REPORT

Of the Select Joint Committee of both Houses of the General Assembly, on the proposition to adopt the Congressional Constitutional Amendment.

[CONCLUDED.]

A serious objection to the second section, if it should be under stood asimplying the power of a State to regulate the question of suffrage, is, that it imposes a penalty upon any restriction of the franchise, and offers a premium for its extension: the representation of a State, and its consequent political importance being diminished in the one event, and increased in the other. The manifest design of this provision is, to bring about, by indirect means, the adoption of the suffrage, irrespective of races or color. And thus a premium is offered for the proposition of the franchise. Nothing could be more threatening to the stability of our republican institutions. There can scarcely be a doubt that if the question of negro suffrage could be calmly considered purely on its own merits, and aside from the prejudices of the times, all thoughtful and well-informed men, would unite in condemning it as in the highest degree impolitic and unwise.

A leading feature of this second section is, that, virtually, it makes the basis of representation to consist of the voters only, which is manifestly inconsistent wi h the theory of our political system. The voters are merely the appointing power, whose function is to select the representative: but his true constituency is the whole population. It is a great fallacy to maintain that an officer represents only those who vote for him. Senators are chosen by the State Legislature, but they represent not the Legislature merely, but all classes of the State population with their varied interests. But it is urged by the advocates of the policy of basing representation on the voters only, that this is necessary in order to give equal weight to a voter in different States, and yet there is neither justice on the one hand, nor any practical importance on the other, in this idea. Say two States have equal population, equal voting strength, and equal representation; and suppose one of them should choose to restrict the franchise so that its quota of Representatives would be selected by half of its former number of voters; this, indeed, would be a matter of interest to its own citizens, but of what possible concern could it be to the citizens of the other State? A complaint that the weight of voters was not equal, would come with bad grace from a State, which, by extending widely the franchise, had thereby diminished the relative importance of its individual voter. If two States had equal population, but one of them should allow twice as many voters as the other, then, according to the pending Amendment, one would be entitled to twice as many Representatives as the other. This might be giving equal weight to voters, but would certainly be giving very unequal weight to the respective non-voting populations; so that no consideration is given to the non-voters who must always constitute the great majority of the people, and bear a large share of the public burdens. And while the negroes, who form so large an element in the population of this Commonwealth, cannot wisely exercise the right of suffrage, and should not, therefore, be allowed to do so, yet if there ever was a time when that race should be counted in the basis of representation, it is now; for they are thrown as an immense burden on a few States, and will for many years demand the utmost exercise of every moral agency for their advancement in the scale of being.

The third section of the Amendment is designed solely to affect the South. It virtually disfranchises a large portion of the people of North-Carolina. It si well known that most of our able-bodied men were Confederate soldiers during some part of the late war: and of those of our people who were not in the army, scarcely an individual, can truthfully say that he rendered "no aid or comfort" to the Southern cause; and all who had previously taken an oath to support the Federal Constitution, either as a Member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a Member of a State Legislature or Executive or Judicial officer of any State, are excluded from, forever hereafter, holding any office, either in the State or Federal Government, unless the disability is removed by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress. And it may be added, in this connection, that Congress by providing for the removal of disabilities by its action upon a two-thirds vote, invades the Constitutional right of the President to grant pardons.

Very few, indeed, of the men of this State, of mature years, and capable of filling such positions, have not at sometime held one or more of the aforesaid offices, and taken the oath specified. The immediate practical effect, therefore, of the Amendment, if ratified will be to destroy the whole machinery of our State Government, and reduce all our affairs to con plete chaos, by throwing out nearly every public officer, even to Justices of the Peace and Constables; and it would be hardly possible to find enough of men qualified to fill those various offices, and re-organize our State Government.

And besides this, all experience proves that men rising to power on the ruin of their fellows, and expecting success only by the suppression of the popular will, are generally the worst of all the enemies of their own people; and the great mass of the people of this Commonwealth would, in the opinion of the Committee, prefer to commit themselves, their honor, and their interests to Congress, as now composed, rather than to those, whose only hope of ruling, lies in the disfranchisement and oppression of more loyal and better men.

The impolicy of imposing this general disability upon those who, in any way, took part in the late conflict, is shown also by the indubitable fact that most of them are now as conservative, as loyal, and as well affected towards the General Government as any class of citizens. Those who personally participated in the great trial of arms, are perhaps more thoroughly convinced than any others, of the finality of the decision, and the utter folly of any future appeal to the arbitrament of war; and hence have, with few exceptions, readily acquiesced in the settlement which has been made of the questions in dispute.—Many of those who would be disabled from holding office, are among the most prominent and excellent citizens of the State, who always opposed secession; and their services and co-operation would be greatly needed in the important work of restoring her prosperity.

But if this, and other degrading disabilities, must be imposed upon so many of her citizens, how can North-Carolina herself, while she retains any sense of honor or self-respect, assist in imposing it? How can those now controlling the destinies of the Union, ask or expect her to do so, and thus set the seal to her own disgrace? How can they expect or even desire that her Representatives either now or hereafter shall assist in the work of her own degradation?

What her people have done, they have done in obedience to her own behests. Must she now punish them for obeying her own commands? If penalties have been incurred, and punishment must be inflicted, is it magnanimous, is it reasonable, nay, is it honorable, to require us to become our own executioners? Must we, as a State, be regarded as unfit for fraternal association with our fellow-citizens of other States, until after we shall have sacrificed our manhood and tarnished our honor? Surely not. North-Carolina feels that she is still one of the daughters of the great American family. Wayward and wilful, perhaps, she has been; but honor and virtue still are hers. If her errors have been great, her sufferings have been greater. Like a stricken mother, she now stands leaning in silent grief over the bloody graves of her slain children. The mementoes of former glory lie in ruins around her. The majesty of sorrow sits enthroned on her brow. Proud of her sons who have died for her, she cherishes in her heart of hearts, the living children who were ready to die for her; and she loves them with a mother's warm affection. Can she be expected to repudiate them? No! it would be the act of an unnatural mother. She can never consent to it—*Never.*

It is said, however, that Congress can easily remove the disability which this section imposes; but is it likely that Congress will do so? If they be so readily removed, why impose them at all? And it should not be forgotten that Congress could, through this dispensing power, manage to fill the State offices of every grade, almost entirely according to its own choice and dictation, by relieving from disabilities only such as might serve its purposes; and thus the freedom of elections would be virtually destroyed, and the State governments might become the willing and subservient tools of grasping ambition and usurping tyranny.

All that need be said of the fourth section of the proposed Amendment is, that it is useless. The Federal debt is already sufficiently secured by the honest intention of the people to pay it. And a noticeable fact is, with what cheerfulness the people of this Commonwealth, taxed without representation, and depressed and impoverished by the war, pay their Internal Revenue taxes. By seeking to bind the people of the whole country further to the payment of the public debt, by means of a Constitutional provision, the government betrays a lack of confidence, not perhaps more in the people of the *South* than in those of the *North.*

The Confederate debt is equally certain to remain unpaid. Indeed, most of it can never fall due, by the terms on which it was contracted, and the impoverishment of the whole South, and the Acts of repudiation which have already been passed, will doubtless secure the non-payment of the remainder.

The refusal to pay for our slaves emancipated, is doubtless a great injustice, especially to those citizens who did not favor secession; but the Committee entertain the opinion that the people have never hoped, seriously, for its reparation.

In the final section, power is given to Congress "to enforce by appropriate legislation, all the provisions of this Article." How wide a door is hereby opened for the interference of Congress, with subjects hitherto regarded beyond its range, it is impossible adequately to perceive, until experince shall have tested the matter. As the Committee have already submitted, one of the most serious evils to be apprehended from this Amendment, consists in the vast addition it makes, in so many ways, to the powers of the general Government.

No enlightened patriot, who was studied carefully our system of government, and has realized how much of its excellency lies in the due divisions of its powers, between the Federal and State authorities, can have failed to witness, with the profoundest alarm, the tendency to centralization, and consolidation, which has in late years been developed. The exercises of the mighty energies, and the assumption of new and unsual prerogatives, required to prosecute successfully, the recent war, in the nature of things, gave to the General Government an over-shadowing influence and prestige beyond what it had ever before possessed. And this result was increased by the overwhelming defeat of those States which had always stood forth as the peculiar advocates of the State Rights. Every one must perceive, therefore, that even without new Constitutional grants of authority, the Federal Government is no longer what it once was, but that it has expanded into a mighty giant, threatening to swallow up the States, and to concentrate all power and dignity in itself. In the interest of liberty, it appears to the Committee, that this centralization tendency, instead of being fostered, needs to be checked. The American people ought not, by new grants of power, seem to authorize the continual exercise of extordinary prerogatives, undreamed of in the purer and happier days of the Republic. The Constitution, as it stands, was good enough for our fathers; if administred in its true spirit it will also be good enough for ourselves and our posterity.

But suppose North Carolina were to accept the Amendment, thus yielding up her honest convictions of duty and of principle, in her most anxious desire for the restoration of her former relations with the General Government, and the admission of her Representatives in Congress, what guarantee, nay, even what hope is there that such ratification would thus restore her? So far from it, the unmistakable record of the last Congress, as well as all the indications since exhibited, of tone and temper, are, that this humiliation and surrender of right and principle, would not, in the opinion of the Committee, be likely to facilitate restoration much less affect it.

The committee having at some length gone into an analysis of the different sections of the proposed Article of Amendment, ought perhaps in closing, to say a word in regard to the intimations sometimes thrown out, that if the Southern States refuse to ratify the pending Amendment, harder terms and deeper humiliation will be imposed upon them. These are deemed only as the intemperate declarations of heated individual partizans. No responsible body of our countrymen, has dishonored itself, or us, by making such threats. It would, indeed, be mockery to submit a question so grave and important to this Commonwealth, and then place her under duress to compel her to votein the affirmative. No humiliation could be deeper, no degradation more profound, than that which she would impose upon herself by yielding to intimidation, and ratifying under the influence of base fear, a measure which she disapproved. The committee are sure, that this honorable Legislature, will not do an act so inconsistent with its own dignity, and the dignity of the State. A question of such vital concern to the entire Union and to the cause of liberty itself, will surely be calmly and seriously considered, with the impartiality and wisdom that should characterize the conduct of statesmen, and with the manly independence of freemen; and it is therefore confidently believed, that the action this body shall take upon this grave question, will be worthy of the great State of North Carolina.

For the reasons submitted in this report, the Committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following Resolution,—to-wit

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, do not ratify the Amendment proposed as the fourteenth Article of the Constitution of the United States.

J. M. LEACH, *Chairman.*
HENRY T. CLARKE.
H. M. WAUGH,
JOS. J. DAVIS,
THOS. S. KENAN.
J. P. H. RUSS,
ARCH. McLEAN,
PHILLIP HODNETT,
JNO. M. PERRY,
J. M. MOREHEAD, JR.,
D. A. COVINGTON,
W. D. JONES.

In Spain the art of adulterating food is carried to perfection. Butter, in that favored latitude, is composed of tallow, remnants of cheese, the juice of the petals of marigold, and raw potatoes scraped and reduced to pulp. This delicious compound is made into cakes, and outwardly provided with a layer of the genuine article.

In reasoning, if you wish inferences that will not follow, draw them.

Women's writes—Postcripts.

Tri-Weekly Standard.

RALEIGH, N. C.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1866.

The North-Carolina Standard.

We return our thanks to our friends for the additions they are making to our subscription list.

The terms of the *Standard* are as follows:

Tri-Weekly,	one year,	$6 00
" "	six months,	3 00
Weekly,	one year,	3 00
"	six months,	1 50

The Weekly will be clubbed as follows: Five copies one year twelve dollars. Ten copies one year twenty-two dollars. Those who get clubs of five or more, will be furnished with one copy for a year, gratis.

The Legislature and Congress will meet soon, and matters of grave interest will occupy the columns of the newspapers. Now is the time to subscribe.

The circulation of the *Standard* among Northern capitalists and others, renders it a good medium for advertising lands and other property for sale.

We (the Senior) have just returned from a visit to Washington, and we have no time to write at length to-day in relation to what we saw and heard. Our readers will hear from us at length hereafter in relation to the condition of affairs at the federal City.

We invite attention to the bill introduced into the House of Representatives by Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, to re-establish civil government in North Carolina. We regard this as an excellent measure for the end in view. We feel sure that Congress will speedily adopt this measure, or one similar in character.

We shall refer to this measure more at length hereafter.

The Insolence of Treason.

We learn that Mr. Blythe, of Henderson, has been examined before a Committee of the House of Commons in relation to his statement in open House as to the treatment of loyal Union men in his part of the State. And we also learn that Messrs. Harris and Jenkins, of the Legislature, who recently visited Washington, have also been summoned before a Committee of the House of Commons and interrogated as to their business in Washington!

We regret that these worthy gentlemen consented to appear before this Committee. These examinations constitute a part of the tactics of the disloyalists to intimidate and brow beat Union men. It is the latest exhibition of impudence and arrogance which has marked the proceedings of the present General Assembly, so-called, of this State.—But the day of this body is short. A loyal Congress will deal with it good time.

There is a law of this State, we believe, to punish treason against the State. Perhaps the General Assembly will order arrests and trials under this law. They have as much right to do this as they have to interrogate loyal Union men before committees, with a view to intimidate them and to make capital against the Union cause in this State.

Since the above was written we learn that Mr. Jenkins appeared before the Committee, but was not examined.

The questions put to Mr. Harris showed that the Committee were looking for facts to involve Union men in a treasonable conspiracy to overthrow the existing State government! What will the Congress of the United States think of this? It is now clear that this disloyal General Assembly, called and held under martial law, is ready to punish as traitors to the State every Union man who has urged Congress to re-organize and supersede the existing State Government!

WE CALL UPON THE UNION MEN OF THE STATE TO STAND FIRM. If these traitors dare to proceed further we are confident the Congress will at once sweep them from existence, and *they* will be held to that condign punishment which they so richly deserve.

The efforts of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Commons of this State to intimidate and brow beat Messrs. Harris and Jenkins, will fail. They are brave, honest, loyal men, and they will conduct themselves accordingly. They are not to be intimidated by traitors. The day is not distant when the cowardly majority who are attempting to domineer over these gentlemen because of their recent visit to Washington, will meet the fate they deserve.

Congessional Committees.

The committee to investigate the New Orleans riot has already commenced operations, having examined several persons already.—It is also making preparations to proceed to New Orleans to push the investigations as fast as possible.

The North-Carolina General Assembly seems to be so anxious to establish the loyalty of the dominant party in this State, that we are surprised that they do not ask Congress to send a committee thither to investigate the matter. Suppose you do so. We are willing to abide the test.

Treason dies hard, as is proved by the writhings of a large majority of the Legislature of this State.

We were shown a letter, on Friday evening last, from Gen. N. P. Banks, of Massachusetts, member of Congress from the 6th district of that State, dated at Washington, Dec. 7th, from which we are permitted to make the following extract:

"I appreciate the difficulties of your situation, and know, as well as if I were at your side, the venom of the prominent Southern leaders, but hope, in good time, that a just government will be established in the States now under their control."

The remarks of Mr. Jordon, of Montgomery, in opposition to the adoption of the majority report on the Constitutional Amendment, will appear in our next.

Emigrants are passing from Georgia and Alabama to Texas.

Oil has been discovered in St. Clair county, in the latter State, at the depth of 900 feet. It is very abundant. What news is there from our Coal fields in relation to petroleum? Will the Greensboro' *Patriot* inform us?

Destructive Fire in Morganton.

We are indebted to a friend, to whom our thanks are hereby returned, for the following account of the recent fire in Morganton, in this State:

MORGANTON, Dec. 13th, 1866.

"We had quite an extensive conflagration in this place yesterday afternoon. The old Smyth Hotel, occupied as a private residence by E. S. Walton, Esq. A large brick store house owned by Maj. J. C. Smyth and occupied by E. S. Walton and W. S. Moore. The store house occupied by Mr. Hildebrand; the dwelling house of John W. McElrath, Esq., and the Post-office were all burned to the ground. A high wind prevailed at the time and many other buildings were in imminent danger but the almost superhuman efforts of many citizens both white and colored arrested the destroying elements. I am glad to be able to state that nearly every thing of value was saved from the burning houses. It may be invidious to mention names where there were so many who acted so well—but too much praise cannot be awarded to J. A. Claywell, Esq., Mr. Chas. Voorhees, Mr. Wm. Corpening, Dr. T. J. Corpening, Capt. Saml. Kirkland, Mr. John Martin, whites, and Neal, formerly belonging to T. R. Caldwell. Esq., Tom, formerly a slave of E. S. Walton, Esq., Wm. Slade, freeman of color. Ed formerly of E. J. Erwin, and many others, both white and colored whose names are not now remembered. The fire was entirely accidental originating no doubt from a spark from the chimney of the dwelling occupied by E. S. Walton, Esq.—There was no insurance on any of the property except on Mr. Walton's stock of goods."

State Items.

—The Wilmington *Dispatch* is disgusted with the Legislature, Gen. Sickles, Gov. Worth and the President, in relation to the order prohibiting corporeal punishment.—The following is a specimen from that paper:

"We doubt the propriety of the measure adopted by the Legislature in regard to the order of Sickles' prohibiting the infliction of corporeal punishment by the courts of North-Carolina. We think that the President's Proclamation of Peace is a sufficient guide, and are of the opinion that self-respect demanded that the issue should be made by the North-Carolina authorities, that the extent of the military power may be ascertained, and questions of this character definitely settled.

If the State has any real legal existence with powers to regulate society by its laws, then there can be no question as to its rights in the premises, and the utter want of authority on the part of Gen. Sickles or any other officer to interfere.

We confess to a feeling of shame when we contemplate the lack of firmness and manliness, displayed in regard to this question.—But after the submission, in Wake County, to interferance by the military, in a case of ejectment, we do not know what to be surprised at in these times."

—On Friday night last the store of Messrs. Lord and Palmer of Goldsboro' was robbed of about $500 worth of goods.

—The Newberne *Journal of Commerce* states that on Thursday last North-Carolina sent to Norfolk, Va., for exportation 1241 bales of cotton, 1,447,000 shingles, 120,090 staves, 135 bbls. rosin, 250 bbls. tar, besides an endless variety of other descriptions of country produce in similar quantities.

—At the sale of Linwood, Dr. Holt's fine plantation, the lands brought from $17 to $35 per acre, a fine stallion $300, and blooded cows from $25 to $45. Taken altogether there was a bad average and the property went at a sacrifice.

—Prof. Kerr, State Geologist, has returned from his tour through Western Carolina. He reports most favorably of the vast mineral wealth of that section.

—Hons. Thos. Ruffin and D. L. Swain accompanied Gov. Worth to Washington City, as associate commissioners.

—Rev. R. H. Mason, Jr., of this City, has been called to take charge of an Episcopal Church at Bath, Va.

—The Charlotte *Times* of the 14th inst., contains the following items:

"205 bales changed hands yesterday, being the largest amount in any one day since the war. A large amount of corn was also in the market which brought, on an average $1.40 per bushel. The stores were crowded and large bills made. Christmas is coming, and despite the political gloom, we are making the most of the advantages that a merciful God has bestowed upon our section, in giving us a rich and productive soil and a genial and healthy climate. Taken altogether, yesterday was much the finest day we have known in many years."

"The Cross Mineral well, the result of some strange freak of nature, is distant about two miles from Charlotte and the place might be made one of the greatest watering places in the country. It is fifty-six feet deep and yields an unfailing supply of water. The medicinal properties of the water are unquestioned and several cures have been effected thereby. It is strongly impregnated with iron, sulpher and potassium, and after drinking leaves a taste in the mouth not distinguishable from that of tincture of iron."

—And the following we clip from the Greensboro *Patriot*:

"We learn that H. Julian, of Randolph, killed, in that county a few days ago an eagle measuring seven feet from tip to tip, length of talons eight inches, the bird weighing ten pounds."

"We are pleased to learn that the Gardner-Hill Mine is regularly shipping copper ore, of a superior quality to Baltimore."

—The Salisbury *North State* thus echoes our sentimen ts in relation to the adjournment of the General Assembly:

"It will be seen by reference to the proceedings of the House of Commons on Tuesday, that Mr. Lowe, of Davidson, introduced a very sensible "bill for the relief of the people"—a proposition to adjourn *sine die* on the 17th inst. When we consider that the salary of the members is $6 per day, and that of the speakers and principle clerks $10 per day, and that the Legislature has accomplished all that it is likely to accomplish for the State, this would be a considerable "relief." Mr. Lowe will be sustained in this act by his constituents."

—The Newberne *Journal of Commerce* of the 14th says:

"An order issued under instructions from Gen. Daniel E Sickles, Departmental commander, was, yesterday afternoon, served upon County Solicitor and Sheriff, to stay execution of corporeal punishment upon the person of a negro sentenced to be whipped for chicken stealing.

This order is intended to apply to all cases of corporeal punishment in the State Courts. Upon its receipt a motion was made by Solicitor Green to adjourn *sine die*, but after argument in opposition thereto Messrs. Washington, Haughton and Hubbard, the court adjourned until this morning, when the question will be further discussed."

A Convention of the Lutheran church assembled in Philadelphia on the 12th inst.—Thirteen orthodox synods in the United States and Canadas were represented, there being over one hundred delegates present.

The governor of Missouri has been compelled to call out twenty-four companies of cavalry and a regiment of infantry, State troops, to preserve order in those "portions of the State, infested by murderers, who defy civil authority and have the sympathy and aid of a number of people in the Counties where they have their haunts." The adjutant General is instructed to organize and equip this force.

The Governor of Georgia has vetoed the Stay Law, and the lower House of its Legislature voted down a Bankrupt bill.

The evacuation of the larger towns and cities of Mexico, by French troops, is rapidly progressing.

Permanent military parts are being established at Granada, Jackson, Vicksburg and Nachez, Miss.

It is probable that the services of all the female clerks in the Treasury department, Washington, will soon be dispensed with.

Four hundred pounds sterling of Confederate gold has been turned over to the U. S. government by an English banking company.

For the Standard.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT MURDER.—We learn that about 7 o'clock on Thursday evening last, Col. H. Brady, Superintendent of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refuges and Abandoned Lands for this district in the State of North-Carolina, was assaulted in his room at Mr. W. D. Haywood's house, in this City.

The facts occurred as follows: An unknown citizen came to the door and inquired for Col. Brady, who met him. He asked the Colonel to walk to his office to transact business. Tea being ready the Colonel declined, and the stranger entered the sitting-room and sat until tea was over. After tea the Colonel still declined to go out, and invited the stranger up stairs to his room. After they entered the assailant locked the door and drawing a revolver advanced, when a scuffle ensued lasting some time, in which Col. Brady succeeded in mastering his opponent and escaping unharmed. The assailant also passed out of the house, without being arrested, saying that if Col. Brady had not given the sign of Master Mason he would have killed him—which the Colonel denies.

He gave his name as Waterbury from Fayetteville, and also that he had been badly treated in prison at Point Lookout, and had determined to be revenged for it.

Advices from Goldsboro', a day or two after, seem to show that the proposed assassination was known in that place, before its attempted commission. A FRIEND.

Raleigh, Dec. 17th, 1866.

Southerners Emigrating to the West.

About seventy-five more emigrants from North-Carolina to Indiana passed through Baltimore yesterday, making three or four parties who have traveled over the same route in a short time. Not less than three thousand emigrants from the Old North State have gone West since the close of the war, and among them are some of the most energetic and industrious citizens of the State. It must be a sad condition of affairs which brings about this depopulation, at a time when North Carolina, if common with her sister States, rather needs an influx of just such men as are leaving her borders. Unless wisdom and justice prevail in the South, and prompt and vigorous measures are taken to produce a counter-movement to offset this emigration, that section must assuredly drift still further behind in the race of progress and improvement. The sooner the leading men there realize this fact, the better it will be for themselves and the South. —*Wash. Star, Dec. 13th.*

GOVERNOR PATTON, of Alabama, an eldely gentleman, not, we believe of any profession but an honorable and successful business man, is the first of the Southern governers to see the political folly of his people in refusing to ratify the constitutional amendment, and has had the sense and courage to fall out of line, and even to be inconsistent with himself, for, repudiating his message on the opening of the session, he has sent a special to the Legislature recommending that Alabama should adopt the amendment lest a worse thing befall her. This the Legislature has refused to do, though it is possible they might if they knew how ardently the people they hate here in the North are hoping that they will not. North Carolina has rejected the amendment, and the Raleigh *Sentinel*, Governor Worth's organ, the organ of the late secessionists, gravely explains its opposition by startting that it objects on principle from habit, too, it might have said, if it were not for some recent difficulties— to any measure which look-to the injury of the old Government.—*Nation, Dec. 13th.*

THE RAT NUISANCE.—Catching rats is often difficult, as old rats are proverbially cunning. Laying around poison is dangerous not alone, but also objectionable, for the reason that rats may die at inaccessible spots and contaminate the atmosphere with the well-known detestable odor. A better plan has been adopted by one of our correspondents, by which he takes advantage of the cunning habits of the rats. He covers the floor near the rat hole with a thin layer of moist caustic potash; when the rats walk on this it makes their feet sore; these they lick with their tongues; it makes their mouths sore, and the result is that they shun this locality not alone, but appear to tell all the neighboring rats about it, and eventually the house is entirely abandoned by them, notwithstanding the neighborhood may be teeming with rats.

RISTOR MAKES A SPEECH.—Madame Ristori closed her engagement at the National Theatre, Washington, on Saturday evening, appearing in her great character of "Elizabeth" to a crowded house. She was called before the curtain, and made the following farewell speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen: My reception at Washington has impressed me profoundly. The Capital of this wonderful nation, the great names of the past and the present that consecrate it, inspire a thousand emotions. I can speak but one—God bless America!

A Washington letter referring to this speech says it was "of twenty-nine seconds duration, which took her two days to commit to memory, in order to speak it in the English language. Manager Grau kindly furnished the newspaper fraternity wish copies of the speech ten hours in advance of its delivery."

FLORIDA.

Troubles in Regard to Confiscated Property—The Presence of Troops Still Required.

NEW ORLEANS, December 12—Official accounts from Florida indicate considerable ill feeling between citizens there, arrising from the possessions of confiscated property Parties who purchased real estate at Confederate confiscation sales refuse to relinquisl their claims to refugee owners. The court in some counties have sustained the holder of such property, but issued writs of ejectment against persons holding property confiscated and sold by the United States General Foster, commanding the State thinks that the troops cannot be safely removed.

RE-ORGANIZATION.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN NORTH-CAROLINA.

Mr. Stevens (Rep., Pa.) introduced a bill on the 13th inst., reinstating Civil Government in North-Carolina, to enable it to resume its former relations as one of the consitutent States of the American Union. He stated that he did so at the request of several gentlemen from North-Carolina. Read twice, referred to the Committee on Territories, and ordered to be printed.

The following is the bill:

A Bill to establish civil government in North-Carolina, and enable it to resume its former relations as one of the constituent States of the American Union.

WHEREAS, On the 20th day of May, 1861, the citizens of North-Carolina, one of the United States of America, did rebel against the Government of the United States, and on the said 20th day of May and thereafter, did violently set aside and destroy the organized Constitutional Government of the said State, and did engage with others in armed hostility and warfare to maintain their said action; and

WHEREAS, After the lapse of more than four years the United States by force of arms, having succeeded in quelling said rebellion and disarming such insurgent citizens, did find in said district formerly comprising the State of North-Carolina, no government organized or officers qualified according to the requirements of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States by virtue of his power as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy under the operation of martial law, for the purpose of preserving peace and order, and of relieving his subordinate military officers from executing details of civil regulations in the several and widely separated localities in the district, did, under forms and rules by him prescribed, authorize certain citizens of the district to assume the execution of said purpose of preserving peace and order under the protection and sanction of the military authority; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty of the Congress of the United States to preserve the said district, and the loyal citizens thereof, as one of the United States of America, and by law to cause to be organized therein a government republican in form, based on the civil and law making power of the nation; therefore,

Be it enacted, etc., That on the 20th day of May, 1867, at the hour of 12 o'clock, meridian, there shall be assembled at the State House in the city of Raleigh, a Convention of the loyal citizens of the district formerly comprising the State of North-Carolina, composed of 120 delegates, to be chosen by voters qualified as hereinafter provided; and each county in said district shall be entitled to send to said Convention the same number of delegates that it was entitled to send members to the House of Commons of the State of North-Carolina prior to the 20th day of May, 1861; and a majority of the delegates elected to said Convention shall constitute a quorum, and be invested with the sovereign power of the people of the district to frame a State Constitution, which shall be submitted to the Congress of the United States for approval, modification or rejection, preparatory to the re establishment of the said State, and the re-investing its loyal citizens with all of the rights, privileges and immunities appertaining to the citizens of the other States of the Union; and that said Convention shall have power and authority to do all other acts which by the recognized principles of republican government sovereign Conventions of the people of the States may of right do; provided that in case no quorum shall assemble on the said 20th day of May, any less number of delegates assembled may adjourn from day to day until such time as a quorum may assemble for the transaction of business.

Second: That, in the election of delegates to said Convention there shall be allowed to vote all male resident citizens of the district formerly comprising the State of North Carolina, of the age of twenty-one years, without distinction of race or color, who can read or write, or may own in fee real estate of the assessed value of $100, or more: Provided, That no one who has heretofore exercised the right of suffrage in said district shall be disqualified from voting in said election.

Third: That the qualifications for the delegates to the said Convention shall be the same as were required for members of the House of Commons of the State of North-Carolina, immediately previous to the 20th of May, 1861, upon the taking and subscribing, before the Judge of the District Court of the United States for the District of North-Carolina, or some other officer of the United States authorized to administer oaths, the following oath, to wit:

I do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God (or affirm as the case may be), that on the fourth day of March, 1864, and at all times thereafter, I would willingly have complied with the requirements of the Proclamation of the President of the United States issued on the eighth day of December, 1863, had a safe opportunity of doing so been afforded me. That on the said fourth day of March, 1864, and at all times thereafter, I was opposed to the continuation of the Rebellion, and to the establishment of the so-called Confederate Government, and voluntarily gave no aid or encouragement thereto, but earnestly desired the success of the Union and the suppression of all armed resistance to the Government of the United States; and that I will henceforth faithfully support the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of States thereunder.

And no person shall be allowed to sit or act as a delegate in said Convention, or hold any office or appointment thereunder, until he shall have taken and subscribed the above oath in the manner and form as above provided.

Fourth: That it shall be the duty of the Judge of the District Court, or other officer before whom such oath is proposed to be taken, whenever he may suspect it is about to be taken falsely by any person, to put to such person any question under oath, and to hear any other evidence that may tend to satisfy him as to the propriety of administering it. And if, in his judgment, the person cannot truthfully take the oath, he may refuse to administer it. And should any person falsely take said oath, he shall be indicted and prosecuted in the Circuit Court of the United States, held in the district in which the offense may be committed, for the crime of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced to and receive such punishment as now attaches to the crime of perjury. And in the trial of such indictment, no person shall be qualified to sit upon the jury until he shall have taken said oath, and the Court may require any juror to take it, unless he swear that he cannot truthfully do so.

Fifth: That it shall be the duty of the President of the United States to direct and require the United States Marshal for the District of North Carolina to appoint for each county in said district one Deputy Marshal, and the Deputy Marshal so appointed shall, each in his respective county, appoint keepers and inspectors of polls and other necessary assistants, and on the first day of May, 1867, the said Deputy Marshals shall each open polls in their respective counties for the election of delegates to said Convention at such places, and shall conduct the election and give certificates of election, under such rules and regulations, except as herein otherwise provided, as were prescribed for the election of members of the House of Commons by the laws of the State of North Carolina immediately previous to the 20th day of May, 1861, and any person who shall be appointed Deputy Marshal, or Inspector, or Inspector, or Keeper of the Polls, as aforesaid, and who shall refuse or neglect to perform the duties required of him under this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof before the United States Circuit Court, held in the district of North-Carolina, shall be fined such sum, or imprisoned for such time as the Court in its discretion shall fix.

Sixth. That the said deputy marshals, keepers and inspectors of polls, and other necessary assistants shall receive the sum of five dollars per day, for every day they may be engaged in the discharge of their duties under this act, to be ascertained and paid by the United States Marshal of the district under the order of the District Judge. And the United States Marshal in addition to his present salary and fees, shall receive such compensation for the discharge of his duties under this Act, as Congress may hereafter allow; and the Treasurer of the United States shall pay to the United States Marshal of said District, upon the order or requisition of said Judge, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums of money from time to time, as may be necessary for carrying out the foregoing provisons.

Seventh. That the present organization set up under martial law by the military power of the President, and all officers in said district charged with the execution of civil regulations therein, except the regular officers of the United States, shall cease to be such, and their functions and powers shall terminate at such time as may be provided by the said Convention after the recognition and approval by Congress of the State Constitution and civil government provided for and sought to be established under this act.

Eighth. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, and it shall be his duty, so to dispose and employ the military and naval forces of the United States, from time to time, and in such places, as to enforce the prompt and efficient execution of the provisions of this act; and to preserve peace and order, and obedience to the laws of the United States, in the said district, formerly comprising the State of North Carolina.

Another Bill.

Mr. Julian's bill for fixing civil governments in districts lately in revolt against the United States and for the restoration of the said districts to their forfeited rights as States in the Union introduced on the 14th inst., and referred, is in substance as follows:

Whereas, the people of the districts lately in revolt against the United States by their act of treason and rebellion against the same have no civil government within their borders, and have no power to restore such government without the intervention of Congress. Whereas, the governments inaugurated in said districts by the President are *defacto* and provisional only, having no validity whatever save in the continual acquiescence of Congress. And whereas, the restoration of civil government in said districts on just principle, and by authority of the nation, is imperatively demanded, by the lawless disposition of their people and the best interests of the whole country:

Therefore, section one, provides that North-Carolina, South Carolina, Geoagia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Virginia, be and are hereby erected into temporary territorial governments, under the names by which they have heretofore been known as States.

Secton two, vests the Executive power in each of the territories in a Governor who shall hold office—years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President. The Governors of said territories to reside within the bonndaries of the same, be Commander of the militia thereof and exercise generally all the powers of Governors of territories, including the pardoning and veto powers.

Section third, provides for the appointment of a Secretary for each of the said territories with the usual dates and authority.

Section fourth provides that the legislative power shall consist of the Governor and Legislative Assembly. To consist of Senate and House of Representatives. The members of which are to possess the qualifications prescribed for voters previous to the first election. The Governor shall cause a census of the inhabitants to be made, fix time and places for election of Legislative Assembly, to meet within ninety days after the first election.

Section five provides that Senators and Representatives should be elected by loyal male citizens of the United State over twenty-one, and residents of the county, parish, township or ward in which they offer to vote. Who shall take the oath of allegiance prescribed by Congress July 2, 1862, but no person who has held or exercised any office civil or military in the State or Confederate Government, under rebel usurpation, or who has voluntarily borne arms against the United States, shall vote or to be eligible to be elected at such election.

Section six, authorizes the Governor, by the advice of the Territorial Legislature, to appoint all officers of the Territory not provided for in this bill, and until the election of such Legislature, to make such appointments by himself.

Section seven, provides Courts and Judicial machinery for the Territories.

Section eight, provides for the appointment of Attorneys and Marshals.

Section nine, directs that the Governor, Associate Justices, the Attorney and Marshal of each of these Territories shall be nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the President.

Section ten, authorizes the seats of Government to be fixed by the Legislatures, and provides for the election of a delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States, from each Territory, by the voters qualified to vote for Legislators.

Section eleven, provides that the Constitution and laws of the United States shall have the same force and effect in these Territories as elsewhere in the United States.

Section twelve, authorizes the people of the said territories to form for themselves State governments, under the names which they bore before the rebellion, which are to be admitted equal with other States in the Union.

Section thirteen, prescribes the qualifications for voters for Legislators are made the qualifications for voters for the State Convention. Citizens of the Territories enlisted in the military or naval service of the United States, are authorized to vote at the place of service.

Section fourteen, provides for the meeting and mode of conducting the State Convention.

North-Carolina demands a Republican Government from the American Congress.

Hon Thaddeus Stevens yesterday reported a bill in the House of Representatives to establish civil government in North-Carolina and enable it to resume its former relations as one of the constituent States of the American Union, which is calculated to produce tremendous and most salutary results. It is the beginning of the work of thorough reconstruction. The proposition originated among the people of North-Carolina, and is advocated by many of their best and most patriotic citizens. It is not the dictation of an accidental President, or the patchwork of outside politicians, but the product of their own stern necessities—the remedy, in a word, for the severe sufferings inflicted by the rebellion upon all classes in the South, loyal and disloyal, rich and poor, the former slave and the ruined master. All other expedients having failed, the people of North-Carolina have at last adopted "a republican form of government" as the swift and certain remedy for their grievances. This is the infallible panacea. They are invited to use it by the highest authorities. "A republican form of government" is "guaranteed" to every State in the national Constitution, and when their "State" was destroyed, or deprived of all equal or safe rule, and a spurious and savage government set up instead of that under which they had long lived so happily, they had no other resort but to demand the fulfilment of the constitutional "guarantee." The present Executive has solemnly pledged himself to defend all those who should demand such institutions in the seceded sections, and though he may attempt to repudiate what he so deliberately recommended and reiterated, his plan is not less effective because conceived in honesty and deserted in treason. Thus invited, the North-Carolina people call upon Congress to pass the bill introduced by Mr. Stevens. When that is done, they propose to begin at the beginning, and to carry on the work till all