

TERMS:

SUBSCRIPTION—Two Dollars a year, if paid in advance; Two Dollars and Fifty Cents if payment be delayed two months, and Three Dollars if not paid till the expiration of the year.

The War Question.

Although the indications presented by the intelligence which we published yesterday, are, we own, of a most unfavorable character to the prospects of peace, we have not yet lost faith in the chances of some solution being found which will avert the dire alternative to which they seem to point.

The affairs of Europe have, in fact, arrived at a crisis which will no longer admit of palliatives or temporary expedients. Something must be done quickly, and done effectually, to put an end to a state of things which menaces the peace of the world and paralyzes its commercial operations.

It is evident that the Emperor of Russia has been all along counting on the impossibility of a cordial union being maintained between the governments of England and France, from the traditional animosity which has so long existed between the people of the two countries.

He has been several terms in the Legislature, and in Congress—but what did he ever do in either body, that marked him as a man of firmness of purpose and great strength of intellect? But all personal objections aside, what are the General's views upon State policy and constitutional reform?

It will be seen from this rapid retrospect that the distribution of the social and political elements of Europe is entirely changed at the present day, and there is no more or less of a league amongst the masses against the barbarous principles of despotism on which the Government of Russia is based.

The failure of the Czar to induce the German Powers to abandon their neutral position for active co-operation, is therefore to be attributed less to any want of sympathy for his cause than to a wholesome dread of the enormous force of popular opinion, wielded by a France and England, the two great representatives in Europe of the parliamentary elective systems of government.

It is not likely that in the presence of such a combination the Czar will persevere in his insane

projects. Should, however, all efforts at negotiation fail, he will probably, to save the honor of his arms, maintain a contest of a few months' duration; but he will eventually have to yield to the immense force that will be brought to bear against him.

CHARLOTTE:

FRIDAY MORNING, MAR. 3, 1854.

The Whig State Convention.

This body met in the Capital on the 21st ultimo, and the result of their labor is before us. The Star says it was one of the largest, most talented, and respectable bodies that ever assembled in the State.

Gentle reader, who do you suppose it nominated?—General Alfred Dockery, of Richmond. "Oh! what a fall was there my countrymen!"—He is the acknowledged head and front of the great Whig party that was.

After passing a string of Resolutions, one of which we propose to comment upon, the Convention unanimously nominated "the old war-horse," and he is now on the turf. The redoubtable General is notoriously known to many of our readers, having canvassed this District for Congress in 1851.

Upon what grounds the Wilmington Herald denounces him the representative of the people, in contradistinction to his Democratic opponent, we should be glad to know? What has he ever done to identify himself peculiarly with the masses?

Gen. Dockery the people's representative! In what does it consist? In his efforts to oppress the poor, and exalt the rich? In his denying the poor man the right to vote for Senator, because he happens not to have fifty acres of land?

Is General Dockery qualified to fill the Executive office of the State? What great measure has he ever originated, or carried through by his talents? Is physical strength to enable him to canvass, and low demagogism the only prerequisite for a Whig candidate for that responsible office?

He has been several terms in the Legislature, and in Congress—but what did he ever do in either body, that marked him as a man of firmness of purpose and great strength of intellect? But all personal objections aside, what are the General's views upon State policy and constitutional reform?

What Constitutional reform does it mean? Is the Whig Convention in favor of a change in the basis upon which the school fund is distributed? Is it in favor of giving the election of Judges, Solicitors and other public officers to the people?

The plan then, pursued by the Whig Convention, has two serious objections;—first, its impracticability; and secondly, if the difficulty in the way could be removed, its expensiveness and delay. The plan favored by the Democratic party is the best, for it is the cheaper, more expeditious, and is, in a word, the one pointed out by the Constitution itself, and received the sanction of such names as Macon and Gaston.

The Committee of Arrangements appointed by the meeting on the 18th ult., is requested to assemble at J. W. OSBORN'S office, Wednesday, 8th instant, at half past one o'clock, p. m.

Rough Notes on the Anties.

We extract from the National Intelligence, of the 15th of January, some sketches taken from The Report of Lieut. Gibbon, U. S. Navy, just ordered to be printed by Congress, as a Second Part of the Amazon Expedition.

This officer made a very extended exploration by land and water through Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil—passing numerous heads of large rivers, in sections of country very little frequented, by foreigners, since the conquest of South America by the Spaniards—descending the perilous falls of Madeira River, to the Amazon.

In passing among various tribes and languages of the aboriginal people, we understand, he describes a condition of manners and customs, in many respects, similar to those encountered by the European conquerors of Peru; and exhibits illustrations of their native peculiarities, and of the superb varieties of the scenery. To judge, by the specimen we present, the writer, has a facility to describe curious scenes and objects in an attractive manner.

We learn his Report abounds with drawings, with original maps; and that he designates a contrast in civilization, to that of the aborigines of the northern part of the American continent.

Celebration—20th of May.

On Saturday, the 18th ult., a meeting of the citizens of Mecklenburg was held for the purpose of making arrangements to celebrate in a becoming manner, the approaching 20th of May. We regret to say there was a very thin turnout, and if more spirit is not manifested the idea had better be abandoned.

That day is the proudest epoch in American history, and the names that figured there are already engraved on fame's unmelting pillar. They periled their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor—braved the halter and the scaffold to announce that great and fundamental truth that man is, and of right ought to be free—planted the tree of liberty, and prepared the way for the establishment of this, the Model Republic of the world.

When the descendants and inheritors of this priceless boon, are called upon to contribute their mite towards commemorating the deeds of those immortal worthies, and perpetuating their memories, will they suffer the secular concerns of earth to prevent them from laying their gift on the altar of the past. If we take the meeting of Saturday as a test, it would seem so. We agree with the eloquent gentleman (Dr. Pritchard), who opened the meeting, "that it was a shame, a burning disgrace, that we who now trample upon the very soil consecrated by the patriotic sacrifices, and hallowed by the blood of the authors of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, should be so lukewarm and indifferent, on a subject that should arouse every emotion of our soul."

The meeting adjourned to assemble again in March, and we hope that it will be fully attended, and every one present will be inspired with a spirit of liberality and patriotism that will speed on the good work, and give an earnest that the day will be celebrated in a manner worthy of the deeds it commemorates, and of the names that have shed such an undying lustre upon our revolutionary struggle.

Those names that are written in records sublime, In the utmost corners of the earth And beam 'til the wreck of expiring time, O'er the glorified land of their birth.

Charlotte Market.

Very little Cotton coming in this week—market dull—price from 64 to 8, according to quality. Flour, per barrel, from 6 to 6½; in sacks, from 3 to 3¼ per hundred.

Corn readily brings 75 cents, and in demand. Meal, 80 to 85 cents, trade active. Bacon, from 8 to 8½, hog round. Salt, 2½ per sack, large supply on hands.

Something Nice.

Our friend, Mr. L. S. Williams, has placed upon our table a plug of Calhoun Tobacco, manufactured by that enterprising firm, D. H. Spencer & Co., of Henry County, Va. This Tobacco is acknowledged to be the finest and best flavored that is made in the Country.

We learn from the Danville Republican, that this firm have been paying as high as \$45 per cwt., for a large portion of the Tobacco they are manufacturing this season. To those who are fond of the weed we can safely recommend this brand. It may be had at the Drug Store of Pritchard & Caldwell, Irwin, Huggins & Co., and M. H. Peoples & Co.'s. If King James could have tried this, his philippic would never have appeared.

Bryan & Thompson have now in store a supply of the best Wines and Segars, that La Belle France, and the Queen of the Antilles can furnish. We speak by the book. These gentlemen have just uncorked for our especial benefit, a bottle of Heidsieck Champagne, which for sparkle and delicious taste is incomparable—and have also placed upon our table a bunch of the Rio Hondo Segars, which, for flavor and taste entitles them to be puffed by all lovers of the luxury. These gentlemen have on hand, Segars and Wines of every favorite brand, and for their courteous and gentlemanly deportment deserve encouragement.

New Goods.

Spratt, Daniel & Co., are receiving their stock of new and beautiful Spring Goods. The Senior partner is now in the Northern cities, and the styles and patterns that will be fashionable this season will be found upon their shelves. This is a very favorite house with the ladies, and their selections this Spring being more varied and extensive, will increase the reputation and add lustre to the well-earned reputation this firm has heretofore enjoyed. Call and see them.

Our Book Table.

Godey for March has been received. The Editor asks if there has been any falling off in the number of pages of the Magazine—and we might ask of interest or beauty either, and receive an equally emphatic no.

This is really a beautiful number, highly embellished, and filled with choice miscellaneous and literary articles of taste and merit. The colored fashion plates, cottage printed in colors, and exquisite engraving of "selling the wedding ring, a love token," are among the items that add interest and give beauty to this incomparable Ladies Magazine. Godey's Lady's Book is far ahead of any other periodical published, and is indispensable to ladies of taste and fashion. Address L. A. Godey, No. 113 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. \$3 per annum in advance.

The Concord Weekly Gazette.

We have received the first number of this paper, published in Concord, N. C., by Mr. JAMES M. HENDERSON, and place it upon our exchange list with pleasure. It is a very handsome, well printed sheet, Whig in politics. We wish the Proprietor much pecuniary success.

Since our last issue, Messrs. Badger and Kerr, have made able and effective speeches in favor of the Nebraska bill. That portion of the Whig press, of this State, who have been prating so much about bad faith, and impugning the motives of the gallant Douglas, now find themselves in rather an uncomfortable fix. Will they still insist that the horse is seventeen feet high—or will they have the boldness to retract their error, and give that support to the bill which it will receive from every southern representative in either House of Congress. What a pity Badger did not speak sooner. How much explanation and useless shedding of ink it would have saved. He should have by all means succeeded sooner.

We were visited on Saturday night last with one of the heaviest falls of water that we have had in twenty years. It commenced about 8 o'clock at night, and poured in torrents until after daylight on Sunday morning. The Catawba River was higher than at the great freshet in 1840. The Railroad Bridge over that river we are happy to state stood unmoved "amid the hell of waters that boiled and dashed" against its solid abutments—the damage to the road was very slight. The Greenville Road was not so fortunate—we learn from the Carolinian that about seven hundred feet of the trestle work has been washed away, carrying with it fourteen cars loaded with lumber which had been placed on the trestle to keep it from moving.

We learn from a passenger who came up on the Wednesday's train, that Mr. HALL, an Agent on the Charlotte & S. C. Railroad, in attempting to jump off the cars while in motion, received a very severe injury. This was an imprudent and unnecessary risk, and we hope the accident will deter others from making a similar attempt.

We learn from the South-Carolinian that Mr. NIMS, of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, has been appointed General Transportation Agent on the Charlotte Road. Mr. Nims is spoken of as a man of great sagacity and practical sense, and his appointment and acceptance of the post will infuse new confidence and energy into the business transactions of the Road.

Judge Douglas's Bill.

All accounts warrant us in cherishing the belief that this bill for the final settlement of the vexed question of slavery by expelling the whole subject from Congress, and permitting it to rest for the future upon the republican basis of self-government, will pass Congress and become the law of the land.

It is with the deepest regret and sorrow that we observe the efforts that are being made to make a party issue of it, that as a prolific source of Presidential capital, it may be reserved for exercising its pernicious but powerful influence in the canvass of '56.

The Missouri Compromise was doubtless entered into by patriotic men of all parties and sections with the most commendable inducements and anticipations. It was thought, and by Southern men, that it would forever heal the wound which the agitation of the subject had inflicted upon and admiration and regard then entertained for our Federal Union.

Such was the spirit, such the hopes which animated the endorsers of that Compromise, (as it has been misnamed.) Time has passed on, and to attain the epoch of its passage we have now to gaze through the mist of 34 years. How worthy and yet how vain was the spirit! How nobly cherished, and yet how sadly disappointed were the hopes! They were wise men, but they failed to fathom how deeply and how firmly the anti-slavery sentiment had become radicated in the hearts of the Northern people.

Such was the spirit, such the hopes which animated the endorsers of that Compromise, (as it has been misnamed.) Time has passed on, and to attain the epoch of its passage we have now to gaze through the mist of 34 years. How worthy and yet how vain was the spirit! How nobly cherished, and yet how sadly disappointed were the hopes! They were wise men, but they failed to fathom how deeply and how firmly the anti-slavery sentiment had become radicated in the hearts of the Northern people.

To abrogate this restriction, the south almost to a man irrespective of parties, together with patriotic men of the North are now making every effort. The Bill, at first met with no opposition except from abolitionists. A prominent Whig from Kentucky, Mr. Dixon, one of the Senators from that State, with a spirit which cannot be too highly commended, most cheerfully declared his approval of it. We believe that the majority, may the whole body of the Southern Whigs will support it, if it is not made a party issue. To prevent this, the Washington Sentinel has used the most patriotic efforts. But we are sorry to see that its contemporaries the Union and Intelligence have not been actuated by the same motives. The former declares it a "test of true democracy" to support the Bill. The Sentinel takes the position very justly that it is not a test of democracy, but of patriotism and equity to the South. Judge Douglas's speech should be published in every paper in the State, that the people may be thoroughly acquainted with the whole history of this important subject.—Wilmington Register.

Public Meeting.

A meeting of the citizens of Mecklenburg County was held in the Court-House, on the 18th of February, 1854, to make arrangements for the celebration of the 20th of May.

On motion, Robert D. Alexander, Esq., was called to the chair, and Samuel J. Lowrie was requested to act as Secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained in some eloquent remarks by Dr. H. M. Pritchard. On motion, R. P. Waring, A. C. Williamson, Esqs., and Dr. Robert Gibbon were appointed a committee to prepare Resolutions for the action of the meeting.

The Committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted: Resolved, That the citizens of Mecklenburg will celebrate the approaching anniversary of the 20th of May, 1775, in a manner worthy of the illustrious event consummated on that day and worthy of themselves and their glorious ancestry.

Resolved, That in order to accomplish our purpose, the Chairman of this meeting be requested to appoint two committees, as follows:

1. A committee of ten, to be called "the committee of invitation and correspondence," whose duty it shall be to extend special invitations to all the distinguished native sons of North Carolina in other States, and to the descendants of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, wherever they may be found.

2. A committee of fifty-six to be called "the Committee of Arrangements," who shall make all needful preparations for the due celebration of the day.

Resolved, That we extend a cordial invitation every resident of the old North State and all of her sons and daughters wherever they may be, to meet with us on that day and partake of its festivities and its hallowed recollections.

Resolved, That the County of Cabarrus and the Mecklenburg portion of Union County, which Counties were a part of the Mecklenburg of 1775, be requested to co-operate with us in the contemplated celebration, once more "like kindred drops mingling into one."

The following gentlemen, by appointment under the 2nd resolution, constitute "the Committee of Invitation and Correspondence":

For Mecklenburg County.—Jas. W. Osborne, Wm. Johnston, G. W. Caldwell, C. J. Fox, R. P. Waring, A. C. Williamson.

For Cabarrus County.—Rufus Barringer, Dr. L. S. Bingham.

For Union County.—D. A. Covington, Samuel H. Walkup.

The following gentlemen constitute "the Committee of Arrangements": For Mecklenburg County.—W. M. Matthews, John Walker, J. B. Robison, Dr. William A. Ardrey, Silas Alexander, Thos. P. Grier, Samuel Berryhill, A. B. Davidson, D. A. Caldwell, William Patterson, James Johnston, R. L. de Armer, C. B. McGinniss, E. N. Hutchinson, V. C. Barringer, J. A. Young, T. N. Alexander, William C. Morris, Dr. Robert Gibbon, Dr. Joseph M. Davidson, John L. Springs, A. R. Erwin, Isaac J. Price, Gan. W. H. Neel, W. M. Grier, John P. Ross, Junius M. Alexander, E. C. Davidson, R. W. Alexander, Andrew Springs, E. B. D. Sloan, Ira Parks, S. P. Alexander, W. W. Elms, H. M. Pritchard, Samuel J. Lowrie, William Maxwell, J. A. Fox, John F. Irwin, Miles L. Wriston.

For Cabarrus County.—Dr. K. P. Harris, C. N. White, Caleb Phifer, W. S. Harris, John Shimpeck, D. A. Penick, Robert E. Love, Daniel Coleman.

For Union County.—James M. Dunn, H. M. Houston, J. M. Stewart, D. Rushing, Russell Rodgers, M. L. C. McAuley, Eli Stewart, Col. Thomas C. Wilson.

On motion, the Chairman of this meeting was added to the Committee of Arrangements.

On motion, the proceeding of this meeting were ordered to be published in the North Carolina Whig and in the Western Democrat, with a request that they be copied into every other paper in the State.

R. D. ALEXANDER, Chm'n. S. J. LOWRIE, Sec'y.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—The communications of "M." and "Otto," are filed for insertion and will appear next week.

It is from the Louisville Journal, edited by G. PRINCE, that the following notice is inserted.

"THE CHINESE CHRISTIANS.—Swedenborg seems to have been the only person to whom the fact was known that a body of people professing Christianity live in any part of Tartary. In the year 1770, he declared that the fact of the existence of such a people was made known to him by the spirits in the spiritual world. He moreover declared what portions of the Scriptural writings were in their possession. As a part of what he says was revealed to him has proved to be true, it will not be very wonderful if his entire revelation should be sustained. We have not seen the volume of Swedenborg's writings from which the subjoined extract is taken, but we find the extract in the New-York Day Book, which paper copied it from a volume entitled 'The True Christian Religion.' Here is the extract. 'Concerning that ancient Word which had been in Asia before the Israelitish Word, it is permitted to relate this news, that it is still reserved there, among the people who live in Great Tartary. I have conversed with spirits and angels who were thence, in the spiritual world; who informed me that they possess the Word, and that they have possessed it from ancient times, and that they perform their divine worship according to this Word, and that it consists of mere correspondence. They said that in it also is the book of Jasher, which is mentioned in Joshua, x. 13, 12 and in the second book of Samuel, i. 7, 18; and also, that with them are the books called the Wars of Jehovah and the Enumerations, which are mentioned by Moses, Numbers xxi. 14, 15, and 27 to 30; and when I read to them the words which Moses had taken thence, they looked to see if they were there, and found them; hence it was manifest to me, that the ancient Word is still with them. In conversing with them they said that they worship Jehovah, some as an invisible God, and some as visible.' They further told me that they do not suffer foreigners to come among them, except the Chinese, with whom they cultivate peace; because the Chinese empire is from their country; and also that they are so populous, that they do not believe any country in the whole world to be more populous; which also is credible, from the wall of so many miles, which the Chinese formerly built for their protection against invasion from them. Moreover, I heard from the angels, that the first chapters of Genesis, which treat concerning the creation, concerning Adam and Eve, concerning their sons and posterity till the flood, and likewise concerning Noah and his sons, are also in that Word; and thus that they were copied thence by Moses.' Swedenborg was one of the most extraordinary men that ever lived. He seems to have had almost universal knowledge, and wrote immensely on a large number of religious and scientific subjects. He had the singular good fortune to predict and to describe the discoveries that have since taken place. Many very reasonable circumstances are narrated of him on what appears to be sufficient authority, which go to show that he had more insight into all kinds of subjects than any

other man. His disciples are not very numerous, but they cling to their belief in all that he has written with the most unrelaxing tenacity. Among his followers in this country are several men of eminence who receive his teachings without question."

Why Napoleon Invaded Russia.

A work has been quite recently published in France, by M. Villenain, an ex-professor and ex-minister of State, which throws a strong light on the ulterior objects of the elder Napoleon in his invasion of Russia in the year 1812. As a war between England and Russia is thought by many to greatly endanger the possessions of England in the East, the views of Napoleon, who aimed at this object, present more than usual interest, and will not be deemed out of place at this time to notice, as every idea connected with the present issue or relating to European affairs, as existing on the continent, will be read by the general reader. Among the statesmen in his confidence, to whom he unbosomed himself on that occasion, was M. Talleyrand, the Duke de Bassano and the Count de Narbonne, all of whom counselled against the invasion of Russia. M. Villenain narrates the conversations held by the latter with Bonaparte, who contended that "after all, the long Russian road is the route to India."

Count de Narbonne frankly reasoned against the invasion of Russia. He urged that it would be wiser and safer to command with the French armies the entire course of the Vistula and Niemen than to organize a Polish nation behind that rampart—a Poland able to furnish two hundred thousand soldiers. Russia would not be conquered at Moscow, though Austria and Prussia had been at Vienna and Berlin. A conflict with civilized nations at your door was different from one with semi-barbarism at vast distance. The Russians may have been overcome in Italy, Prussia and Germany; but who knew that they could be in the depths of their own country, armed with their climate, their rugged nature, and fanatical desperation.

Napoleon listened attentively and calmly; he replied, in substance: "You think me wild, but my rashness is calculation; I must strike far off in order to control matters at home. Where should I find a king for Poland? No member of my family is fit; it would be dangerous to take one out of that circle. Barbarous nations are superstitious; a terrible blow once struck at Moscow the great, the holy—the heart of the empire—will deliver into my hands that blind, unelastic mass. I know Alexander; I have possessed an ascendency over him that can be regained; a grand stroke of daring and power will subdue his imagination; he will then yield. That Russian barbarism of which you are afraid, is an inferiority before our tactics and organization.

As for the vast dimensions of Russia, they will afford so many stages the more, to be marked by victories. With such force as I purpose to assemble, and such arrangements as I have in view, I shall not dread her deserts. After all, the long Russian road is the route to India. Alexander reached the Ganges from a point as distant as Moscow. If I had not been baffled at Saint Jean d'Acre, I should have achieved the conquest of Europe. I have explored my line of march; I can get to the British possessions of Erivan and Tiflis. You have heard of the missions of Gardanne and Jaubert in Persia. Suppose Moscow captured—Russia beaten down—Alexander won over, or a victim to some court conspiracy, and Turkey enlisted on my side, as she naturally and necessarily would be—and then tell me whether, for a grand army of French and auxiliaries, access to the Ganges would not be possible. The scaffolding of mercantile greatness when touched by a French sword would fall to the ground over all India. The expedition is gigantic I admit; but it is feasible in the nineteenth century; thus at one dash France would have conquered the independence of the West and the liberty of the seas."

The Emperor of Russia was sick, and had not been seen for some time.

A change is reported in the Turkish Cabinet. Mehemet Ali, the Sultan's brother-in-law, is said to be superseded by Resin, Pacha, and Achmet succeeds Resia as Captain Pacha. Some doubt is thrown on this report.

Great Britain and France continue their armaments on a larger scale. France is making extensive financial arrangements to meet the coming war.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. In the Senate to-day Mr. Cass sustained the Nebraska bill, and Mr. Cooper of Pa. opposed it. The Gadsden Treaty is not yet reported by the committee on Foreign Affairs to the Senate.

The House has fixed on Wednesday for the election of a Printer in the place of Gen. Armstrong deceased.

The Supreme Court has decided the McDonough will case in favor of the cities of New Orleans and Baltimore.

Railroads Behind the Age. Two remarkable experiments in aerostation have highly astonished this city. Of the first I did not write you, for I supposed it a hoax. But it has been repeated since, and an eye witness has told me of the wonderful results. A man enveloped in a net work containing a large number of bladders filled with hydrogen gas, ran, two Sundays ago, down the Champs Elysees at the rate of thirty-five miles an hour. His leaps were enormous. The ascensional power of the gas was not sufficient to carry him up, but it neutralized three-quarters of his weight. Last Sunday he renewed the experiment upon an exterior Boulevard with a little more gas. He made forty miles an hour, and said that with a favorable wind he could easily make forty-five, and beat any locomotive without fatigue.

With the tremendous muscular power possessed by man, it is evident that if he could in any way lengthen his legs, as this evident in reality does, he would realize the fable of the Seven-Leagued Boots. Cauder, the most agile clown of the circus, who was present, agreed, soon, with a similar apparatus, to jump over the Seine. I understand that a dozen machines with improvements are now in course of fabrication, and that the idea of annihilating space has seized upon more than one adventurous brain. As to the aeronautes, they all acknowledge that they may as well burn their balloons."