county exceeding twelve held by them, to be paid by the public treasurer on the first days of January and July in addition to their salary aforesaid, and each week in which a Court shall be held, shall be considered a term." Special terms of the Superior Courts are also held, and for this service a compensation of ninety dollars is given to be paid by the county in which the Court is held. Upon examination it will be found that the amounts thus paid for additional and extra Courts exceed the salary of a single Judge.

The fourth section of the 102d chapter of the Revised Code provides that "every judge shall produce a certificate of the Clerk of each county of his having held the Court of the county according to law; and for every such certificate omitted to be produced, there shall be a deduction from his salary of one hundred dollars." Portions of certain circuits are occupied by the enemy, and it is impossible for the Judges to procure the required certificates. It may be necessary, therefore, to modify this provision to have effect only pending the war.

The Hon Thomas Ruffin, Jr., residing in the fourth judicial circuit, having resigned his place as one of the judges of the Superior Courts of law and equity, my immediate predecessor, with the advice of the Council of State, filled said vacancy by granting a temporary commission to [illegible] Hon John Kerr, of Caswell, which will expire at the end of your present session. It is your duty to fill this vacancy permanently.

The office of Attorney General has been also vacated by the [illegible] Hon W A Jenkins [illegible] the Confederate accepting an office also Solicitors to be elected for the [illegible] States.

There are authorities, a number of citizens of North Carolina, arrested for alleged [illegible] offences. How long they are to remain incarcerated no one can say but those who apprehended them. What their guilt really consists in I do not know, but this much it becomes both you and me to know, in view of the oaths we take upon entering into office, that they were not arrested by lawful process, and as citizens of North Carolina they are entitled under the Constitution to a speedy trial by a jury of their peers, and to be confronted with their accusers. I have laid their cases before his Excellency the President of the Confederate States, and when his reply is received you will be informed thereof. Should there exist any grave State reasons why they are denied a trial, it is due at least that we should be informed of them. I have not seen a certified copy of the act, but learn from the newspapers that Congress has conferred upon the President the power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in all cases of arrests [illegible] authority. If this be true, no more is said from the part of the Executive of the State, at present, than any citizen of the State with or without means, should [illegible] and permit him to languish there without trial—[illegible] I am unwilling, to see surrender [illegible] by [illegible] submit to [illegible] by establishing a precedent [illegible] and permanent [illegible] [illegible] a portion [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]