

THE GLEANER.

T. S. PARKER, Editor.
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A TRIP OFF.

During the past week, we made a trip through the country to the ancient town of Pittsboro, and back by rail by way of Raleigh. On our way down we crossed at the new bridge across Haw river at Saxapahaw, and so far as we could judge, it is in every way a complete substantial structure. In fact there are two bridges here, an island in the river dividing it into two separate streams at this point. The contractors of this bridge, Messrs. Ferrell and Neal are also the contractors for the building of the bridge at the Granite Cotton Factory, which they propose to begin right away. Their well known character as bridge builders and mechanics, and upright men insures for the county good jobs. Everywhere we noticed that the crops were good and from every one we heard that the wheat crop, just harvested, is the best for years past. All the way down, to within a few miles of Pittsboro, we found that the seasons had been good, and there some complaint of dry weather was being indulged, which however was hushed by abundant rain during our stay. The candidates on both sides for convention are out in Chatham, and we were glad to see and hear that the people are alive to the importance of the coming election. On Monday, the 5th, the Hon. John Manning and William Stroud were nominated by the democrats, and on Tuesday, the 6th, the republicans met but made no nomination, Ham Long, Esq., and Maj. R. W. York declaring themselves independent candidates. Those of our democratic friends whom we saw have no doubt about the election of the regular candidates by a handsome majority, on the contrary the republicans seem to think the race will be a very close one. We noticed the damage done the town by the terrible cyclone of last March was in many instances entirely repaired, and in others the work of reparation was going on. The court house has an entire new roof and other repairs which were needed before the storm. The Presbyterian church which had the cupola and roof torn off was being repaired. The old Ramsey hotel property has been bought by a Mr. May who is recovering the buildings and putting the place in order with the view, as we were told, of opening it as a hotel soon.

Mr. M. J. Stone has succeeded Mr. Eubanks as mail contractor from Pittsboro to Lockville, and will very soon, as he informed us, put upon the line a fine new omnibus which he is having built in Fayetteville, and a first rate team. Mr. Eubanks the old contractor is still running his hack for the accommodation of travellers, and there is likely to be lively competition for the patronage of those who may wish to get from Lockville to Pittsboro and return. The Railroad Company has determined to build a depot at Lockville, and a ticket office just on the Haywood side of Deep river. We think the depot much needed. Taking the train we soon found ourselves in Raleigh enjoying a good breakfast at the National hotel, where Col. Brown so successfully exerts himself to make everybody comfortable. We heard complaints of dull times. We called at the News office where we found Maj. Cameron and Capt. Stone hard at work. We were not surprised at this, as their paper gives unmistakable evidence of hard work and lots of it done by some one. We also did ourself the pleasure of calling upon Joe Turner, as he is called by both friends and enemies. We found him more at leisure, it being about his hour to go to press. He says he has dedicated his life to fighting rings, and that he is going to whip them out. We met Gen. W. R. Cox, the Chairman of our Executive Committee, and from him we heard the most cheering news of the prospects of the campaign from all portions of the State. We intend, in spite of radical opposition, to give them, in common with all who do now, or shall hereafter live in the State, the benefits of a good Constitution, that shall be just to all.

TOWNSHIP AND WARD CLUBS.—It is time the township and ward clubs all over the State were fully equipped for the coming election. In a little more than three weeks the campaign will end. If the Conservatives would make sure of its ending in a grand Conservative victory they must put their party in fighting trim. Nothing can be done without organizing. The Radical leaders know the importance of discipline and skilled movements. Is the leadership of the Conservative party any wiser in its day and generation than the leadership of other parties which have triumphed by keeping their files closed and every man at his place in the column?—Star.

Col. Forney George has been nominated for convention by the democrats of Columbus county.

THE COST.

Of all the radicals have to say in opposition to the election of democratic delegates to the convention, there is but one solitary thing that should address itself to the consideration of intelligent men. This is so, for the reason that their other objections consist in declared opposition to what no one is in favor of. Now the matter of cost should always be considered, and much more closely considered than was done by these very carping radicals when they had the power of taxation and appropriation. Many of them dare not face the people and say the Constitution needs no amendment, and such as these at once talk about the legislative mode, and the cost of convention. Now, for a moment let us look at it. Where there is but one or two amendments to be considered the legislative mode would be the proper one, and to such extent was intended to apply, as to the question of free suffrage years ago. For an amendment, or amendments to be made by the legislature that body has to pass them first by a three-fifths vote of all the members in each house, that is three-fifths of all that are entitled to be there.

Now, the several amendments thus proposed must occupy the time of and be discussed by one hundred and seventy legislators, who will be getting, each one, as much pay, as if he were a delegate to a convention, and to make the matter still more tedious and expensive, there are two houses of the legislature, with two sets of door keepers, two sets of clerks, and all the other expenses of two distinct bodies, and there must be an agreement of both Houses. Now in a convention there will be only one hundred and twenty delegate, one set of door keepers, one set of clerks, and the incidental expenses of one body only, and there is but one house to discuss propositions and to agree, thus saving much time and expense. After the legislature has finally, by a three fifths vote, settled down on the amendments it wishes adopted, the work is only begun. These proposed amendments must be published in the newspapers, for six months before another legislature is elected, and after all this delay and expense, legislature No 2 takes these amendments into consideration, and after disagreements, debates and striking out, and sending to the Senate, and to the House and committees of conference, if both Houses agree, by a two-thirds vote of all the members of each, to any of the amendments as theretofore published, then those so agreed to, go to the people for ratification or rejection, and if ratified become a part of the constitution. By the convention mode delegates are elected for the purpose of amending the constitution and no other, and generally speaking, in fact without exception in this State, save always the convention of 1868, a constitutional convention is a superior body to a legislature. We always have in it a large number of our ablest purest and most experienced statesmen.

There are but one hundred and twenty delegates, and they compose but one body, with one set of officers, and amendments are not considered twice, by two separate and distinct legislatures, each divided into two separate and distinct Houses. If any one will take the trouble to think for himself just one minute on the two modes, and has common sense, and will tell the truth, he will say that the mode of amendment by Convention, in all cases where there are more than one, and at most two amendments to be considered, is more expeditious, less expensive, and that the amendments thus made will have the attention and care of more ability and experience than would be the case by the legislative mode. Another thought, in connection with the two provided modes, strikes us with force, and that is, that the Legislature being a department of the government, which in common with all the others, derives its power from the Constitution, and is limited and restrained by it, and thus kept within its proper bounds as a coordinate department of the government is not so proper a body to consider or of any important changes, especially a number of them, as would be a Convention.

No, let the people by Convention make their Constitution, and let it pass the test of individual inspection and ratification by a majority of the voters, and let the Legislature pass wholesome necessary laws under the Constitution, and let the Constitution be so broad and liberal in its provisions as to enable and permit all useful legislation, at the same time protecting every citizen of the State against all encroachments upon his liberty, and the passage of bad laws. Divide Constitution amending, and legislation. It is cheaper, speedier, and entirely more proper that it should be so.

They call him Uncle-Bill, and Old Bill, and Rise Up William, and Uncle William, and the Old Man, and they will continue to poke fun at William Allen until that peaceful man begins to search the Scriptures. Then some fine morning these irreverent Republicans will wake up to find their Hayes cut down and withering.

A PARTY MOVE.

The question of electing delegates to the convention has resolved itself into a party matter as fully as the radical party can make it. Why is this? The radicals themselves cannot deny, and many of them do not attempt to, the necessity for amendments to the present Constitution. A Constitution is for the protection and benefit of all, republican and democrat alike. What ever may be the circumstances attending the election of a delegate, he very much mistakes his duties, and falls far short of a proper appreciation of the responsibilities of his position, if recollections of party affiliations shall be permitted to influence his action. How much better it would have been had all parties united in the call for a convention, and likewise in the selection of delegates thereto. The unkindly feeling, which to some extent is generally incident to campaigns, would have been stily avoided. But the republican party, with a few exceptions would not permit this. We are driven to the conclusion in contemplating the history of that party that its leaders prefer party success to the welfare of the State and the prosperity of its people. They had been beaten, not only in this State but in the great majority of the States in the Union. The leaders had grown rich on offices, many of them useless ones, supplied by the party, in many cases for no other purpose than to reward party favorites, and by the temptation to induce party recruits; and with their gain, questionably obtained perhaps, has grown a greed, that prompts every endeavor to hold on, regardless of every other consideration. They knew there was, or had been, an element in the State, honest well meaning people many of them, who had in the past opposed the call of a convention. They knew that they had seventy or eighty thousand negro votes that they could depend upon without reference to the issues involved. They knew that, with equal disregard to the issues involved, they could depend upon the votes of the great majority of their leaders, for the reason that the great majority of them, in one way or another, are and have been the recipients of rewards from the party, a part of the understood consideration of which is the personal services of the individual, in blind obedience to the commands of the party.

Knowing these things, and acting upon the principle that a drowning man catches at straws, they resolved to make a party question of the approaching election, as being the best chance presented, as poor as it is, of regaining party ascendancy in the State. Their real effort is not against the election of democrats to the convention, only in so far as their defeat will make party capital for them next year, when State and county officers and members of Congress are to elect. It is the struggle of a dying party. A party that has been deserted by many of its former adherents, because of its oppression and tyranny, and corruption and disregard of the public good. Democrats are everywhere being elected by republican votes, that is those who have hitherto been republicans, but whose honesty of purpose forbid their longer acting with a party that had betrayed every trust reposed in it. In the south the republican party, resting upon the negro vote, has a surer foundation than in the North. It is here composed of the office-holders as leaders, the negroes as blind followers, a few Whites who are expecting office, and a number of good honest white men who have not yet been able to disabuse their minds of prejudice, and who are yet kept deceived by the baseless assertions of radical papers, supported by the party, and the unfounded declarations that find their source in radical office-holders. Why could we not have joined together in framing a Constitution for the good of all, and suited to all? That is what the democratic party intends to do, but it would have been so quiet and nice for there to have been no mere party contest in the matter. The radicals would not permit this; they must make party capital if they can.

In Edgefield county, South Carolina, the Grand Jury have returned every official of the county for malfeasance in office, from Sheriff down, all of them charged with fraud, embezzlement, and general corruption. Remember these are the modern Republicans, the model Republicans who once ruled in North Carolina, and who now rule in nearly all the other Southern States. From all those States the great cry comes up of ruin, of plunder, of exorbitant taxation. Remember that in Edgefield these presentments are made by party associates of the offenders driven to action by a system of wrong which has at length embraced friend as well as foe.

This is the party that is trying to get control of North Carolina again.

Fatal Collision on a Railroad.
NEW YORK, July 6th.—Two passenger trains on the South Side road collided near Fort Rockaway.—Twelve passengers were killed and 16 wounded, some of them supposed fatal. —Ex.

THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

Our present constitution provides for the registration of all voters, in the state and this must be done before any one can vote. No one can pretend that this is at all needless or unnecessary. It is a source of expense, not very great it is true, but one that must continue as long as this provision of the constitution remains unchanged. Outside of its expense and uselessness it is a matter of great trouble and annoyance, and not unfrequently deprives one of the right to vote at all. There is a registrar in each township. Whether old or young the first time you expect to vote in a township you must register. If the registrar should refuse you, however clearly entitled you may be, the trouble you are put to is such as to induce ninety-nine out of a hundred, to forego the privilege of voting at all. Of course no one can expect the registrar for a number of days to give up all other business and keep himself at a designated place. When you have traveled it may be eight or ten miles, for the purpose of registering, you frequently find the registrar gone, and you are under the necessity of making another trip, and taking the risk of finding him again absent, or you must give up all expectation of voting that election. We have known numbers of men absolutely disfranchised because of this useless and expensive provision of the present constitution.

When you make your application to vote, if your right to do so is challenged, you have the poll-holders in the presence of all assembled to pass upon your eligibility. Not so if the registrar sees fit to question your right. Alone and privately he passes upon it, unrestrained by the presence and opinions of others.

Such a provision has no business in any Constitution. Should an increased population, and circumstances render such a thing at some future day necessary, why, let the legislature by enactment provide for it. What could have been the object in placing such a provision in the Constitution we are at a loss to see; but then there are many of its provisions that are unaccountable for upon rational grounds. The delegates who framed the Constitution, many of them being fresh from other States, each wanted as it would seem to get a part of the Constitution of his State into that for our State, and some one of the delegates thus slipped in the registration clause. If any one can show a particle of good it does, we should be glad to have it pointed out. It is useless; do away with it, with other useless troublesome matter.

IS A STATE OR FEDERAL OFFICER ELIGIBLE TO A SEAT IN THE CONVENTION?

There is a general impression that State and Federal officers can be members of the Convention and we notice that in several counties, candidates have been put forward, who are office holders. We are fully satisfied from an examination of the Constitution that office holders, either State or Federal, are not eligible to seats in the Convention.

It is true, under the old constitution, if a delegate to a constitutional Convention was not an officer in the eye of the law, he could hold his seat, and be an officer at the same time. The constitution of 1776 provided in sec. 35.

That no person in the State shall hold more than one lucrative office at any one time. Provided that no appointment in the militia or to the office of a Justice of the Peace shall be considered as a lucrative office.

The constitution here expressly provided that no person should hold more than one lucrative office, and under the construction that a delegate to a Convention was not a lucrative office, Judges Gaston, Daniel and other State officers held seats in the Convention of 1835.

The Amended Constitution of 1835 provided in sec. 4. No person who shall hold any office or place of trust or profit under the United States or any department thereof or under this State or any other State or Government, shall hold or exercise any other office or place of trust or profit under the authority of this State, or be eligible to a seat in either House of the General Assembly. Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend to officers in the Militia or Justices of the Peace.

A person holding an office or place of trust shall not hold or exercise any other office or place of trust. It seems plain if there is any meaning in the English language, that this provision excluding all persons holding all office from holding or exercising any place of trust, prohibits a Federal or State officer from holding a seat in the Convention, which, to say the least of it, is a place of trust.

Sec. 7. Art. 14 of the Constitution provides: No person shall hold more than one lucrative office under the State at the same time. Provided that officers in the militia Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of public charities and commissioners appointed for special purposes shall not be considered officers within the meaning of this section.

Under this provision, as in the Constitution of 1776, a person holding an office might be a delegate under the construction that a delegate to a Con-

stitutional Convention only held a place of trust, and is no office holder. But in the Amended Constitution of 1872, under which the present proposed Convention was called and will be held, the above section in the constitution of 1868, was amended and provided as follows: "No person who shall hold an office or place of trust or profit under the United States or any department thereof or under this State or under any other State or Government shall hold or exercise any other office or place of trust or profit under the authority of this State or be eligible to a seat in either House of the General Assembly. Provided that nothing herein contained shall extend to officers of militia—Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Public Charities or Commissioners for special purposes.

This is the law now and so it seems plain to us that no office holder can be a delegate to the State Convention even if such position is no office, and only a place of trust.—Wilson Advance.

REMEMBER

That the election law requires that when a voter is challenged at the polls upon demand of any citizen of the State the Inspectors of the Election are to require said voter before being allowed to vote to prove by the oath of some other person known to the judges the fact of his residence for thirty days previous thereto in the county in which he proposes to vote.

Remember also that the election law says: "No elector shall be entitled to register or vote in any other precinct or township than the one in which he is at actual or bona fide residence on the day of election, and no certificates of registration shall be given."

FINE PROSPECTS IN THE STATE.

We learn by a letter from Raleigh that the friends of Constitutional reform are in excellent spirits. From all parts of the State come reports that the apathy, which we with others feared would militate greatly against us, is dissipating.

Let the speakers go forth among the people and stir them up. Let the newspapers be read by all. Let the township and county committees labor with increasing fidelity and assiduity. The time is short—not now our full month before the election.—Star.

We do not think it worth while at this late day to notice the claim the Republican papers make that the Legislative mode of amendment is the true Constitutional one. Are not there two methods provided? And is it not clear that the one by Legislative action, is intended to meet single Amendments as in the case of free suffrage in 1848, and the other to embrace exactly such action as is contemplated by the present call of the Convention. The folly of attempting a wholesale revision of the Constitution by the Legislative mode is fresh in every memory. In 1871-2 thirty or more Amendments were adopted by the Legislature, submitted to the succeeding Legislature for confirmation, and only eight out of the thirty finally adopted. These next became the subject of a heated summer campaign and were ratified by the people only to have them hang in doubt upon the very uncertain pleasure of the Supreme Court.—News.

"You are hereby notified, in conformity with the provisions of the 4th section of the Act of Congress of March 28th, 1867, to assemble in the city of Raleigh, North Carolina, on Tuesday, the 14th day of January, 1868, for the purpose of framing a constitution and civil government according to the provisions of the aforesaid act, &c."—Canby's order.

Here is the origin of our present Constitution. A military order, enforced with military rigidity. Are such things binding upon the restoration of peace, and the right of the people to think and act for themselves?—News.

THE DAILY CONSTITUTION.—This is the name of a new paper published in Raleigh in the interest of the Republican party. It presents a neat appearance, but has no head, that is no editor known to the public. Raleigh now has two anonymous radical papers. The recklessness of the assertions, in which these two papers abound, is to us sufficient justification for the editors withholding their names from the public: For a man to publicly father the unfounded assertions and misrepresentations these two papers contain, would indicate an alarming degree of carelessness in the opinions of the lovers of truth and fairness. We don't blame them for remaining unknown.

Death of Francis P. Blair.
ST. LOUIS, July 9th.—Gen. Frank P. Blair expired at midnight, surrounded by his family and a few intimate friends. He has been in a precarious state for several months but under the blood transfusing treatment had begun to grow stronger and was generally supposed to be steadily improving. During the past few days he has taken frequent rides and yesterday walked down stairs. His death came suddenly and will be a painful surprise to his many friends who had confident hopes of his recovery.—Exchange.

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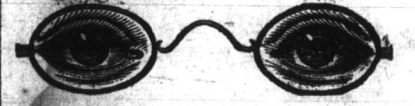
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