THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1868.

Agricultural Convention.

To the Farmers, Planters, Merchants and Mechanics of the Lower Cape Fear Agricultural District, composed of the Counties of New Hanover, Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, Richmond, Sampson, Duplin and Onslow:

We, the undersigned, were appointed a committee by the late Agricultural Convention, held at Wilmington, to issue a call for an adjourned Convention for the 19th of the present month (December).

The object of the adjourned Convention is to draw together as many of the farmers, planters, and those dependent upon them for business, as possible, for the purpose of disseminating information, interchanging views, and by acting in concert and co-operation, to press forward the great agricultural interests of the Lower Cape Fear country, as well as that of all Eastern Carolina.

No time should be lost in preparing for the next crop. No opportunity should be lost in obtaining all the facts that will tend to develop and improve the culture of our land. Let us, then, all or as many as possible, meet in Wilmington on the 19th of December, and unite in organizing an *Agricultural Association*, with the needed powers and means to collect and disseminate as much knowledge upon all branches of production as it may be possible to obtain.

With our climate inducing early growth, with the thousands of acres of waste land lying along the lines of our railways and rivers, within a few hours of Wilmington, the commercial centre, and within twenty-four (24) hours of the great markets of the North—where the untold wealth of our lands in grapes and other fruits, vegetables, corn, cotton, peanuts and the like, find a ready sale, and at highly remunerative prices—shall we not move in every good work that promises to develop, to instruct us and bring back not only the prosperity of former years, but a thousand fold greater wealth to our people.

We invite you all to come, and let us reason together. Several able speakers, we believe, will be present, and valuable reports on various subjects of interest will be made.

Railroads will give return tickets from all points, it is understood.

S. S. SATCHWELL,
S. L. FREMONT,
For the Committee.

Papers friendly to the call will please insert.

Robeson County

It would seem that the Senator and Representatives from Robeson county regard the comments of the Raleigh *Sentinel* upon the recent proclamation of Governor Holden to suppress lawlessness in that county, and copied in our columns, as doing the Governor and themselves injustice. It is never our purpose to deal unjustly with any one. Wilfully to misrepresent opponents—to abuse individuals for "party purposes"—is a base use of the public press, and would be following too closely upon the disgraceful example of the Governor himself, while an Editor, to recommend such a course to our favor.

The article in question was clipped out of the *Sentinel* and inserted among the items of interest occurring in the State.—We disapproved then, as we disapprove now, of the proclamation, for we know too well what use will be made of extraordinary powers by such county officials as some of our counties are cursed with, and the endorsement of the Governor and the members of the Legislature from Robeson, could hardly be expected to have much weight with us. All of these men have shown a spirit of bitter and unrelenting malignity towards what they are pleased to term the "disloyal" people of the State, and we are sometimes inclined to believe that their denunciations of citizens amounts to nothing more than that they are true to North Carolina, and sympathize with the State in her hour of humiliation and distress.

These members allege that the proclamation of the Governor was issued at their interposition, and that they acted upon a petition from quite a number of the best citizens of the county, mostly Democrats, urging upon them the necessity of doing something to protect life and property from a "*desperate band of thieves and robbers*" which infest that and adjoining counties.

If we believed that the official upon whom the Governor confers such arbitrary and extraordinary powers would be actuated only for the good of the people—would use this power "prudently and judiciously," we would commend this order to the Sheriff of Robeson. If there are men engaged in acts of lawlessness and violence they should be most summarily punished, and civil officers should exercise the full extent of their legal powers to ferret out and bring to justice such offenders. We take it for granted that this "desperate band of thieves and robbers" who infest Robeson county are similar to those who infest almost every other county, composed for the most part of idle and vagabond negroes, joined by a few vicious whites, who roam through the country and live by stealing and robbing. It is one of the evil results of the demoralization of the war, and the sudden revolution in the condition of the negro.

"Our" Governor has shown a very fruitful disposition to give all these disturbances a political turn, and it is this tendency of his proclamation or order which we desired to deprecate, as well in the unnecessary and extravagant patronage he gave to his printing office in having an order for one person printed, as in the Ku-Klux ring the document evidently has.

If our friends in Robeson will keep us advised as to the frequency and character of these outrages alleged to be committed by "organized bands of robbers," they will confer a favor and enable us to speak more advisedly upon this subject. It appears a little singular if they warranted the extraordinary proclamation of the Governor, that they have not found their way into the papers of the State—at least the *Standard*.

North Carolina Conference.

The North Carolina Annual Conference of the M. E. Church South, commenced its session at Statesville, N. C., on Wednesday, the 22d instant, and adjourned on Monday last, having had a most harmonious session. Bishop WIGHTMAN presided ably over the deliberations of the body. The attendance of Ministers and lay delegates, as well as visitors, was large. The people of Statesville, of all denominations, received the hearty thanks of the Conference for their generous and elegant hospitality during its session. Rev. John S. Long and Rev. J. B. Williams were granted locations at their request. But two probations for the ministry were received. Rev. Dr. McFerrin, of Nashville, and Rev. Dr. Duncan, President of Randolph Macon College, were in attendance from other Conferences.

The following is the list of the appointments for the ensuing year, for which we return our thanks to the Rev. Mr. DALLY:

RALEIGH DISTRICT.
L. L. HENDREN, P. E.

Raleigh City Station—H T Hudson
Wesley Chapel—To be supplied
Wake Circuit—J J Hines
Smithfield—A R Raven
Tar River—P J Carraway
Louisburg—J A Cunninggim
Granville—J Tillett
Henderson—H H Gibbons.
Nashville—M J Hunt
Wilson—Supplied by J J Carden
Editor Episcopal Methodist—J B Bobbitt
Agent Sabbath Schools—J Reid

HILLSBORO' DISTRICT.
W. H. BOBBITT, P. E.

Hillsboro'—L W Crawford
Company Shops—N H D Wilson
Chapel Hill and Haw River—O J Brent
Durham's—R S Webb
Pittsboro—J B Martin
Franklinville—G C Bynum.
South Guilford—C H Phillips
Leasburg—Joseph H Wheeler
Person—W M Robey
Orange—A W Mangum
High Rock—A Norman
Alamance—T J Gatis

GREENSBORO' DISTRICT.
N. F. REID, P. E.

Greensboro'—W Barringer
Guilford—C W King and W B Richardson
Trinity College and High Point—B Craven, President of Trinity College
Thomasville—W C Wilson
Davidson—R G Barrett
Ashboro'—J B Alford and Z Bush
Forsythe—I T Wyche
Winston—W W Albea
Stokes—C M Pepper
Madison—S D Peeler
Wentworth—J W Lewis
Yanceyville—L Shell
President of Thomasville College—D R Bruton
Professor of Biblical Literature, Trinity College—Peter Doub

SALISBURY DISTRICT.
W. CLOSS, P. E.

Salisbury—J C Thomas
Rowan—J F Smoot
East Rowan—T L Tripilett
Mocksville—M V Sherrill
Yadkinville—W H Barnes
Surry—To be supplied by C C Stimpson
Mt Airy—M L Wood
Wilkes—A R Murchison
Alexander—To be supplied
Iredell—J W Wheeler
South Iredell—W C Call
Blue Ridge, Jonesville and Elkin River—T N Stevenson

WASHINGTON DISTRICT.
R. S. MORAN, P. E.

Washington and Greenville—W H Moore
Warren—J P Moore
Roanoke—W C Gannon
Wilson—C C Dodson
Tarboro'—J Wheeler
Washington—W H Wheeler
Plymouth and Columbia—To be supplied
Mattamuskeet—D C Johnson
Portsmouth, Ocracoke and Hatteras—Geo E Wyche
Bath—To be supplied by J Mahoney
Church of the Strangers, N. Y. City—C F Deems

NEWBERN DISTRICT.
E. A. YATES, P. E.

Newbern—R A Willis
Beaufort—J W Jenkins
Straits and Cape Lookout—Supplied by J Webb
Morehead City and Trent—W F Clegg
Kinston—W D Meacham
Jones—R P Bibb
Snow Hill—T P Ricaud
Newbern Circuit—N A Hooker
Goldsboro'—M C Thomas
Everittsville—D Culbreth
Wayne—To be supplied
Neuse—J B Bailey

WILMINGTON DISTRICT.
L. S. BURKHEAD, P. E.

Wilmington, Front Street—J H Dally
" Fifth " —R W Robotham
Topsail—A D Betts
Kenansville—To be supplied
Magnolia—F H Wood
Clinton—J H Robbins
Cokesbury—C Plyler
Bladen—C M Anderson
Elizabeth—W S Chaffin
Whiteville—To be supplied
Smithville—(One to be supplied.) W M D Moore, (Sup)
Onslow—J D Buie
Seaman's Bethel—J N Andrews

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT.
S. D. ADAMS, P. E.

Fayetteville—J E Mann
Cumberland—H P Cole
Robeson—W M Jordan
Rockingham—T W Guthrie
Montgomery—B C Phillips
Uwharrie—J D Thompson and J F Keenans
Cape Fear—B B Culbreth
Jonesboro'—G Farrar
Troy—T C Moore
Deep River—J W Avent
J P Simpson transferred to the Kentucky Conference.

Quite Likely.

Gen. Miles has been here two years. Governor Holden telegraphed to Grant the day after the election that much of the peace, tranquility of the election and *success of the Republican party* was eminently to be ascribed to the wise counsel, firm administration and splendid ability of the District Commander.

Raleigh Letter to N. Y. *Times*.

Here, then, is the secret of Radical success as officially announced by "our" Governor to General GRANT. We felt that the election in this State was carried in the interest of the Radicals by the influence of the military power—that bayonets, rather than ballots, have controlled it.

What a reflection is this upon those *freemen*, so-called, who were influenced in their vote, or in their silence, to purchase the favors, or to avoid the frowns, of such representatives of power. They deserve to have the finger of scorn—yea, Holden's finger—thus pointed at them. They deserve the damning compliment which the Governor pays them in his telegraph to the President elect.

The Chatham Railroad.

We have the pleasure this morning of publishing the opinion of that eminent lawyer, B. F. MOORE, Esq., upon the legality of the bonds issued for the benefit of the Chatham Railroad, addressed to the Hon. R. R. BRIDGERS, President of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

The *Journal* has labored to show the unconstitutionality of these bonds, and warned purchasers of the probability of their non-payment. We are glad to find our views endorsed by one of the most eminent lawyers of the Union. The opinion of Mr. MOORE will most assuredly have great effect upon capitalists, if there yet be any so reckless as to propose to invest in these bonds. Endorsed, as we are by such high legal authority, we may safely calculate that we have either protected the oppressed tax-payers of the State from this new and unjust burden, or saved North Carolina from the odium of an apparent repudiation, which may have resulted from the issuance of these bonds.

The action of the New York Stock Broker's Board, to which we have formerly referred, was just and proper, and will do much to bring these bonds into dishonor. How timely their action was, can well be appreciated in view of the legal opinion we publish. We trust, for the honor and welfare of the State, we have heard the last of these bonds upon the markets of the world, and for the reputation of the State and the honor of the Legislature, we could hope that they would not figure in the investigation before Senator SWEET'S Bribery and Corruption Committee. We shall see.

State of Society.

Every crime committed south of Mason and Dixon's line is eagerly seized upon by the Northern press to reflect upon what they are pleased to call the depraved condition of the political and social organism of the South. The assassination of Pollard—its very cowardice and criminality rendering the alleged cause insignificant—is rung into Northern ears as characteristic of the depravity of the upper circle of society in Richmond, and every political brawl and bar-room rencountre are quoted as evidences of the spirit of rebellion, and the persecutions to which "loyal," white and black, men are subjected.

The murder of Mrs. Hill, in Philadelphia, the horrid particulars of which have already been published; of Warren George, in Maine, published to-day, and the tragedies in Kingston, Worchester and Charlestown, in Massachusetts; the death of Kilton, at Canaan, New Hampshire, and the recent performance of Craig, in Philadelphia, and dozens of other similar crimes perpetrated within a few weeks at the North, go far beyond anything happening in the South, even in the midst of the disorganized condition of society and government during the few months immediately subsequent to the war.

These scenes, happening daily throughout the North, furnish food for the sympathy of home philanthropists, employment for the talents of home artists who illustrate Harper's Weekly *and other journals of civilization* in that region, and material for the reformation of home legislators, and we trust in the future, as the objects of Southern misrepresentation and villification, have been secured in the reconstruction of the Union and the election of General GRANT, that the attention of these three classes of men will be diverted from us, at least until the mote is taken from their own eyes.

The Coming Peace.

The New York *World* collects and publishes the views of the leading PEACE men of the country. Here are their sentiments:

"Troops," says GRANT, heading the pack. "The troops on the plains are all needed; troops are still needed in the Southern States," "Troops," says SHERMAN. The Indians must be reservationed, and this "desired result can only be obtained by coercion." "Troops," says Brevet Major General DAVIS, from Alaska, and dwells on "the needlessness of a civil government for the Territory at present." "Troops," says Brevet Major General ORD, from Arizona; "*an increase of the force*, with a view to more energetic operations against the Apaches—the worst of all Indians—is recommended by the division commander, *who speaks highly of the agricultural capacity of the Territory.*" Ah! he does, does he? Then let him grow his crop of armed men on that fruitful soil. "Troops," says THOMAS, from the Department of the Cumberland; "no improvement in the state of public and social affairs," and "the necessity for the presence of troops is as great as heretofore." "Troops, says STONEMAN, from Virginia; but then, for a wonder, he wants no more, finding "two regiments of infantry and one company of artillery" quite sufficient for the birth-place and tomb of WASHINGTON. "Troops," cries MEADE, from the consolidated Second and Third Military Districts; "more power." I want my military finger in the civil pie. "Troops," says REYNOLDS, from Texas, who found it necessary for reconstruction purposes "to withdraw troops from the frontier posts 'to such an extent as to impair their efficiency for protection against the Indians.'" Of course, perish the settlers, so that reconstruction live.

"Troops, troops, troops," almost every man-jack among them is crying, from Let-us-have-peace down, all save Brevet Major General ALVAN C. GILLEM, who writes: "The civil courts have continued to dispense justice, under the supervision of the military authorities, and *there has been no necessity for the use of the troops stationed in the State!*" This State is Mississippi; Mississippi is not reconstructed, neither reconstructing, and, therefore, has no use for troops.

This is the bright exception. Everywhere else there comes up a roar for soldiery. GRANT heads it and Secretary SCHOFIELD claps his hemi-demi-semiquaver to its tail. There is "unusual disposition to lawlessness and crime and comparative inefficiency of civil government in those States," says he—those reconstructed States, those successfully reconstructed States—and "the only laws of Congress providing for the employment of the military force of the United States in support of the government of any State were passed in the infancy of the republic"—for a wonder, he didn't get it *nation*—"with a jealous care to avoid undue interference by the National Government in State affairs, and *not designed for such a condition of society as now exists in the Southern States.*" All of which means "troops," and so the song, which began with "troops, troops, winds up with "troops, troops, troops."

And this is—Let us have peace.

THE sweetest flowers nestle in the most unfrequented spots, so the brightest thoughts ennoble the calmest minds.

For the Journal.
The Chatham Railroad—Opinion of B. F. Moore.

My opinion is required upon the question, whether the act of the General Assembly of August 15, 1868, chap. 14, which proposes to lend to the "Chatham Railroad Company" the credit of the State for $2,000,000, in order to enable "said Company to finish their road," is constitutional.

In order properly to comprehend the scope of the question, it is necessary to attend to the following facts and circumstances:

The General Assembly, in the year 1861, chap. 129, chartered the "Chatham Railroad Company," "for the purpose of building and constructing a railroad" from the Coalfields, in the county of Chatham, through said county to Raleigh, or some point West of Raleigh, not exceeding twelve miles, the nearest and most practicable route."

The charter was amended by Ordinance No. 7, of January, 1862, so as to connect this road with the North Carolina Railroad, and to allow the Southern termini of the road to be "at any point or points in the said Coalfield region."

Under this charter the company was duly organized and the road begun. At the session of the Convention of 1868, an Ordinance was passed, chap. 19; ratified March 11, by which it was enacted: "That, to enable the "Chatham Railroad Company" to finish its road, the State should lend the said company its bonds for $1,200,000.

All these matters took place before the adoption of the Constitution of the State in April, 1868, and there was *then* no existing restraint on the power of the General Assembly in regard to their making State contracts, or lending the credit of the State.

By that instrument, Art. 5, Sec. 5, it is provided: "Until the bonds of the State shall be at par, the General Assembly shall have no power to contract any new debt or pecuniary obligation in behalf of the State, except to supply a casual deficit, or for suppressing invasion or insurrection, unless it shall, in the same bill, levy a special tax to pay the interest annually. And the General Assembly shall have no power to give or lend the credit of the State in aid of any person, association or corporation, except to aid in the completion of such railroads as may be unfinished at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, or in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest, unless the subject be submitted to a direct vote of the people of the State, and be approved by a majority of those who shall vote thereon."

This section of the Constitution was obviously intended to prohibit the General Assembly from extending their powers beyond certain limits in respect to involving the State in debt.

Whether these limits are defined by clear and well chosen language will, I apprehend, soon be tested; and it will be very unfortunate for the credit of the State if the language should prove to be so flexible as to give color to contrary decisions, as, at different times, they may find favor with the popular judgment of the hour.

Nothing can be more disastrous to the public honor than to have the credit of the State solemnly pledged by one General Assembly and repudiated by another; yet this sad result must ensue unless the spirit of the provision shall be firmly and rigidly observed and executed.

The section consists of two main and principal divisions:

1st, The General Assembly is expressly prohibited "to contract any *new* debt or pecuniary obligation in behalf of the State," except in cases of *casual* deficit, *invasion* or *insurrection*, "unless it shall, in the same bill," which creates the pecuniary obligation, "levy a special tax to pay the interest annually."

2d. The General Assembly is prohibited to give or lend the credit of the State," under any circumstances, unless the subject be submitted to the people of the State; except, first, "to aid in the completion of such railroads as may be unfinished at the time of the adoption of the Constitution;" or, second, to aid such "in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest."

The first division applies solely to contracts made on behalf of the State itself; and the second, solely to contracts whereby the State gives or lends its credit to, and becomes bound for, others.

Under the first, the State, for itself, can contract no *new* debt, except in the excepted cases, until its *then* outstanding bonds shall be at *par*.

At the time of framing the Constitution the State bonds were notoriously below *par*. So long as this is remembered and the word "*par*" is understood, any violation of the first division of the section must be palpable and wilful.

The State, therefore, cannot *now* make new contracts to raise money for itself, in other than the excepted cases. Nor can the State, for the benefit of others, give or lend its credit to railroads, in which the State has no "direct pecuniary interest," except to such as was already in being (*i. e.* organized) and unfinished at the adoption of the Constitution.

The case stated for my opinion does not present the question whether the alternative provision that embraces roads "in which the State has a direct pecuniary interest, be confined to such roads only as *then* (at the adoption of the Constitution) existed."

The language employed to express this part of the restrictionary clause is unfortunately, in my opinion, exceedingly vague and opens the door for a construction which, if adopted, will annihilate all restriction of legislative power depending on the State having "a direct pecuniary interest."

If such aid be confined to those roads which *then* had existence, the restriction will have much effect; but if aid may be given to any road which may be thereafter organized or built, in which the State shall or may have "a direct pecuniary interest," the intended restriction will be worthless. Because it may be evaded by the simplest legislative contrivance. As, if the General Assembly should subscribe now, or at any time hereafter, for the State and pay for a few shares of railroad stock; or if a stockholder should present to the State a few of his own shares, the case would be forthwith presented of a railroad in which the State had "a direct pecuniary interest."

By this stratagem every road, now or hereafter chartered, might be aided by State credit, as effectually as before the adoption of the present State Constitution. But, whatever may be the construction, which may be finally adopted in regard to this part of the second division of the section, I am decidedly of opinion that the true construction of that part of the second division, which embraces the case of *unfinished* roads, is, that the power to give aid by State credit is confined to railroads in existence (i. e.) to railroads organized and actually begun, and *substantially* the same after, as before, the adoption of the Constitution.

The "Chatham Railroad" was a road in being and an unfinished road, at the adoption of the Constitution, and was, therefore, an allowable object of State aid without submitting the subject to "a direct vote of the people of the State."

Since the adoption of the Constitution, the General Assembly, by act of August 3, 1868, chapter 7, authorized the "Chatham Railroad Company" "to extend their road to the South Carolina line near Cheraw."

By an act of August 15, 1868, chapter 14, the General Assembly undertook, of their own authority, to lend the aid of the State to the so-called "Chatham Railroad Company," to the amount of $2,000,000, and provided for securing the State by "a lien "upon all the estate of the road, real or "personal, which they may now have or "may hereafter acquire between the point "of intersection with the Western railroad "and the South Carolina State line, including that at both points, &c."

The proposed actual *extension* of the road is about twice the length of *that* "Chatham Railroad," which existed at the adoption of the Constitution. *That* railroad was about forty-seven miles in extent; *this new railroad*, called the "Chatham Railroad," altogether is about one hundred and fifty miles long.

It is a mere abuse of words to call the extended road the "*Chatham Railroad*," and insist, by merely preserving the name, that it was a road in existence at the adoption of the Constitution.

With as much reason might a person, who, in 1867, had contracted to build the "*Chatham Railroad*," by that name and designation, for a specified sum of money, be now held, under his contract, to build it in its extended length for the same money.

The present "Chatham Railroad" is not the former road of that name; and any logic which could successfully prove it to be such, would enable that or any other road in the State, by *extension* simply, to run over the entire State wherever a railroad should be required, and would invest the General Assembly "with power to give or lend the credit of the State in aid" of every foot of *new* railroad which can be established, without submitting the subject to the people. And thus the second division of this section of the Constitution would, by a little legislative legerdemain, be rendered utterly nugatory.

I am of opinion that the bonds proposed to be issued under the act of August 15, 1868, if issued, would be issued in violation of the Constitution.

B. F. MOORE.

To R. R. BRIDGERS, Esq., Pres' W. & W. R. R. Co.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Removal of Disabilities—"Boys in Blue"—President's Message in Congress—Thad. Stevens' Old Shoes—Grant's Keeper—Washburn vs. Schenck—The Virginia Election—"Our" Senators and Representatives—The *Personnel* of the House—The Negro Member—Mullins of Tennessee, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9th, 1868.

Dear Journal: There has been much speculation in regard to be probable course of Congress in regard to the removal of disabilities imposed on the people of the South. It was thought by many that, the elections being over, a liberal and magnanimous course would be pursued, and that all, or nearly all, would be restored to citizenship. The action of the Senate this afternoon seems to settle the question for this Congress, at least. An act removing the disabilities of F. J. Moses, of South Carolina, being under consideration, an amendment was offered by Senator Davis of Kentucky, to include *all* citizens of South Carolina in its provisions, which was voted down—the Republicans voting in solid phalanx against it. This indicates that there is to be no "wholesale" relief, though the number of individual cases already before the House show that the "retail" business will be continued at the old stand.

In the election of Mr. Buxton as Doorkeeper of the House, over Dr. W. T. Collins, on Monday last, the House made its usual display of affection for the "boys in blue." Collins is the Assistant Adjutant General of the G. A. R. During the war he was one of Berdan's sharp shooters of the army of the Potomac, and lost a leg in the service. It was understood by his friends that Schenck, and Garfield, and Logan, and all the ex-Colonels and Generals in the House—and their name is legion—would spread themselves in his behalf; but Logan was—sick, and the most of the others went back on him, and he didn't poll a corporal's guard.

The Senate adjourned to-day before the reading of the President's message was concluded, thus maintaining their resemblance to a set of unruly school boys. The House gave it a respectful hearing, though Bingham and some others grew restive, and Butler turned his back and yawned. At its conclusion a dozen or more sprang to their feet, with resolutions in their hands, each anxious to be first in the assault; but E. B. Washburn was the one recognized by the Speaker, and a scene ensued that would be difficult to describe, though all familiar with the House have seen many such.

Ever since the death of Thad. Stevens there has been a struggle going on for the leadership of the House, notably, between Washburn and Schenck. Thus far the advantage has been with the former. Butler looks on at the fight very complacently, knowing that so soon as they have used each other up the sceptre will drop into his lap. *Apropos* of this rivalry you have doubtless seen the statement of a correspondent that Washburn has lost his hold on Grant—that the General has jumped from his pocket into the keeping of Schenck. Knowing the source of this information I am disposed to believe it, and the rivalry between them is intensified by it. They both denounced the message—Schenck being the most bitter and demonstrative. While the message was being read from the Clerk's desk, each member held a "yaller-kivered" copy of it in his hand, as if anxious to compare it with the manuscript.

While Bingham's bill providing for an election in Virginia was under discussion, the Georgia Radicals came in for their share of abuse from their friends, along with the poor "rebels." The bill was amended so as to postpone the election until the 4th Thursday in May, and the meeting of the Legislature to September, all after Grant shall have been inaugurated. The bill originally provided for an election in January, but they expressed the fear that Johnson might do something to prevent a fair election (?) and hence the amendment.

I have not seen either of your Senators in their seats yet. All the members of the House from North Carolina were present to-day except Hon. O. H. Dockery. Heaton the cadaverous, was in his seat, looking as well as usual, notwithstanding his reported illness.

The *personnel* of the House is but little changed since last session—some new members have been admitted, though the negro from Louisiana is not one of them—indeed he was not in the House to-day, or at least I did not see him. Mullins, of Tennessee, was promptly in his seat on Monday, and yesterday and to-day; but I was reminded of the melancholy fact that the place that now knows him will soon know him no more for ever. In exchanging greetings with one of the members he was addressed with, "Ah, Mullins, the negroes went back on you this time." Now, what will the House do without Mullins? It will be worse than a circus without a clown.—There is one I could name, who made a display last session that proved him worthy to wear his mantle, but for a genuine, simon pure jackass, Mullins is a leetle ahead, even of him. If I had had a voice in the Tennessee election, I should have protested against the defeat of Mullins on behalf of the hard worked "third estate."

SI TOD.

HOW THEY DO IT—SUCCESS OF A FORMER WILMINGTONIAN.—We extract the following from a letter from a California correspondent to a friend in New Berne, and published in the *Journal of Commerce* in that city. The many friends and connections of Dr. Ashe will be pleased to see his success so flatteringly evidenced, and to hear of his great prosperity.

The letter says:

"I traveled for two weeks with Dr. R. P. Ashe (formerly of Wilmington, N. C., now of the city of Stockton) through the great agricultural region of the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Ashe is the second largest farmer in California—his crop of grain this, or rather next, season will be about 70,000 bushels, if the season is a fair one.

"I was on *one of* his farms, 2,109 acres in extent, upon which he had five men employed in ploughing and putting in seed—he told me he would not employ over seven laborers until harvest, and expected to raise 20,000 bushels grain on that farm—all this struck me as very strange—20,000 bushels grain, and only seven men to do the labor; but when I looked at his gang plows, pulled by six or eight horses, his sowing machine on a two-horse wagon scattering the seed 60 feet wide, and so adjusted as to sow 45, 60, or 75 pounds to the acre, one man being able to sow 50 or 60 acres per day; and then to his reaping machine that goes through his fields taking the heads off them leaving the straw standing, the machines being accompanied by wagons of huge dimension and making a sward 20 or 25 feet wide and throwing the grain as fast as reaped into the wagons, which deposited it as they were filled, in some convenient place for the thrasher which comes along, worked by either horse or steam power, which thrashes and bags from 1,000 to 1,500 bushels per day,—I was no longer astonished. Seventeen hundred acres of this farm will be seeded anew with grain; 400 acres will be a volunteer crop."

OUR RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

The Legislature—Corruption Committee—How the Thing Works—How Conviction is to be Flanked—More Appropriations—Its End, whither and how Far—The Chatham Railroad—Corruption, Taxation, Robbery, Heartlessness and Peculation—The Lieutenant Governor—Major Avery—The two Watches—Office-Seekers—"Our" Representative, &c., &c.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 11, 1868.

Dear Journal:—An immense amount of important business is afloat in the Legislature, though it is safe to predict that but little will be *consummated* before the recess, which, as you are aware, extends from the 21st inst. to the 4th prox.

Since the date of my last letter, perhaps the most notable incident has been the formal swearing in of the Corruption Committee. It remains now to be seen what are to be the developments. That venality and bribery have been common and shameless does not admit of a doubt. Else the spectacle daily exhibited, during the last session of the Legislature, of impecunious and notoriously insolvent individuals strolling around hotels and restaurants, with suddenly distended pockets, wearing fine jewelry, or driving fast horses, is inexplicable. One of the methods in which the thing is managed is this: One of the "Ring" approaches Mr. ———, who is well known to be perfectly accessible, and who is equally well known to have *influence* with a certain set in the Assembly. The sum of $5,000 or $10,000 is handed over to him, with the significant intimation that a certain scheme must be "put through," and that he will be held responsible, in view of the "consideration," for its successful manipulation. Mr. ——— *knows his men*, and a judicious distribution of little presents, from a gold watch-chain down to a stunning neck-tie, or a largess of green-backs, fixes the matter, and Mr. ——— pockets a handsome surplus.

Or thus: Mr. ——— hints to such and such a one that he is anxious for the success of a certain project, and winks his eye knowingly. Shortly thereafter, such and such a one is rather "hard up," and *would* Mr. ——— be so very kind and obliging as to accommodate him with the loan of a hundred or two? Of course, Mr. ——— is only too glad to oblige his dear friend, and, of course, that dear friend is not so ungrateful as to vote against any project in which so clever and liberal a *gentleman* as Mr. ——— is interested. And thus the *Ring* is complete—like that famous buckler of Achilles, you know, of which Mr. Webster spoke in his great speech of March, 1850:

"*In living silver* seemed the waves to roll,
And bear the buckler's verge, *and bound the whole!*"

Now, if *that* is not a prostitution of the beautiful Homeric description, I should like to know what could be!

Rumor has it that since the passage of Mr. Sweet's resolutions, which the "finger boards" did so much to embarrass or defeat, the probable exposures are sought to be frustrated in a singularly unique manner. For instance: The such and such a one above referred to, has been to Mr. ———, *and executed a note* for the amount so generously and considerately *loaned*, (it being well understood that the note is never to be collected, or sought to be.) So that if the Committee should, perchance, get wind of the original transaction, the note will be paraded in evidence that the affair was purely and altogether of a *business* character between two *honest* men! Such is one of the many expedients that are being, and will be, employed to thwart this investigation. But there are on that Committee two or three men of inflexible courage and stern honesty, who are determined to bring these occult villainies to light, if possible. So that unless witnesses are removed or swear falsely, it is confidently anticipated that disclosures will be made which, although they will unfold a dark page in our history—a page upon its hitherto stainless record written by Radicalism—will yet, I hope, open the eyes of our people to the drifting of events, and crush out this infamous crew who have fastened themselves upon the vitals of the State. I will keep you posted [as the events transpire.

The Senate, on yesterday, passed, on its final reading, a bill making a further appropriation of about *three million* to the Western Extension—an important enterprise, it is true, but how the people, already crushed by debt and taxation, are to pay the specific tax involved, in addition to their other grievous burdens, passes all comprehension. This is the entering wedge to other appropriations, and you may set it down as certain that this Legislature, before it adjourns, will add at least $8,000,000 more to the State debt. The *end of all this is*—REPUDIATION!" Only this and nothing more."

A bill is also pending to *doctor* up the present "*sick man*"—the Chatham Railroad scheme. That project is, in very truth, *very* sick, since the action of the New York Stock Board in throwing out its bonds. The object of the bill to which I refer is to remove the *constitutional* obstacle to their validity, by providing, specifically, for the necessary tax to meet the interest. And so we go. Corruption, taxation, robbery, heartlessness and peculation, all in the interests of stock-jobbers, carpet-baggers, adventurers and *shrewd* (ah! what an amount of rascality in the modern parlance is covered by that little word!) money-makers! When the Revenue Bill comes to be framed it will fairly take away the breath of our plain, frugal, honest people.

The Lieutenant Governor is understood to be engaged in canvassing his Senatorial District, to the neglect of his official duties, in order to defeat the Democratic candidate. Had it not been for his active personal malignity that gallant gentleman, Maj. Avery, would have been admitted to the seat, of which he was so infamously and lawlessly deprived. There was an universal disposition to admit him until Caldwell brought the party screws to bear. And yet he wears a *watch* given to him, in part, by Conservative Senators, I am sorry to say, and boasts that he is a model of fairness, I ween! Out upon such hypocrisy. By the way, it is regarded as an admirable burlesque upon *that* affair, that the negro, Galloway, too, should have had *a watch* presented to *him*. Tod and Galloway! As they set, face to face, handling their fobs, it is absolutely funny.

Parson Sinclair, who was in bad odor with the Radical leaders last session because he was really independent and outspoken on several occasions, seems to be once more in the full bands of fellowship. Certainly he has toned down mightily. It is said that he is after the Consulate to Glasgow, under Grant, and, consequently, must "have himself" like a good boy. The crazy man, they call Font Taylord up here, also wants something from the new administration, in that line, and, as Mr. Holden is said to be anxious to get rid of him, the thing may carry.

I see that you are flattering enough to compliment my portraiture of your "Representatives." That was only a *profile*. I'll try my brush, at a *full length*, some of these days.

DOT.

STATE NEWS.

HON. DAVID HEATON.—The report of this gentleman's sickness was exaggerated. Although suffering under some indisposition he was in his seat at the opening of Congress.

HILLSBORO' RECORDER.—The venerable Dennis Heartt, for nearly half a century connected with the press of this State as editor of the Hillsboro' Recorder (the first number having been issued Feb. 15, 1820, has disposed of his interest therein to Mr. T. C. Evans, of Milton. Mr. Heartt is a native of Connecticut, born November, 1783, a printer by profession, and honored by men of all political parties.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE.—"J. H. S.," in his notice of the meeting of the Synod in Wilmington, says:

"Dr. McPhail, President of Davidson College, addressed the Synod and the public on the condition and prospects of that College. It was gratifying to hear such favorable accounts. Few Colleges in the South, if any, present more inducements to parents—christian parents, and especially to Presbyterian parents, to entrust their sons to the care, the discipline and the scholarship that are now making Davidson one of the best Colleges in the land. Davidson College appeals, especially now, to all the Presbyterians of North Carolina."—N. C. *Presbyterian.*

We claim to have here in our little town the champion workman on plows; he "wooded up" last Saturday *twenty-five* plows—size No. 50. Who can beat it, in so short a day? D. C. Richardson is a man of energy.—Weldon *News.*

THE PENITENTIARY.—Amid the slashing commentaries of the Press, in various parts of the State, upon the action of the Committee in the purchase of the 8,000 acres of land ten miles from the site of the proposed Penitentiary, for the modest little sum of $100,000, we beg them to remember that Mr. Robbins, the Senator from Rowan, one of the Committee, presented a minority report, dissenting from that action. We have been endeavoring to find room for that report, and hope yet to be able to do so. As the *Old North State* truly observes, Mr. Robbins in this matter has shown a laudable zeal for the best interests of the people of North Carolina.

Ral. *Sentinel.*

Among the new townships laid off by the Commissioners of Wayne are two which commemorate, by title, the illustrious names of "Holden and Brogden." It is said that an exodus of white men is threatened from these "townships."

Ral. *Sentinel.*

GEN. D. H. HILL OF NORTH CAROLINA.—This distinguished Confederate General, the hero of Big Bethel, and who is endeared to his fellow-citizens of the South by reason of common sacrifices and struggles in a cause, the memory of which is dear to them all, is sojourning in our city. The ties of frendship which link him to the people of Mississippi are doubly strengthened by his relationship to the late Col. Wm. R. and to Hon. A. P. Hill, honored citizens of our State, who were beloved in life and lamented in death. The 13th, 17th, 18th and 21st Mississippi regiments will especially hold him in remembrance as the successor of Gen. Evans at Leesburg, in the early part of the war, as a commander of the brigade of which they were a part.

Gen. Hill is performing a valuable service in the publication of his able periodical, "THE LAND WE LOVE," which is devoted to the interests of his own section, and serves the useful purpose of recording in detail, the great deeds which have rendered illustrious the names of those who achieved them in behalf of the cause which, though lost, is reverently remembered. It is an able work, and apart from its political and historical aspects, is one of the most valuable of the day. Gen. Hill's visit affords a good opportunity to our citizens to become subscribers.

Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion.*

Gen. Robert B. Vance, of Buncombe, is one of the most popular men in the State among the benevolent orders. He is Grand Master of Masons, President of the State Council Friends of Temperance, and Past Grand of the Order of Independent Odd Fellows.