charter of the Plaster Banks and Salt Works Railroad, and a bill to authorize certain counties to subscribe for stock in the Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad.

Mr. Harper, for the Finance committee, reported back a bill to raise revenue, with amendments; also a bill to regulate taxation by the County Courts, recommending their passage.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Hon. M. E. Manly, indicating his acceptance of the office of U. S. Senator, and his intention to resign the position of Speaker of the Senate at an early day. Sent to the Senate.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Rosebro introduced a resolution to raise a committee to inquire into alleged inefficiency of the artificial limbs furnished by the State to disabled soldiers.

By Mr. McRae, a resolution in favor of the Sheriff of Richmond county. (Extending the time for the return of taxes.)

A message was received from the Senate transmitting an engrossed bill to transfer the land scrip, donated by the United States, for the establishment of an Agricultural College in North Carolina. [The bill proposes to transfer the scrip to the Trustees of the University.]

Mr. Crawford, of Macon, moved a suspension of the rules, that the bill might have its second reading.

Mr. Russ opposed the motion, being opposed to the bill. There were other meritorious institutions in the State besides Chapel Hill.

Mr. Patton thought the bill should be passed at once. A telegram had been received here, announcing the passage of a resolution by one House of Congress withdrawing the donation. The transfer proposed by the bill—a transfer to a legal corporation, would raise a question of right, to be tested by the courts.

Messrs. Boyd, Hodnett and Blythe opposed the transfer of the scrip to the University, believing that this appropriation, the rich alone would be benefitted, and the original purpose of the donation would be defeated, or inadequately carried out. Mr. Foard also opposed the bill.

Messrs. Morehead, Long and Kenan defended the University and favored the bill.

After some further discussion, the motion to suspend the rules was withdrawn.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Bradsher on yesterday—prohibiting the introduction of new bills during the present week, was read and laid on the table. (The Reporter through inadvertence attributed the introduction of this resolution, in yesterday's proceedings, to Mr. Morrisett, who is confined to his room by serious illness.)

SPECIAL ORDER.

The House proceeded to consider the bill to exempt from seizure under execution of attachment, certain personal property therein named, and to provide a homestead.

Mr. Allen addressed the House in support of the bill, which he characterized as being emphatically a bill for the relief of the people.

The bill passed its second reading, and was then put upon its third reading, under a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Westmoreland offered an amendment as an additional section, to the effect that the members of this General Assembly, for the further relief of the dear people, donate to them their *per diem*.

Mr. McNair moved to lay the amendment on the table, the effect of the motion (if adopted) being to lay the bill on the table. The motion did not prevail.

The question recurring on the amendment, Mr. Peebles suggested that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until the first Thursday of the next session. He was in favor of the bill, but did not think it went far enough. He favored a homestead restricted as to quantity not as to value. There was no need of haste. The postponement would enable members to consult their constituents and act advisedly.

Mr. Richardson urged immediate action upon the bill. Ample time had been given members for a thorough consideration of its provisions. It was introduced a fortnight since, and had been upon the desks for several days in a printed form. The bill was almost identical with the law which had been in operation for the last twenty years in the State of Mississippi, where it had been found to work well.

Messrs. Long and McNair opposed the bill as savoring of repudiation.

The motion of Mr. Peebles to postpone further consideration of the bill until next session prevailed.

Mr. Davis moved to reconsider this vote.

Mr. Waugh moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table. Not agreed to.

The question recurring, the vote postponing the bill was reconsidered.

The amendment offered by Mr. Westmoreland was rejected.

Amendments offered by Mr. Durham were adopted to strike out in line 2 of section 3, the words "having a family," and to add the following section, viz:

"Be it further enacted, that this act shall not affect the rights of dower of those entitled thereto."

The bill then passed its third reading as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Allen, Autry, Barden, Blair, Blythe, Bowe, Bradsher, Bryson, Chadwick, Cowan, Crawford, of Macon, Crawford, of Rowan, Daniel, Davis, Davidson, Durham, Everett, Farrow, Foard, Freeman, Galloway, Garrett, Garriss, Gorham, Granberry, Guess, Harding, Harper, Henderson, Hodnett, Holderby, Houston, Hutchison, Jones, Jordan, Kelsey, Kenan, Latham, of Craven, Lee, May, Martin, McClammy, McGougan, Moore, of Hertford, Morton, Murrill, Neal, Patton, Peebles, Perry, of Carteret, Richardson, Rogers, Rountree, Russ, Scott, Smith, of Duplin, Stevenson, Sudderth, Trull, Turnbull, Walker, Waugh, Whitley, Williams, of Harnett, Williams, of Yancey, Womble—66.

NAYS.—Messrs. Ashworth, Baker, Boyd, Brown, Carson, Clements, Gambril, Hinnant, Horton, of Watauga, Horton, of Wilkes, Jenkins, of Gaston, Lowe, Lyon, McArthur, McNair, McRae, Morehead, Perry, of Wake, Rosebro, Scoggin, Shelton, Smith, of Guilford, Stone, Teague, Umstead, Vestal, Westmoreland, Wilson, of Forsyth, York—29.

Mr. Cowan, by leave, introduced the following resolutions with regard to the interest upon the public debt:

Resoved, That the committee on Finance, be instructed to report a bill or bills providing as follows:

1st. For funding the interest of the public debt accruing on the 1st day of January, and prior thereto.

2nd. To authorize and instruct the Public Treasurer to borrow money, by issuing bonds or otherwise, to pay the interest of the dublic debt, maturing on the first days of April, July and October, 1867.

3rd. To provide, by taxation, for the payment of the interest of the public debt, maturing on the first day of January, 1868, and subsequent thereto.

On motion of Mr. Cowan, these resolutions were made the special order for the 28th of January next.

An engrossed bill to amend the charter of the town of Morganton, and a bill for the relief of Jas. S. Snow, Sheriff of Halifax county, passed their several readings.

Mr. Cowan, by leave, introduced a bill to incorporate the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Wilmington.

Mr. Hutchison introduced a bill to allow fees to Magistrates in Mecklenburg county and to increase the fees of Constables.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to a resolution raising a commission to investigate the affairs of N. C. Railroad Company.

[The commission authorized to sit during the recess of the General Assembly, and required to report at the next session.]

A bill to change the jurisdiction of the Courts and the rules of pleading therein, reported as a substitute (by the Judiciary committee) for the bill of like title, reported on yesterday from the Relief committee, was made the special order for 12 o'clock M. on Friday next.

The House then adjourned.

SENATE.

EVENING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 7½ o'clock.

SPECIAL ORDER.

A bill relative to the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind Asylum came up, and on motion of Mr. Avery, its consideration was postponed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The bill to enable the Fayetteville or Western Railroad Company to complete their road to some point on the N. C. Railroad. The question being on an amendment offered by Mr. Wilson, some debate ensued and the amendment was rejected, and the bill passed its third reading by a vote of 21 to 20.

The bill to enable the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company to complete the Road and discharge its debt to the state, came up on its third reading and passed by a vote of 26 to 17.

Under a suspension of the rules the bill to enhance the value of the bonds issued for the completion of the Western Railroad and for other purposes, came up on its third reading. Messrs. Avery and Love strongly urged its passage. Mr. Wilson opposed and moved to amend, but the amendment failed, and the bill passed by a vote of 24 to 13.

The bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad came up on its third reading and passed, and the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 10½ o'clock.

SENATE.

THURSDAY Morning, Dec. 20.

SPECIAL ORDER.

A bill to provide support for the Insane Asylum was taken up and, on motion of Mr. Speed, the rules were suspended and the bill passed its third reading and ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Brown, from the committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred resolutions relative to the loyalty of our citizens, reported back a substitute for the whole, which was ordered to be printed and made a special order for to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

Mr. Gash, a resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to inquire whether there are any outstanding claims against Literary Board and to report by bill or otherwise. Adopted.

Mr. Thompson, a resolution in favor of Lewis Hummell.

Mr. Hill, a resolution in favor of R. F. Armfield. Referred to the committee on claims.

Mr. Cunningham, a bill to amend an act, chap. 56, sec. 1st, ratified 2d day of March, 1866, passed its several readings under the suspension of the rules.

Mr. Ferebee, a bill authorizing executors and administrators of insolvent estates to settle the same *pro rata*. Ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

On motion of Mr. Adams the rule was suspended and a resolution relative to tax was taken up and passed its several readings.

On motion of Mr. Hall the rules were suspended and the bill providing for the support of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum was taken up and passed its several readings. Ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Wiggins the rules were suspended and resolutions in favor of the Sheriffs of Richmond and Halifax were taken up. Mr. Richardson moved to amend by inserting Moore county. Agreed to, and the resolutions passed their several readings.

A message was received from the House transmitting resolutions relative to the death of Mr. T. J. Judkins, which being read, Mr. Thornton said:

Mr. Speaker: The message just read, informing the Senate of the death of my friend and colleague T. J. Judkins, has not taken me by surprise—has not come to me unexpectedly. I was fully prepared for the sad announcement. Mr. Judkins was confined to his room about fifteen days. During his confinement I visited him every day, and for the last seven or eight days, I felt very certain that his dissolution was rapidly approaching. Thirty years ago Mr. Judkins entered the House of Commons as one of Warren's Representatives; very often since, sir, has that honor been conferred on him. Whenever he aspired to it, his aspirations eventuated successfully. Modest, and unpretending rarely participating in discussion, he was nevertheless a man of fine sense, indeed, sir, his was a capacious mind. Mr. Judkins, in an eminent degree, possessed that most valuable quality in the character of a legislator, I mean, sir, firmness. He met his duty faithfully and firmly, he did not permit himself to lean aside, either to the right or to the left, to avoid any responsibility he was required to encounter.

It was my good fortune, Mr. Speaker, to know Mr. Judkins intimately, and I can truly say that I never knew a kinder heart. Liberal and generous to a fault, no man possessed more of