Wilmington Journal

WILMINGTON, N. C.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1873.

CONGRESS AND THE CURRENCY.

We trust the Legislature will not adjourn without expressing some opinion in regard to the wrong and injustice done to the people of North Carolina by the restrictions of the present National bank and currency system. Experience derived from the business transactions of every day that passes over our heads, teaches that the amount of the currency in the country is plainly too small for the easy transaction of business. And yet Congress though it has been in session some two weeks during the greatest money pressure that has ever afflicted the people, has failed to do anything for their relief. The objection is not to the quality of the National currency, but to the inadequate quantity of it. The National bank notes are indeed good notes, but there is not enough of them. A Radical Congress has passed a law fixing the amount of the currency at its present absurdly small amount, and a Radical Congress refuses to repeal it. There is no power that can give relief except Congress. Congress did the mischief and Congress must undo it.

We trust, therefore, that the Legislature now in session, recognizing the heavy greivances under which the people of North Carolina labor, in common with the people of the South and those of the West, and recognizing its cause and its remedy, will instruct our Senators and Representatives in Congress to take action at once to secure a repeal of the law which prevents the people from increasing the volume of the currency so as to meet the demands of the business of the country.

We never can reasonably expect the monetary affairs of the country to get into a healthy condition until they are left to regulate themselves, in a word, until there shall be a free banking system. The business men of North Carolina are much better judges of the amount of currency needed for the transaction of their business than any New York or Boston bankers can be. Let the business men of North Carolina then say what that amount shall be by enacting laws to bring about free banking.

There is another point connected with this matter of the currency that it is to be hoped the Legislature will instruct our Senator and Representatives to call to the attention of Congress, and that is its unfair distribution. It will be remembered by the readers of the JOURNAL that we have more than once called attention to the glaring injustice done to us in this matter. It will be remembered that we showed from the official report of the Comptroller of the Currency that while the currency per head allowed to the people of Rhode Island was sixty dollars, and that allowed to the people of Massachusetts was forty dollars a head, there was allowed to the people of North Carolina only one dollar and sixty-two cents a head. It will be remembered that, while before the war, when the negroes were slaves and needed no money, and when the business of agriculture was conducted almost without the use of cash, there was over eight millions of bank notes in circulation in North Carolina over and above the gold and silver in circulation. And that now, when the negroes are citizens and require money, and when farmers need cash every day of their lives, the Federal Government allows us only about one million and a half of national bank notes.

It is time that some action should be taken in this matter, and we are glad to believe that it may be done now with hope of success. All the States of the South and West and Northwest feel the blighting influence of this great grievance and stand ready to unite with us in the demand for a more equitable distribution of currency.

We have Senators and Representatives in Congress, and they owe it to themselves and to us, their constituents, to move promptly in this matter, and we feel that they have every disposition to do it. Our purpose is not to imply any censure upon them, but rather to strengthen their hands in their efforts to bring about the desired result. That such will be the effect of resolutions passed by the Legislature of the State of North Carolina, when presented by our Senators and Representatives, there can be no doubt. North Carolina no longer stands without representatives in the Halls of Congress, and the day has passed when the voice of her representatives can be silenced. Backed by the formal remonstrance of the Legislature of their State, we trust that WADDELL or MERRIMON, ASHE, or RANSOM, or ROBBINS, or LEACH, or VANCE, will be able to do something to relieve the people from their present great difficulties.

As a measure of party policy there can be no doubt of the expediency of the measure suggested. There can be no doubt in the mind of any sane man that the present panic is the result of the interference of Congress and the Government in the business affairs of the country; there can be no doubt that the Radical party controlled Congress and the Government, and gave shape and form and life and power to the policy that has brought such wide-spread ruin upon the people. All we need to do is to point the people to the fruits of this Radical policy, and to the fact that a Radical Congress refuses to undo the mischief that a Radical Congress wrought. Let us do this in the most formal manner possible. Let the Legislature take action, therefore.

The Tichborne claimant has eleven months before him in which, should any one of fifteen persons (three judges and twelve jurymen) die or become otherwise incapacitated, the trial for perjury and forgery will necessarily collapse.

The miners of Lake Superior, in consequence of the early closing of their season's labors and the want of work this winter, are reported to be in such destitute circumstances that great suffering must ensue unless liberal contributions can be fowarded to them.

The books and papers of several New York dry goods firms have been seized by customs officers on the charge of frauds committed in the importation of handkerchiefs. The amounts involved are between one hundred thousand and two hundred thousand dollars.

A STRANGE CASE.

One meets in life with strange episodes of human feeling and conduct. There are numberless unknown tragedies of dark tint and romantic reality underlying the placid surface of domestic and social life. There are tragedies drawing out a protracted existence beneath the cloak of seeming serenity that would startle by their character could they be disclosed. Every now and then some of these hidden episodes come to the surface and we wonder at the revelations of tragic import that they develope.

A curious little domestic drama has come to light in New York State, that has smouched some hitherto spotless reputations and unearthed a long record of family secrets.

A Mrs. Lucy MacMahon sued Rev. Mr. Holden and Francis Eldridge for libel. The case has attracted large attention, damaged everybody connected with it, and come to an end from the taint of its own filthy revelations.

This Mrs. MacMahon is the wife of a reputable lawyer, possessing large means, good social standing and an interesting family. The case has shown a succession of facts and antecedents as scandalous as they have been undreamed of.

This is the unvarnished chronicle unearthed. Mrs. MacMahon was the daughter of a gambler. Eldridge was a young man of means, who was inveighed into marrying the girl some thirty years ago. He spent his fortune in dissipation, and the bride refused to live with him and sought a divorce. Her lawyer was MacMahon, who fell in love with her and married her after procuring her divorce.

Eldridge, the divorced husband, after a vagabond life, returned poor and sick, and the intimacy between himself and Mrs. MacMahon was resumed. He received money from her until he fell in love with some other female, and Mrs. MacMahon withdrew her contributions to his support. He attempted to levy black mail upon her by threatening the publication of her letters to him and the exposure of her character, unless she gave him money. The Rev. Mr. Holden was the bearer of the hostile message. She declined to pay the black mail, and sued Eldridge and Holden for libel.

The case was tried and continued to the point where all these damaging facts came out, to the intense mortification of Mr. MacMahon, and the irreparable damage of the hitherto respected lady, when in a moment of supreme disgust the parties, before the argument of counsel, got together and agreed to withdraw the matter from the jury. A condition of the compromise was the conflagration of all the suggestive correspondence. The Judge delightedly gave permission to the dismissal of the case, sarcastically remarking that it would have been much better if the case had been withdrawn earlier.

The heaviest satire of the whole proceeding, however, is the agreement of counsel, which testifies to the mutual good character of all the parties, and establishes as lovely a mutual admiration society as was ever seen.

In this agreement all parties are declared reciprocally spotless. This pleasant fiction is energetically urged in spite of the mass of unrefuted testimony to the contrary. The case alike illustrates a curious episode of social life, and the danger of throwing stones by people who live in glass houses.

EX PRESIDENT DAVIS.

There are certain men in the South who take a special delight in decrying Mr. Davis. This is done generally in such a way as to escape public criticism and thereby avoid the just censure and indignation of the people. He is damned with faint praise and be-lifted by comparisons that are odious and inapplicable. In a covert way, Mr. Davis is accused of intense egotism, inordinate vanity, implacable hatds and strong attachments. His ability is denied and his arbitrary conduct, it is insinuated, hastened the downfall of the Confederacy. In striking contrast to this defamation of the fallen leader of the Confederacy, we find the following merited eulogium in an article in the *Courier Journal*:

With a firmness of execution, indicating an honesty of purpose, he discharged his high duties, and the people appreciated him for it. Foote charges favoritism and obstinacy on him with more truth than most assertions he makes. Several instanees of that were shown during the war. In the first days of the war, when it was our proud boast that one Southerner could whip five Yankees, and after the ill-omened victory at Manassas had inspired us with over confidence and nerved our adversaries to fresh effort, Albert Sidney Johnston was assailed with the most outrageous and abusive clamor by the Southern press because he fell back before the advancing foe, and the demand for his removal was ten thousand times repeated. This the President obstinately refused to do; and when the news of Shiloh was flashed throughout the land, it was met with a wail of woe from an entire people for the loss of a great General and a good man. When General Lee commenced his career as a Confederate officer by retreating across Virginia before Rosencranz, the same tumultuous clamor for his being removed or superseded was raised by the valorous stay-at-homes, and again the obstinacy of Mr. Davis saved to the country a General that all the world now delights to honor. The patient spirit of the indomitable Stonewall Jackson, ere he was known to fame, gave way before the rough assaults of the chimney-corner generals, and he demanded peremptorily that he might resign and be saved those humiliations; and once more the peculiar obstinacy and favoritism of the President saved to the country its greatest military genius. Out of sixty thousand appointees how few mistakes did he commit.

Faults he had, this President, but none to obscure his virtues; mistakes did he make, no doubt, but take him all in all, a most noble and gallant fight did he and his people wage against fearful odds, and failed to make the "lost cause" a success only because of circumstances which no mortal hand could have controlled.

The Brooklyn *Argus* predicts that S. S. (Sunset) Cox will be nominated next Fall as Governor of New York.

LOOKING AHEAD--OUR PROSPECTS.

The prospects of the Conservative party, if they will use the advantages they undoubtedly possess, were never brighter than they are at the present moment. All that we need is a party organization so thorough as to enforce party discipline. Nor can we begin too soon to effect this organization. Indeed the weak point about the Conservative party has been its disinclination to enforce party discipline. But it is not our purpose this morning to enlarge upon the importance of discipline to our future success as it is to refer to the issues that are everywhere cropping out as the distinctive characteristics of the Conservative party, and they may be summed up in a very few words.

Conservatives everywhere demand economy, retrenchment and reform in the administration of public affairs; they demand honesty and capacity in their officials; they demand a strict construction of the Constitution, and a restoration of the States of this Union to their former relations to each other and to the Federal Government. Let us consider for a moment whether these principles are appropriate to the times. A Radical Legislature and a Radical Convention have burdened us with an enormous debt that Radical Judges declare we must pay and that Federal Marshals want only the order to collect at the point of the bayonet. For this debt we have received no consideration and if compelled to pay it we shall be utterly ruined. Our common schools and our University have been by Radical legislation brought to ruin, and must now languish for years to come for want of means to restore them to their former usefulness. It is evident then that it was a fortunate day when the Conservative party gained control of the Legislature and began the work of economy, retrenchment and reform. The change from annual to biennial sessions of the Legislature will alone save the State one hundred thousand dollars every other year. Do we need honesty and capacity in our public officers? Let the evils that flow from the ignorance of public officers, within the knowledge of every one, who can be bought or duped answer, the question. We ask every man who reads these words to pause and count how many public officers of his acquaintance there are who can be duped through their ignorance or bribed through their want of honesty. The number of such men and the cost they inflict upon the country is perfectly fearful to contemplate, especially in those sections where men are elevated to office by the votes of negroes. There is abundant need then for honesty and for capacity in public officers.

With the rapid strides the Federal Government has made towards centralization and consolidation in the last few years, with the reconstruction laws and the manner of their enforcement fresh in our recollections, with the evils of the interference of Congress and the Government in the business affairs of the country daily exemplified in the terrible panic that is now spreading gloom and ruin over the country, there surely can be no need to give any reason for maintaining the doctrine that the Constitution of the United States ought to be strictly construed. All of these evils are so fresh upon us that it is plain to every one that we ought to return to the practice of former days that forbade any branch of the Government to exercise powers not expressly granted to it by the Constitution. If this were done today the Federal Government would once more use its mighty forces to maintain rather than to violate the rights of its citizens, in a word would be powerful only for good. The peace and quiet and security to person and property in former days was the fruit of a strict construction of the Constitution. The lawlessness and violence and habitual disregard by the Government of the lives, the liberties and the property of its citizens of the present day is the fruit of that broad construction that has made it so easy for power to escape from the many to the few.

Nor need we say any thing of the importance of the restoration of the States to their former relations to each other and to the Federal Government. This too will be one of the first fruits of a strict construction of the Federal Constitution.

This is, in brief, the platform upon which the Conservative party proposes once more to go into the fight with Radicalism, and upon it we confidently expect a glorious victory.

But there are other reasons why we expect to whip the next fight, growing out of the special circumstances of the next campaign. It will be remembered that for the first time since the adoption of the present Constitution and for the first time since there has been any semblance of freedom of election, that there will be an election for Judges of the Superior Courts. The present Constitution prescribes that there shall be twelve Superior Court Judges, and that their term of office shall be eight years, requiring, however, those first elected to be divided into two classes and to draw for the short and long terms. This first lot of Judges were elected at an election held under military orders before the Constitution went into effect, and drew lots to decide who should get the short terms. The six short term Judges, who held only half terms, would of course have gone out in 1872 had it not been for the Supreme Court who decided that they should hold over until 1874, thereby adding two years to their own judicial life. But time has continued to roll on until even the long-wished for year, 1874, is now nearly upon us, bringing with it the necessity of electing six Judges of the Superior Courts. And, as the old year dies and the new year comes into existence, the thought that it will rid the people of Radical Judges will bring joy to many hearts that would not otherwise welcome the reminder of their nearer approach to the grave.

There can possibly be no evil, that comes nearer home or that sinks deeper or weighs heavier upon the hearts of the people than those that follow the misfortunes of having an ignorant, corrupt, a partizan or a tyrannical Judge. Judges must necessarily be clothed with extraordinary and even with arbitrary powers, and if they be either ignorant or corrupt or partizan or tyrannical, the people can not help but mourn. The administration of justice ought to be made easy, but it cannot be made easy when the Judge upon the Bench is rude and insulting and domineering either to the lawyers or to their clients. Justice ought neither to be sold nor ought it to be delayed, but manifestly this cannot be expected when the Judge is ignorant in the one case, or when he is corrupt in the other. Nor ought the administration of Justice to partake of a partizan character; but can the administration of Justice be expected to be pure and unsullied by partizan taint, when the Judge on the Bench expects to be a candidate for re-election at the hands of a particular party, or when he expects to be a candidate for election to some office of a purely political character at the hands of a particular party? Manifestly not.

If we be not mistaken then there will be an interest taken in the elections next summer never before exhibited and people will come out and electioneer who have never before taken part in elections. Our people long for the days once more when they may see upon the Bench men who are at once able, honest, learned, impartizan; Judges who are courteous and gentlemanly in their behaviour to both counsel and client. In such a fight as this the Conservative party must win, unless the negroes are in the ascendant.

DEATH OF PROF. AGASSIZ.

Monday's telegraphic news, announces the death of Prof. Agassiz, the world-renowned naturalist, at the ripe age of 66-67 years, at his residence, in Cambridge, Mass.

Louis Jean Rodolphe Agassiz is of French origin, but was born at Motiers, in the canton of Freyburg, Switzerland, where his father was a pastor, on the 28th of May, 1807. In 1818 he entered the Gymnasium of Bienne, and in 1822 was removed to the Academy of Lausanne as a reward for his proficiency in science. He subsequently studied medicine and the experimental sciences at Zurich, Heidelburg and Munich, at which last university the degree of M. D. was conferred upon him. Afterwards, in Paris, he won the friendship of Humboldt and Cuvier, and on returning to Switzerland was appointed Professor of Natural History at the College of Neufchatel. He published in Europe several scientific works, one of which, "Studies of Glaciers," was received with the most flattering interest. In 1846 Mr. Agassiz embarked for this country to assume the position of Professor of Zoology and Geology at the Lawrence Scientific School. It was not long before he assumed a prominent position among the scientific men in America and for many years past his name has been on every tongue. He was an enthusiastic devotee to study and research and not only this country, but the world, owe much to the results of his explorations and skill. At the time of his death he was a member of all of the scientific academies in Europe and had repeatedly refused the offer of positions abroad. He was one of the most remarkable men of the age and scientific men everywhere will mourn his loss.

Deplorable Condition of the Nation at Treasury.

A Washington telegram to the New York Tribune of Saturday, says:

The desperate strait to which the mismanagement of Secretary Richardson has brought the Treasury, has at last been confessed. The Secretary, seeing his greenback reserve, which he is putting in circulation in violation of the plain letter of the law, dwindling day by day, so rapidly that it is only to tell just how the balance will last, comes to Congress with an appeal for more taxes to replenish the empty vaults. At the close of business at the Treasury Department yesterday, the outstanding circulation was over $373,000,000 or $17,000,000 more than is authorized by law.

The finances of the Government are in such an unhappy plight that the Treasurer is swamped on every direction, and there is not an available dollar in the Treasury outside of what is termed the reserves, except the gold. If all the disbursing offices should draw their balances, the Government would go to protest for want of currency; nor would it fare much better if all its gold liabilities should be presented for payment, including the January coupons and the $20,000,000 loan of 1858, falling due on that date, for which the holders can demand coin instead of the five per cent. bonds provided for their redemption, if they choose.

Mr. Richardson is at the end of his tether. He must have more money, and the people must be taxed to furnish it. He wants about $42,000,000 more of annual income, he informs the Ways and Means Committee, and he proposes that it shall be raised by the restoration of taxes abolished, as no longer needful, and by the increase of other taxes, reduced not long since, because they were thought unnecessarily high. The tariff on tea and coffee he wants restored; the tax on whiskey increased ten cents a gallon, and that on tobacco four cents a pound. If this does not produce the required amount he recommends the revival of the tax on the gross receipts of railways and express companies, and the whole of the former schedule B. Unless the bill which the Committee will probably report in accordance with these recommendations, is made a party measure and whipped through the House; it will be hotly contested on the Republican as well as on the Democratic side, and the Secretary will not be likely to get his money in time to save him from insolvency.

How A Richmond Man Missed A Fortune.

A gentleman well-known in this city, who owned, until recently, a tract of land in California, missed a fortune in the sale of it a short time since, in this wise:

He was corresponded with by the officials of a railroad company in California, who are building a railroad in the said State, relative to the purchase of his land which lay on the route through which they proposed to build. The Richmond gentleman was offered the sum of $30,000 for the land, and thinking this a good price for it (which by the way was of a mountainous nature) he accepted the proposition.—The railroad company, shortly after the purchase, concluded that they would have to tunnel a portion of it, and commenced operations to that effect. They had not progressed a very great distance, before they struck a rich and beautiful ore, which upon examination proved to be silver. Speculative parties interviewed the railroad officials, tested the silver, and offered the company $3,000,000 for the tract. The company thinking that this speck beat railroading sold out. It is said that the parties who last purchased are now in possession and working one of the richest silver mines in all California.—The above is vouched for by one of our most reliable citizens, and we are in possession of the name of the gentleman who lost the fortune.—*State Journal.*

Condensed from the Raleigh Sentinel.

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

NIGHT SESSION.

FRIDAY, Dec. 12.

A bill amending the charter of the Fair of the Carolinas; authorizes the election of a Board of Directors and a President, and authorizes the issue of bonds to a sum not exceeding in amount twenty-five thousand dollars.

The bill passed its third reading.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, Dec. 13, 1873.

Mr. Troy, a resolution requesting the Public Treasurer to furnish a detailed statement of fines collected and paid by Justices of the Peace to the credit of school funds.

Mr. Murphy, a bill to amend chapter 182, laws of 1872-'73.

Mr. Hill, a bill to incorporate a Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Price, a bill concerning elections, provides for the election of two Supreme Court Judges to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Judge Boyden, and the resignation of Judge Dick, and the election of two Superior Court Judges to fill the vacancy in the Second District, resulting from the resignation of Judge Jones and the vacancy in the Eighth District, caused by the non-acceptance of D. H. Starbuck. Read and referred.

Message from the House transmitting a number of bills passed by that body; all of which were read and appropriately referred.

Mr. Price moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill in relation to the terms of the Superior Court in the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

Mr. Scott moved to lay on the table. Agreed to.

SPECIAL ORDER.

An act to authorize public schools in cities of over two thousand inhabitants. Allows voters to determine by ballot whether a tax shall be levied to support public schools.

Mr. Cowles offered an amendment as an additional section, which provides that in levying the tax provided for in this act, the equation provided for in the constitution as to taxing property and polls shall be preserved. Adopted.

Mr. Waring spoke at length against the passage of the bill. He said it was a proposition to confiscate the property in towns and cities of over two thousand inhabitants, and to make the property owner educate the children of the non-property holder.

Mr. Cunningham sent up to the clerk's table, to be read for information, a letter from Professor McIver addressed to him as Chairman of the Committee on Education, in advocacy of the passage of the bill, the bill having received the approbation of the Educational Convention, &c.

Mr. Welch offered an amendment allowing only property holders to vote, but withdrew it.

Mr. Morehead, of Guilford, offered an amendment providing that non-residents of such cities who own three hundred dollars worth of property within the corporate limits of the city shall vote, and providing that voters shall show their tax receipts for the year previous to voting.

A discussion upon the constitutionality of the amendment here arose, participated in by Messrs. Merrimon, Norwood, Morehead, Seymour and Troy. The amendment failed.

Mr. Morehead, of Rockingham, offered an amendment providing that not more than one-fourth of one per cent tax shall be levied on property under authority of this act.

Mr. Avera, an amendment requiring voters to pay an average of pro-rata-tax before voting. Lost.

Mr. Morehead's amendment was adopted.

Mr. Troy offered an amendment which fixes penalties as now provided by law. Adopted.

Mr. Ellis, of Catawba, an amendment requiring that the twenty citizens authorized in this act to call an election upon the question of levying the necessary tax shall be property holders. Adopted.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. McNeil, a resolution requiring the committee on special tax bonds to report on Monday next.

Mr. Gilbert, a resolution concerning the United States Centennial Exhibition.

Mr. Rhodes, a resolution in relation to public printing.

Mr. Mitchell, a resolution respecting reforms in the general government.

Mr. Johnston, a resolution to provide for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, by holding an exhibition of arts, products and manufactures of the State, in the city of Charlotte on the 20th day of May, A. D. 1875.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Hampton, a bill to amend chapter 12, section 1 of the Revised Code.

Mr. Webb, a bill concerning the duties of county commissioners.

Mr. Jordan, a bill to provide for the pay of witnesses in certain cases.

Mr. Presson, a bill concerning the fees of Justices of the Peace.

Mr. Michael, a bill regulating the commissions of sheriffs.

The bill to amend the charter of the North Carolina Railroad Company and for other purposes, better known as the "consolidation bill," was amended and passed its second reading, ordered to be printed and made special order for Monday at 12 m.

The hour of 12 having arrived the Speaker announced the special order, being the substitute offered by the committee on propositions and grievances, for the various bills offered at different times against the sale of liquor in certain localities was read and committed to the committee

Pending its consideration the House adjourned.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Dec. 15, 1873.

Mr. Murphy presented a petition which, upon his own motion, was not read, and referred to the committee on propositions and grievances.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Mr. Nicholson, a bill relative to probate courts.

Mr. Murphy, a bill to establish a new county by the name of Jefferson.

Mr. McCauley moved to suspend the rules and take up the bill incorporating the "Bank of Monroe," and put it on its passage. Agreed to, and the bill passed its several readings.

Mr. Flemming, a resolution authorizing the Governor to withdraw the appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Southern Security Company against the Western North Carolina Railroad, and for other purposes. Goes over one day under the rules.

Mr. Waring, a bill in relation to court-houses and jails, and a bill for the protection of sheep.

Special order, a bill to be entitled an act to make uniform the rate of interest in North Carolina.

Mr. Warring moved to strike out the "Bank of Mecklenburg."

Mr. Humphrey, the author of the bill, submitted an argument against discriminating in favor of any corporation.

Mr. Morehead, of Rockingham, argued against the bill. He said that its passage would aggravate the evils which it is purposed to remedy. Said it would drive the money out of the State.

Mr. King said this bill was intended to put the banks upon the same footing as that occupied by individuals, and for one he was in favor of its passage. That the banks were now allowed to take a greater rate of interest than that authorized by the general law.

Mr. Flemming spoke against the bill. He thought money ought to be free from all restraints, and that persons ought to be allowed to contract for any rate of interest they could get.

Mr. Humphrey spoke in advocacy of the bill, and said it was necessary to protect the people from the rapacity of the monied corporations of the country; he said we had tried in practice the theory of the Senator from McDowell; money had been loaned at the rate of thirty cents, expressed on the face of notes and collected by mortgage on real estate, for the past four years. That no money had come into the State under this invitation; that in our sister State, Maryland, where they had a stringent usury law, money was more abundant than in our own State. The passage of the bill would strike down monopolies.

Mr. Cunningham offered an amendment, striking out that portion of the bill which repeals the privilege contained in Bank charters to pay interest on deposits.

Mr. Troy offered an amendment to the amendment, placing the banks incorporated by the laws of the State under the identical restrictions in respect to deposits that the acts of Congress may provide for the National Banks.

A long discussion here arose, participated in by Messrs. Dunham, Morehead of Rockingham, Humphrey, King and Murphy.

Mr. Troy's amendment failed and Mr. Cunningham's was adopted.

Mr. Morehead offered a substitute which was read for information. He then offered it as a substitute for the whole of the second section. It provides as a penalty for the violation of the act by taking a greater rate of interest than 8 per cent. the forfeiture of double the amount loaned, one-half to the informer and the other to the State.

Mr. Seymour called the previous question. It being ordered, the question recurred upon the amendment of Mr. Troy to exempt building and loan associations.

Mr. Cowles thought there ought to be no exemptions. The amendment failed. The vote then was upon Mr. Morehead's substitute. Not adopted. The bill passed second reading.

Mr. Morehead obtained leave and introduced two bills—one to amend the revenue act—the other to promote immigration and encourage the building of manufactures.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Perry, of Bladen, asked and obtained leave to record his vote in the affirmative in the resolution of the House censuring the back pay act of Congress, and also on the motion to table the civil rights bill.

Mr. Carter, a petition from citizens of Hyde to incorporate a town to be called Engelhard.

Mr. McNeill, memorial from citizens of Robeson to incorporate the town of Shoe Heel.

Mr. Blythe, bill to be entitled an act to amend section 5th, chapter 88, Battle's Revisal.

The Speaker announced the unfinished business being the Prohibitory Bill, which was then read.

Mr. Bennett moved to refer to Judiciary Committee. The motion prevailed.

BILLS ACTED ON.

Bill to incorporate the Brunswick Bridge and Ferry Company. Passed several readings.

Bill to amend the act concerning amnesty and pardon was, on motion of Mr. McGehee, made a special order for to-morrow at 12 m.

Bill amending the act to lay off and establish the county of Palmico was read and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The Consolidation Railroad bill was next considered. Various amendments were offered, and pending its consideration,

On motion of Mr. Richardson, the House adjourned until 10:30 o'clock.

SENATE.

NIGHT SESSION.

DECEMBER 16.

Resolution in favor of the National Bank at Fayetteville, to refund money and interests improperly collected in the way of taxes.

Mr. Seymour moved to strike out the interests; resolution was adopted, passed its several readings.

A bill to incorporate the town of Whiteville, in Columbus county, passed its several readings.

An act to authorize the Danville and Coalfields railroad, to purchase the Atlantic, Tennessee and Ohio railroad, authorizing the issue of mortgage bonds at the rate of twenty thousand dollars per mile, passed its several readings.

A bill to incorporate the Diamond Cotton Chopper and Cultivator Company. Passed its several readings.

A bill to prevent distemper and other infectious diseases among cattle, at the request of Dr. C. Tate Murphy. Col. Welch and Dr. Love rose and explained unsatisfactorily. Capt. Todd came to the rescue, throwing much light on the subject. The bill passed its several readings.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, December 16.

Mr. Murphy offered an additional petition praying the establishment of the county of Jefferson. Referred to Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Murphy, a bill making the annual appropriation for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylums.

Mr. Troy, a bill to change the Constitution of the State. Appropriates the whole of the capitation tax to public schools.

Mr. Ellis, a bill to enlarge the Insane Asylum and for the better government of the same.

On motion of Mr. Cramer, it was made special order for Friday at 12 m.

Mr. Johnson, a bill to be entitled an act to pay jurors in certain cases.

Mr. Troy, a resolution requesting the Judiciary Committee to suggest to the Legislature such action as they deem appropriate in regard to the University of the State.

Mr. Troy, a bill to authorize the Mayor and Commissioners of Fayetteville, N. C., to appoint a receiver of railroad taxes.

A bill to complete the Western or Coal Fields railroad.

On motion of Col. Morehead, was placed back on the calendar.

Special order (12:30 o'clock) being the bill to adjust the State debt with pending amendments. The question being upon the adoption of the amendment heretofore reported and offered by Mr. Troy, "That the public Treasurer be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to omit from his future annual report any and all bonds or other evidences of indebtedness not herein enumerated."

Mr. Norwood, at considerable length, and with much force sustained his amendment declaring our inability to pay the State indebtedness.

Mr. Worth replied to the speech of Mr. Norwood at length, urging the passage of the original bill and in opposition to all amendments, and it [illegible] enough to apply to Congress after the advertisement and compromise of the debt.

Col. Humphrey followed Mr. Worth, in favor of the original bill and in opposition to all amendments.

Mr. Merrimon hoped the Senator from Cumberland would withdraw his amendment. Said he had offered a resolution in the early part of the session which would more fully accomplish the purpose aimed at by Mr. Troy's amendment.

Mr. Welch was opposed to the withdrawal of Mr. Troy's amendment. He said that he wished to say to the world in this bill if it passed, that we did not intend to pay the special tax bonds.

Mr. Murphey replied to the argument submitted by Mr. Welch, and Mr. Ellis in favor of the amendment, replied to Mr. Humphrey.

Mr. Murphy took the ground that the amendment was an incumbrance upon the bill; that its adoption would have no effect; it would not make the special tax bonds less binding and so far as he could see would only encumber the bill.

On motion of Mr. Humphrey, the Senate adjourned.

[NOTE.—The bill introduced by Mr. Morehead on yesterday to promote immigration and encourage the building of manufactories, provides that in assessing real estate no account shall be taken of the increased value by reason of the erecting or building of any mill, factory or other establishment wherever machinery is used, within five years after such improvement.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Dec. 16.

The House branch of the Joint Select Committee on the State Debt, in response to the resolution adopted by the House on Saturday last, beg leave to report that a bill has been reported to the Senate embodying the views of the Joint Select Committee in regard to what is known as the "old debt;" that in regard to the "special tax bonds" the House branch of said committee considered all the bills and resolutions referring to said bonds, which have been submitted to the House, and recommend the following resolution as a substitute. Therefore,

Resolved, by the General Assembly of North Carolina, That the bonds commonly known as "the special tax bonds of North Carolina do constitute no part of the public debt of North Carolina."

That the Public Treasurer is hereby directed not to make any mention, note or item of said bonds on the books of his office.

That it shall be unlawful for the Public Treasurer to pay out any public moneys for interest or for the principal of any of the said bonds.

That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Brown of Davidson, a resolution of investigation of charges in regard to the Penitentiary Board and Deputy Warden Thompson of the Penitentiary.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

Mr. Richardson, a bill in regard to the public taxes due by the county of Wayne for the year 1870.

Mr. Patrick, a bill to amend an act to establish the rate of interest and repeal chapter 114 Revised Code, entitled Usury, ratified the 12th day of March, 1866.

Mr. Gudger, a bill to establish a Bureau of Immigration, Statistics and Agriculture.

Mr. Carter, a bill to incorporate the town of Engelhard, in Hyde county.

Mr. Bennett, a bill in reference to meetings of the Stockholders and Directors of the Carolina Central Railway Company.

Mr. Scott, a bill in relation to sheriff's deeds, &c.

On motion of Mr. Gorman the resolution rescinding the resolution to adjourn on the 24th, was taken up.

Mr. Johnston moved to lay it on the table. Carried.

Mr. Bowman then moved to reconsider.

The motion to reconsider prevailed.

The ness and nays being called on the adoption of the resolution, and the resolution failed—yeas 20, nays 77.

Mr. McGehee offered an amendment:

That section 1, chapter 181, public laws of 1872-'73, be amended so as to extend free and ample amnesty and pardon to all persons referred to and described in such section who may have committed any crime against or violation of the laws of North Carolina as described in said first section of said act except such persons as may have committed arson, rape and burglary, and free and complete amnesty and pardon, therefore it is hereby granted will the exceptions herein recited.

The amendment was adopted and the bill failed to pass its second reading.

Mr. Houston moved to reconsider.

The motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill failed to pass its second reading prevailed.

Mr. Bennett moved to reconsider the vote by which Mr. McGehee's amendment passed. Carried.

The amendment was then rejected. Yeas 16, nays 81.

By consent, Mr. Bennett introduced a bill to incorporate the town of Lilesville, in Anson county.

By the same, a bill in relation to the payment of costs by the State.

A message was received from the Senate with an engrossed bill from the Senate to incorporate the People's Bank of Monroe. Referred.

The House next considered the consolidation railroad bill.

Mr. Lutterloh offered an amendment to section 10, that the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad shall not constitute assets for the payment of bonds heretofore issued by the State to build the North Carolina Railroad. Adopted.

Mr. Rhodes moved to strike out in line 26, section 10, all after the word stock, and insert: "at the time upon which the purchase shall be made." Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Caldwell, the further consideration of the bill was postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. Jones, of Caldwell, introduced a resolution to reconsider the resolution to adjourn the 24th *sine die*, and to adjourn on Monday the 22d and meet on Monday the 12th prox. Adopted.

A Puzzling Cereal.

A new cereal has been grown in Oregon which has puzzled the farmers, as it is unlike any grain with which they are familiar. From seven to ten stalks grow from one root to a height of about four feet, and these stalks, or straws, are thin and hard. The radicals are tough and spread widely. The heads are six inches in length and covered with a heavy bead, each filament being five inches in length. The grain is twice the length of a grain of wheat, and, instead of being firm and compact is hollow, the cavity containing glutinous matter. While the grain bears a closer resemblance to wheat than to any thing else, the straw looks more like that of rye or barley. Its origin is somewhat peculiar, the first grain having been taken from the stomach of a wild goose by a farmer in Tillamook county nearly three years ago. He was struck with its appearance and planted it, and the succeeding season sowed the product. He distributed a portion of the second crop among a few friends in different parts of the State, who this year raised small quantities. It will require another year to determine the value of the grain.

The Ossawotomie Widow.

A letter from Red Bluff, Cal., says: "The wife of John Brown, of Harper's Ferry celebrity, still resides here, pleasantly situated, and surrounded with pleasant, comfortable influences. She has won the esteem and confidence of the people, and commands the admiration of all parties, irrespective of public opinion. Her home has been freed from debt, and under her own vine and fig tree she lives, with none to molest or make her afraid.—She has three daughters, who have been engaged in teaching school. They are said to be very intelligent young ladies. The eldest has received many calls to go South and help to educate the race he father died to benefit. She feels it somewhat her duty, and will probably go. Since living here Mrs. Brown has received aid from England, and many letters expressing high regard for her husband's memory. She has made this place her permanent home, and intends to spend her days among this people.

STATE NEWS.

Two thousand one hundred and eighty-three bales of cotton were sold in Charlotte last week.

The Charlotte Southern Home says: Our esteemed friend, Capt. Reinhardt, of Lincolnton, has found a valuable bed of gypsum on his farm within a half mile of Lincolnton.

The Charlotte Southern Home says: The Lutheran Conference, recently held in this city, unanimously approved of Mr. Strobel's conduct, and defended him from certain alleged imputations, &c.

The Asheville Expositor says:—Laban Ramsour, after living sixteen years in Illinois, has returned with his family to spend the remainder of his days in the good old county of Catawba.

The Charlotte Democrat says: Joe Baker, white, under sentence of death for killing Newton Wilfong, colored, and who was to be hung near this city on Friday next, the 18th inst., made his escape from jail on Saturday morning last.

The Statesville Intelligencer says: On Tuesday last Mr. P. N. Smith, in cleaning the machinery of his new steam cotton gin, accidentally got his right hand caught in the machinery and every finger, including the thumb, was severed from that member.

The Charlotte Observer says: Hon. Thomas S. Ashe, member of Congress from this district, has given his cadetship in the United States Military Academy to Mr. S. B. Jones, a young gentleman of this city, who is now at the Louisville (Ky.) Medical College, studying medicine.

In August next there will be an election to fill the following vacancies, which will then occur: First District, J. W. Albertson; Third District, W. J. Clarke; Fourth District, D. L. Russell; Fifth District, R. P. Buxton; Seventh District, A. W. Tourgee; Ninth District, G. W. Logan.

The Charlotte Observer says: Yesterday Messrs. W. H. H. Houston & Co., of this city, made a shipment of 400 bales of cotton over the N. C. R. R. This is the heaviest shipment of cotton ever made over this road by one firm at one time. It speaks well for the firm named and for Charlotte.

The Charlotte Democrat says: We hear that in certain portions of this county a curious and fatal disease has appeared among the hogs. In Sharon township several persons have suffered loss by the sudden death of all their fattened hogs. The disease seems to be asthma or shortness of breath.

The Raleigh News says: Mr. Arch. Gregory, a highly respectable citizen of Granville, was seriously injured a few days ago by coming in contact with the rapidly moving saw of Col. R. J. Mitchell's steam saw mill. The injury was of a character so serious as to necessitate the amputation of his arm above the elbow.

The Charlotte Southern Home says: On last Thursday 525 bales of cotton were sold in this market. On Friday there was a blocked-up line of wagons from the depot up College street to the rear of Wadsworth's stables, and on Trade street from the square to the railroad—all struggling to get to the depot.

The Concord Sun goes for some of his delinquent subscribers in the following gentle admonition: To those of our subscribers, who promised to pay us in wood for the Sun and have not done so,