Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY THURSDAY, JANUARY 14.

☞ We have reason to be proud of Senators Gordon, of Georgia, and Merrimon, of N. C., for the able manner they conducted the debate of the Louisiana Question. In debate they have shown themselves to be the peers of any in the Senate. In dignity, high tone and true patriotism, they have no superiors. They rise far above the vulgar passions of the clown and can not be ruffled or excited by the Billingsgate of the narrow-minded sectionalists who feed on hate and partisan bias. It is a good thing for the South; yea! for the whole country, that we have such noble men in the Senate of the United States.

THE MECKLENBURG CENTENNIAL.

The people of Mecklenburg, with a just pride, are moving in the matter of having a celebration in honor of the 20th May Declaration of Independence. Well, if the people of North Carolina celebrate either the Federal or the Mecklenbury Declaration, it should be that believed to have been uttered on the 20th of May, 1875, in the county of Mecklenburg. We are inclined to think, however, that there is not much left of the government our fathers established worth celebrating. It begins to look like they made a mistake in cutting loose from the old country. If the Radical party, with such creatures as Grant and Sheridan, is to continue away, we are quite satisfied that it were better that this government had not been born. Still there can be no objection to the people of Mecklenburg and of the State, meeting together in Charlotte and celebrating to their hearts' content the brave deeds of their fathers. But we are opposed to the Legislature making any appropriation for the purpose for the same reason that we are opposed to the U. S. Congress making an appropriation to the Centennial celebration proposed to be held at Philadelphia. We have heretofore given our reasons for opposing an appropriation for such purposes and it is not necessary to repeat them here. We feel satisfied that the people would not endorse any such action on the part of the Legislature even if they were more able to incur such expense. We can all go to Charlotte on the 20th May, and have a general good time, without imposing a tax of several thousand dollars on the people merely to make a big show which can be enjoyed by a few only of the more privileged.

LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

Under the present Canby Constitution, North Carolina is suffering a thousand ills. There is scarcely any material prosperity to be found throughout her entire borders. Her mineral treasures, unsurpassed by those of any country, lie buried beneath her beautiful hills for the want of a power to resurrect them; her magnificent water power on a thousand gushing streams is monotonous for the want of the accompanying music of machine shops and factories, wheels and spindles; her agricultural, mechanical, and other interests are languishing; and now, ten years after a devasting war, she is but little better off than when she emerged from the four year's conflict in 1865. It is impossible to enumerate the hundredeth part of the inconveniences, wrongs and burdens the people are suffering for the want of material changes in her organic law. Yet it is said that we should *let well enough alone.*

The State debt, that gigantic fraud,—which three successive Legislatures have failed to compromise or settle,—hangs like a mighty incubus upon the necks of the people, paralyzing industry, keeping away immigration, crushing out the enterprise and public spirit of the citizens, locking up our rich mines and preventing general development and prosperity; while the public bonds, issued on the credit of the State, are hawked about in the great money centres of the world for a mere song, a continual reminder and silent teacher of the uninviting state of affairs within our limits.

Large suits for hundreds of thousands of dollars are pending in the Courts against the State, and it seems now more than probable that judgement will be obtained and the people will have to pay. Our Railroads, once the pride of North Carolina, are in the hands of the rings, and the Legislature is impotent to give relief. Yet we are told that we should *let well enough alone.*

Our free school system is a sham; our Township system is a burden and a curse, our Civil Procedure or legal code is the most complex, ill suited and oppressive that can be devised: Yet all this is well enough, and we should *let well enough alone.*

Our Legislature holds forth at an expense to the people of about one thousand dollars per day, and the most important legislative act it can perform is to pass a few private bills of merely local interest. It has no power under the present Constitution to inaugurate such legislation as the necessities of the people demand. We would save seventy-five or eighty thousand dollars annually and much confusion and useless litigation, if we had it abolished or empowered to legislate to advantage. But, why not, as some people are said to say,—*let well enough alone?*

So long as judges are elected by the people we are liable, under the present system, of having foist upon us negro judges, who will of course be privileged to exchange circuits, upset established usage, put a certain portion of the population beside themselves, and produce general disorder. There are districts in this State that can elect negro judges, so do not smile at this casual reference, but remember to *let well enough alone.*

We have really no legal municipal governments as contradistinguished from the county governments. In fact our whole judicial system is the most befogged, inexplicable and unreliable ever known in North Carolina. Yet it is the creature of Yankee ingenuity—the offspring of the Canby constitution, why disturb it?—*let well enough alone.*

As matters now stand there is no protection to property. The vote of the indolent, the vicious, and the non-taxpaying is just as effective, in determining the amount of tax to be levied, as the vote of the industrious, the good, and the tax-paying. So, why not *let well enough alone?*

Now, we are not of those who think that every thing can be done by legislation. We are aware that there is entirely too much expected of legislative bodies; that there are very many disposed to blame the Legislature for not giving them relief; that our recuperation must be gradual and our prosperity come slowly; that our main reliance for these things is upon the application and industry of the people, and not so much upon legislation. But we are nevertheless thoroughly convinced that if the constitution was so changed as to enable the Legislature to do its work more acceptably, that good results would immediately follow. A restoration of the old N. C. Constitution, properly amended, would tend to revive every branch of industry, give new vigor and energy to business and enliven the spirits of our people. But the present constitution was given us by force and fraud, is thoroughly Yankee, and we have lived under it five or six years without being crushed into the earth though we have been effectually robbed and oppressed—why not *let well enough alone?*

And now, Gov. Brogden and Col. Dockery and Judge Settle and Major Smith, and all the rest of the Conscript Fathers, "what are you going to do about it," to use an orthodox Democratic phrase? If you are Statesmen, you will see in this Convention movement the beginning of the end of our party, and the expressed determination of the White League to make your own and your childrens' names infamous through all ages.

We sound the alarm note, and demand that you be on your feet and doing. To the front, men! To the front!—*Asheville Pioneer.*

This is the way the *Asheville Pioneer,* a Radical paper, closes an article on the Convention question. That paper predicts that if a Convention be called it will be the ruin of the Radical party. Well, we have not favored a Convention so much for the purpose of destroying the Radical party as to secure for North Carolina a good Constitution, but if the calling of a Convention will destroy the Radical party, we know of no reason why we should object to it on this score. We certainly would do nothing to keep the Radical party in existence.

Will Nothing Make Them Pause?

The *New York Times,* for ability, character, and influence, is the principal newspaper which represents and advocates the principles and policy of the Republican party in this country, and here is what it says of the present condition of things in Louisiana:

"Such a despatch as that which Gen. Sheridan sent to the Secretary of War on Tuesday is not warranted by any facts known to the public—could scarcely be warranted under any conceivable circumstances. We have never published such a document before, and we must say that nothing like it has ever been seen in a country under a constitutional government. It almost induces one to believe that the world has gone back two or three hundred years in the theory and practice of government. Cromwell did, indeed, serve Ireland pretty much as Gen. Sheridan proposes to treat Louisiana; but most of us were under the impression that system of government had been definitively abandoned. We are at a loss to make out what are Gen. Sheridan's ideas of the Constitution under which he lives, or of the functions of Congress, or of the powers of the Executive, to say nothing of the powers which may rightfully be exercised by a lieutenant-general in the army. He first of all suggests that Congress should pass a bill declaring a certain class of the people of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi 'banditti.' How many he would include in this class does not appear, nor does he explain since what date in our history it has been usual for officers in the army to presume to dictate to Congress as to the legislation it should adopt. But a moment afterward a still better idea strikes him, and he says. 'It is possible that, if the President would issue a proclamation declaring them banditti, no further action need be taken *except that which would devolve upon me.*' If this means anything, it means that Gen. Sheridan would forthwith proceed to hang or shoot as many persons as he chose to bring under his own description of 'banditti.' We have then a plain proposal that the President shall 'declare' an indefinite number of citizens 'banditti,' and that Gen. Sheridan should then deal with them without benefit of judge or jury. This would certainly be resolving government into its primitive elements, but there is a shorter cut still which Gen. Sheridan might have recommended. It is for the President to declare the Constitution and all its amendments anulled, shut up Congress, put down all the newspapers, and then proclaim himself Dictator, while Gen. Sheridan as his sole Minister and chief executioner. If Gen. Sheridan had advised this course at once, he would scarcely have shown a greater ignorance or disregard of law than he has done in his most extraordinary, and we must add disgraceful, despatch of Jan. 5."

If Gen. Grant and his wild and deluded followers—for advisers he has none—were not as mad as the men who in 1861 precipitated the war of the rebellion upon the country, they would listen to warnings like these, uttered by the most important organs of their party, and abstain from the crimes they are committing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Noon—The New York Express train, hence, collided with a freight train at nine o'clock, P. M. yesterday. The switch tender is blamed. The mail and express cars, with the mail agent, Fayman, were burned. No passengers were seriously hurt. The entire northern mail from Washington, including the accumulated days' mails from the south, excepting one pouch and canvass for Baltimore, were destroyed by the burning of the postal car. It is believed that the agent, Mr. Fayman, was crushed to death before the car took fire. He was a young man about 30 years of age and a son of the local postoffice agent in this city.

Who will be Declared Banditti Next!

We wish to fix in the minds of the people the exact text of the correspondence in full, on both sides, between the Lieutenant-General of the United States Army and the Secretary of War. The following is Gen. SHERIDAN's letter:

"HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY DIVISION OF MISSOURI,
NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 5 1875.

"Hon W. W. BELKNAP, Secretary of war, Washington, D. C.

"I think the terrorism now existing in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas could be entirely removed, and confidence and fair dealing established, by the arrest and trial of the ringleaders of the armed white leagues. If Congress will pass a bill declaring them banditti, they could be tried by a military commission. These banditti, who murdered men here on the 14th of last September, also more recently at Vicksburg, Miss., should, in justice to law and order and the peace and prosperity of this southern part of the country, be punished. It is possible that if the President would issue a proclamation declaring them banditti, no further action need be taken except that which would devolve upon me. "P. H. SHERIDAN,
"Lieutenant-General United States Army."

And the Secretary of War replied:

"WAR Department, WASHINGTON, Jan. 6
Gen. P. H. Sheridan, New Orleans.

"The President and all of us have full confidence in and thoroughly approve your course.

"WM. W. BELKNAP,
"Secretary of War."

The first thing to be remarked upon Gen. SHERIDAN's letter is that the Lieutenant-General of the army assumes the function of the President of the United States to recommend officially to Congress what laws they shall pass.

But SHERIDAN is a military man, and on the whole he rather thinks the thing required can be accomplished without legislation if the President will only issue a proclamation. The thing to be done is the destruction of the political opponents of Gen. GRANT in Louisiana, and the exact proposition of Gen. SHERIDAN is that President GRANT shall issue a proclamation declaring them banditti. If Congress would pass a bill declaring them banditti that would answer the same purpose, because then they could be tried—tried indeed!—by a military commission, and after the formality of the trial they could be led out to be shot or hanged! The proclamation, however, would accomplish the same thing because, whom the President declares banditti, shall they not be assassinated without so much as the mockery of a pretended trial?

Men of America! What is this new tongue in which your rights and liberties are summarily disposed of? What have you ever read in American constitutions and American law books about banditti? And yet on the strength of that word banditti, unknown in American law, and on the strength of that one word in a proclamation, the Lieutenant-General of your army, by the aid of the soldiers in your pay, proposes deliberately, in cold blood, to shoot down, to hang, to murder hundreds and thousands of your fellow citizens in Louisiana because they belong to a political organization opposed to the Administration at Washington!

In place of the staid, substantial, safe Government under which we have so long lived, the semi-barbarous condition of the Central and South American States is to be substituted, and our fair country is to be deluged with the blood of its sons for the purpose of maintaining in authority the men now in office at Washington.

And the answer to this atrocious despatch from a blood-thirsty commander, the answer returned by authority of President Grant and signed by his Secretary of War, is this:

"The President and all of us have full confidence in, and thoroughly approve, your course."

If this correspondence does not stir the blood of the American people, they have no blood in their veins. The citizens of Louisiana are to be pronounced banditti, and shot down in their tracks to-day; but who will be pronounced banditti and shot down to-morrow? How soon will come our turn at the North?

The military arm is outstretched to-day to seize the power of the republic and to cut a bloody pathway to a new form of personal Government.

Remember that many of those who have known GRANT *best, have predicted from the beginning that he would die President or die Dictator or King!—Sun.*

Awful Fate of a Murderer.

ST. LOUIS, Jan 7.

Joseph B. North *alias* Buffalo Joe, who murdered George Jones on Christmas evening a year ago, was hanged to a telegraph pole by a mob on the night of the 30th at Wallace, Kansas. The knot of the rope with which he was hanged caught under his chin and did not choke him. He hung this way for a long time, talking to the mob, imploring them to release him, but received only jeers in return. He did not die for over two hours and finally froze to death.

The New York *Day-Book* thinks there are many reasons why Governor Allen should be selected as the standard-bearer of the Democracy in 1876, and it claims that it, on the news of his election last year, predicted his nomination in 1876 for President. He achieved the first Democratic victory since 1860. He broke the backbone of the Republican party, and rendered all subsequent victories an easy matter. He was the first prominent Democrat of character and unsullied reputation who dared go into an election upon a Democratic issue, eschewing all policy dodges or cuddling propositions with "Liberal Republicanism" to help "pull through."

The Bible now printed in two hundred languages; in 1854, it was printed in only fifty.

BOSTON, Jan. 7.

Gov. Gaston's message condemns the inflation of the currency and encroachments of Federal upon State rights. The nett debt of the State is $9,000,000. Public opinion demands the repeal of the prohibitary liquor law.

The Elizabeth City *Carolinian* thus defines the boundary line of its purposes: "We are for Elizabeth City and Pasquotank county first, for this Congressional District second, and for the outside world next." The editor of the *Carolinian* is making laudable efforts to obtain manufactories at that place.

Queer, Considering the Race she Comes Of.—Mrs Stowe, according to a writer, is in a perpetual reverie about her characters. "She is a literary sensualist," says this scribe, "absorbed in the happiness of peopling new worlds."

REMOVE THE ARMY FROM THE SOUTH!—Every State in the Union is entitled to a republican form of Government, and every State must have it.

Call off your soldiers, and let the people of the South have the free use of the ballot and freedom of legislation within the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the United States.

The politicians who cannot hear this cry rolling like thunder through the North and West are without the spiritual sense of sound. They will feel it though as cowards and criminals feel earthquakes when the people in anger next go to the polls to repair the damage done to constitutional government by Grant and his supporters. That will be a day of unwearied political slaughter from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof.—*N. Y. Sun.*

And now President Grant is trying on the game of "martyr." Says the Washington *Republican:*

"During the past three days the President has received four anonymous notes, two of them from Baltimore, threatening him with assassination if he does not at once recall the Federal troops from Louisiana. One of them kindly suggests that he make Peace with his God, as he will surely meet the "deserved fate of Abraham Lincoln." In this connection it may be stated that before the fact mentioned above was made public a thorougly reliable gentleman stated that in conversation with a Baltimore lady (?) whose name can be given—yesterday morning, she expressed a wish that "there was work for him to do." The gentlemen expressed surprise at such sentiments, when she replied that "Grant was a greater tyrant than Lincoln, and that desperate diseases required desperate remedies."

To the Americam People:

Whereas, General Sheridan, now in command of the Division of the Missouri, under date of the 4th inst., has addressed a communication to the Hon. W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War, in which he represents the people of Louisiana at large as breathing vengeance to all lawful authority and approving of murders and crimes; and,

Whereas, He has given to that communication full publicity;

We, the undersigned, believe it our duty to proclaim to the whole American people that these charges are unmerited, unfounded, and erroneous, and can have no other effect than that of serving the interests of corrupt politicians, who are at this moment making most extreme efforts to perpetuate their power over the State of Louisiana.

N. J. Perche, Archbishop, New Orleans; J. P. B. Wilmer, Bishop of Louisiana; James K. Gutheim, Pastor Temple of Sinai; J. C. Keener, Bishop M. E. church South; C. Doll, Rector St. Joseph's church, and many others.

New Orleans, January 5.

Pleasurable Occupation.—The Chicago *Times* quotes Sheridan's bloody telegram about a proclamation denouncing the oppressed citizens of Louisiana as "banditti," and turning them over to him for trial and execution, and thus remarks:

"He [Sheridan] professes his willingness to accept the task—pleasurable it must be to the murderer of defenceless Piegan woman and children—of hunting down whoever may be condemned by *lettres du cachet* from Kellogg. He says nothing of the other banditti who have for years robbed the people of Louisiana of their substance, realizing millions by the most shameless frauds ever perpetrated upon any people, and upon whose heads a reward should be placed by the Government."