

the subject to party advantage. stead of making the recent frauds a topic of party crimination, he only attempted to erect barriers against their repetition. The remedies he proposed would, if adopted, require the renunciation by the Democratic party of the maxim that "to the victors belong the spoils." General Gordon's propositions were-first, to regulate the whiskey tax by the capacity of the fermenting tubs, and collect it monthly or weekly in advance; and, second, to make the internal revenue officers irremovable except for disbonesty or incapacity." With his usual vigor and re-enforced by Senator Sherman, Mr. Morton hurled tremendous charges of having been a rebel, and of still being unreconstructed, at Senator Gordon. All this had nothing whatever to do with the subject in hand, but it amused the Republicans on the floor and in the galleries. It served, as the Republican leaders thought, to bridge over a difficulty. The people, however, may not be so ready to anathematize "rebels" when they employ their talents closely in the public service in the way Gen. Gordon has done so cleverly in this instance.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR. The new Secretary, Mr. Taft, goes into bad company, but we must "give the old man a chance." The Baltimore Gazette says it does not condemn him for accepting a place in the Cabinet. "He may have noble aims in going there, and we go for giving him a fair chance. But it will not be a long trial. It will take only a little while to show whether the new Secretary intends to range himself with the thief-fighters or the thief savers. If with the former, he must go to work promptly to cleanse his department of villainy. He must court-martial Babcock. As long as that name stands on the roll of "officers and gentleman" of the army, the army is disgraced, and its Secretary also. Three weeks of silence and inaction will be enough to classify Secrelary Taft with the thief-savers."

ONLY FORTY-THREE. this case had asked more of the sitting missioners said they had been advised by vantage of the ruling of the Court. favor of a reconsideration of the action show only that he had sent a telegram after the conspiracy had been formed. He did connsel that the returns were imperfect be-cause the poll-books had not been brought in. Col. McLean, the counsel of the Board had practiced law about 20 years. W. Rogers. Commissioner than a just regard for the When an Indiana Republican Judge Meares exclaimed that the propo taken, and having been informed that he would be heard with great pleasure, addressed the Board and Secoda We.k.-Wm. A. Williams, Sr. Commissioner should have permitted him sition was to try them upon what was pracnot desire the further appearance of Gen. member introduced in the House of Benjamin Farrow, Roger Sullivan, Benja ask. There were a number of other U. tically a blank warrant, containing only the Cox in the case. Judge Meares called attention to the fact Representatives the other day a se Nixon, J. B. King, T. J. Southerland, Bam. S Commissioners in Wilmington, against cited them to sections of Battle's Revisa Judge Cantwell inquired whether it was to be claimed that the advice of counsel Commissioner's signature and seal. Would that he had not asked the discharge of his of buncombe resolutions declaring bearing on the case. He also asked and received permission to have counsel heard whom the objection on account of favor the Court issue such a warrant if applied to learned in the law would operate to excuse this country to be a nation, etc., etc., by the Board. Employed Mr. Giles Leitch, and left him to urge the matter upon the attention of the Commissioners. Mr. Lemuel W. Thompson, a member, stated in the Board that he had become The District Attorney, then, would take could not have been wrged. for it ? add the ferred bed warrows ? those who followed their advice from rethe responsibility of entering a nolls pres. in the 'Ercles vein of true loyalty, Judge Cantwell, in reply, called atten-The Court replied he had ruled that the sponsibility for their actions. The defence replied that it most certainly was. Stephen E. Ward was called to the stand. Was Rgister of Deeds of Robeson county at the time of the election, He had on behalf of the Government, if that were tion to the fact that this was in any event affidavit be part of the warrant and that the little Mr. Sammy Cox popped up necessary. In response to an inquiry of Judge only a preliminary examination-not a part of the warrant which was superfluous with a squelcher in such popular The Counterfeiling Case From Goldsconvinced that the votes of the rejected townships ought to be counted, and asked and received permission to change his vote on their rejection. The other side had Meares, the Court stated that in case all the final adjudication upon the merits of the be stricken out. walle mit the figener bore'-The Case Dismissed. The case of Patrick Edwards, charged shape that only Blaine and forty-two all the returns of that election here, and produced them to the Commissioners. They had been placed on file in his office. prisoners should be discharged, the records Judge Meares said that understanding case, and that the Commissioner's decision and affidavits herein would remain in the others could be found to vote against hands of this Court. An adjournment was then had until 10 could not affect the prisoners unfavorably. set no limit to the ground that might be The returns from the townships inrown out were sent into his office by the poll holders and not filed by the Commissioners. Judge Meares objected to the reading of it. This puny minority drew out a gone over. It allowed the prosecution to He could only bind them over for trial, counsel present, also | [In reply to a ques Judge Cantwell asked, on the evidence, that L. W. Thompson be discharged from arrest, but retained as a witness, and that a subpona be issued for that purpose. Granted. A. M. on Tuesday next. come here and shift and change front to and the presumption of interest would, on running fire of puns at the expense of County Commissioners. suit the affidavits of perjured witnesse the trial before the Circuit Court, operate in the Presidential candidate. Mr. Hill, The full Board met in called without limit. He had a right to demand meeting at their favor rather than the fact of his havthe paper. It was not a proper return of the election, and worth no more than blank of Georgia, when the vote was aning committed them operating against that a definite charge, be brought against 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon. nounced, made the remark: "I am Granted. Dr. Norment resumed—On this day (Saturday) he received a telegram from Mr. Sorrell, urging him to try and get his cer-tificate. He sent a telegram to Mr. Keogh, Chairman of the State Republican Execu-tive Committee, the same day, stating the action of the Commissioners, but ex-pressing hopes for a change. On the fol-lowing Monday saw Col. N. A. McLean, counsel for the Commissioners, on the subthem. He thought the Commissioner had The Court noted the objection, but on The Board proceeded to the election of sorry there are only forty-three Union Judge Cantwell desired that the case now a Commissioner to fill the vacancy occaexamination admitted the paper. By consent of counsel, the returns were admitted in bulk, subject to future excepno right to let his personal feelings dismen in the House." sioned by the resignation of Mr. A. H. go on and proposed to examine witnesses qualify him from sttling. 行怪事 進 身 A long discussion ensued as to the un-Morris. Mr. B. G. Bates was put in nomi-Col. French said if anything had been tions. nation and unanimously elected. Ordered, That the clerk notify Mr. Bates of his election as a Commissioner. The Board then resolved itself into a Board of Education, but adjourned with-out the transaction of any business of in-That the Democratic is an ecoderstanding had in the morning and the re lacking to convince the Commissioner that Recess to 8 P. M. nomical party is shown by this; "The sponsibility for delay, which the Commis he ought not to hear the case, the argusioner finally terminated by saying he AFTERNOON SESSION ment of the opposing counsel should comlegislative, executive and judicial ap-District Attorney Badger announced that, by arrangement with Judge Cantwell, the Attorney for the United States would henceforth take entire control of the prosewould hear no witnesses until to morrow. plete his conviction. It would injure all propriation bill cuts off 1,034 clerks The Court was accordingly adjourned ject. He said-Col. French-Here was a third party toicing. from the departments in Washing- the ends of justice to send up a case to the ton, and saves on salaries \$1,458,455." Circuit Court with such a presumption of until 10 o'clock this morning. san les Heart males cives Londsteel. all all the second the second to end the with the fift of the

the examination in the case of the United States vs. Gen. W. R. Cox, Chairman of the Democratic-Conservative State Executive Committee; and D. S. Morrison, J. T. Pope, II. F Pitman, and Alexander Humphrey, County Commissioners of Robeson: charged on the affidavit of Dr. R. M. Norment with conspiring to defeat the will of the people as expressed in the election for delegates to the late Constitutional Convention, was appointed to take place at noon, vesterday, before U. S. Commissioner Cassidey. At the appointed hour, however, District Attorney Badger being absent from the city, the Commissioner determined, with the consent of counsel, to postpone the hearing until 34 o'clock, P. M., and, not to go into the examination of witnesses unil Mr. Badger's return. The Court came to order in the U.S.

District Court room at \$1 o'clock. Ex-Judge Cantwell appeared for the prosecution, Col. W. Foster French for the commissioners, and ex-Judge Meares for Gen.

Dr. R. M. Norment, Stephen E. Ward, W. Foster French, E. W. Stark and J. Young were called and sworn as witnesses F. M. Sorrell was called and failed to respond, and Jas. H. Barnes was called and excused, having been subpœnaed under a misapprehension. Col. French, counsel for defence, moved

Cox

that the case be removed to some other jurisdiction, on the ground that the sitting Commissioner was personally interested in the decision of this case, and hence incapable of giving an unprejudiced judgment upon the law and the evidence. The presumption of interest arises in the fact that an indictment is pending in Robeson Superior Court against Commissioner Cassidey, in his capacity as an editor of the Wilmington Post, charging him with criminal libel. This libel is alleged to have been committed by the publication in the Post of certain matters reflecting upon the Commissioners of Robeson county defendant in

be tried upon one charge and n that it was found the law mentioned did not apply to the case, it was proposed to try him on another charge. Judge Cantwell was not responsible for the defect in the warrant-had never see it until now-and wished permission to insert "Sec. 5,519" in the warrant. Col. French pointed out that the propo sition meant an entire change of proce dure. He was prepared to go to trial upon the charge of violating Sec. 5,512-which he explained, referred to the election of members of Congress, and in no way t the election of members of a State Consti tutional Convention. The Court proposed to consider the se tions to which the affidavit applied as in

serted in the warrant. Judge Meares would waive his pichts far as to permit the warrant to be a ed, but insisted that the change be made the instrument itself-so as to be in docu mentary form. O famounal The Commissioner stated that he would

insert the substance of the affidavit in the body of the warrant. atom anob erec Judge Meares protested that this would be charging the prisoners with violation of a statute without naming the statute, which was unconstitutional on its face. The pros ecution in this case had sworn to the law as well as to the facts, and as these pro ceedings might possibly lead to others of graver character, it was desired that what was done here be put in documentary form had makeous page out tall hewoil

Judge Cantwell considered the language used as threatening to himself. - He would not alter the warrant under the influence of a threat. The affidavit was the ground work of the proceeding-the warrant mere ly the act of the magistrate; It was not competent for the magistrate to make new watrant. efficient Blatton for othes Judge Meares disclamed any intention

to threaten, and hoped the amendments would be written into the warrant. He wished to waive all mere technical advan tagestitia test poleulogos eli ve ted Col. French objected to going to trial o a charge which was entirely new to him.

the substance of the affidavit be a part of the warrant. The prosecution) was inot bound to declare under which particular section of the law the prisoners were an raigued. If they had violated any law of the United States he was prepared to en emine them on a charge of so doing! Judge Meares desired, now, to hear t laws on which the prosecution relied. Jadge Cantwell reserved, the right to try them under every section of Chap, VII. Beyond that chapter he would not take ad-

of order.] He then asked to be heard in

The U. S. District Attorney was not quired to appear here. If the case should be sent hence to the Circuit Court, then the District Attorney had the option of entering a nolle pros, if the interests of the Government were deemed best served by so doing, or of proceeding to prosecute the case. The Court said the subpœnas for these witnesses had been issued and placed in the hands of the officers in the first instance, and the case would accordingly be delayed to await their arrival,-if necessary. If there was a proposition to delay the case to await the arrival of new witnesses, the matter would present a different aspect.

Dr. R. M. Norment, the prosecuting witness, was put upon the stand, and examined by Judge Cantwell. Had been a candidate for the Constitutional, Convention at the election held in Robeson county las August, Was a resident of that and citizen of the United States. Neil Mc Nell, was a candidate with him at that election, and Duncan Sinclair and Calvin A. McEachin were the candidates on the other side. The election occurred on the 5th of August (Thursday). Could not say exactly how many electors voted for hima few more than for the opposing candidate. The same was the case with his colleague. His own majority was about 50: McNeill's was about 38. He went to the Court-House in Lumberton on the Saturday (Aug. 7,) after the election, and there found the County Commissioners in session as a Board, engaged in counting the returns of the election. in the leaders

Considerable discussion ensued on the question of allowing the evidence to take the form of a narrative. The Court held it might do so.

At this point U. S. District Attorney Badger, who had just arrived, said he was here simply in virtue of his office, for the purpose of seeing that nothing more or less was done than should be for the interest of the United States.

After explanations by counsel, Dr. Norton and collected some facts in reference ment proceeded. On the Friday after the the present case, because of their action in: in called session; present, Jno. G. Wagner, ring the next week somewhat under the into the action of the Board. He was not election (6th of Aug.) he had seen copies awarding certificates of election (as, deleluence of liquor. Chairman, and Commissioners VanAminstrumental in bringing the Commissioner Stephen E. Ward recalled by the prose-cution. Read from the minute-record of that had been made of the official returns there, and did not hear of his presence until after he had left. The Commissioner also went to Shoe Heel. This was about gates to Duncan Sinclair and Calvis A. ringe and Nixon. from all the precincts, and found that him-McEachin, instead of to R. M. Northe Board the record of proceedings fo The only business before the Board was self and colleague were in the majority. The Commissioner said he had ruled that August 7th [Saturday.] The poll-book of ment and Neill McNeill, the Rethe time he received the telegram about that of drawing juries for the next term of Britts township was sent in Tuesday, be-fore 12 o'clock, he thought. Two of the township poll-books had not been sent up to him to this day. He sent a telegram to Thos. B. Keogh, using every effort to get the certificates. Had not teld Neil McNeill these Commispublican contestants. The indictment the Superior Court for this county, which Chairman of the Republican State Execu against Mr. Cassidey also issued on the resulted as follows: ioners would be carried to Lumberton in tive Committee at Raleigh, the same day, complaint of the aforesaid Commissioners. First Week .- Thomas M. Simmons rops upless their vote excluding the reannouncing the result. On the next day fred Cornegay, F. W. Foster, Jno. R. Snee-den, Wm. Pratt, Henry Taylor, John Cur-tis, B. F. Mithell, James Sprunt, Franklin M. Hewlett, Jos. Davis, Solomon Reeves, The District Attorney received permis Col. French pointed out, to the Commisturns was reconsidered. Had seen that resion to summon two of the poll-holders from each of the four rejected townships (Saturday) he heard that the County Com port in the Robesonian, and addressed a de, nial to that paper, whereupon the man who sioner the impropriety of his sitting in missioners had thrown out the votes of judgment upon the present case under such Col. French requesting that the court had four precincis. He went to the Court House and inquired of the Board whether that was the case. Was isformed it was. had been responsible for the report was John Martin, William B. Giles, Wm. H. Turlington, James K. Cutlar, C. C. Morse, Wm. Turley, Wm. Kellogg, Sr., Ezekiel Hollis, Christian Hussell, James Jarmon, W. H. Waddell, Henry Whitehead, Wm. Jacobs, Edward Stills, Wm. Martin, Wm. ruled in the morning that the case could not be delayed to bring in new witnesses. In reply to a question of Judge Meares, circumstances, lassnuch as a decision hunted up, but declined to confirm his previous statement; nevertheless, the Roberoman declined to give him (Norment) the benefit of his denial. The only influence that was against the prisoners would be a decision in his own favor upon the libel case, while whether he had now any farther. evidence Asked if they would read, the order, and a decision to discharge them upon the eviossibly exerted on the Board by Keogh's to submit against his client, the District the order was read. [After some discuss sion, witness proceeded to give substance Attorney replied that he had not, and further stated that in his opinion no conspiracy had been proven against Gen. Cux-the evidence tending to elegram was the changing of the vote of dence would carry the effect of an admis-B. Hall, A. Schrier, Alexander Hooper, Abram Moseley, Wm. Powell, Benjamin Scott, Alonzo Simmons, D. M. Dart, Geo. one member, . The others were not suffi-ciently influenced to change. The Comsion of his own guilt. The complainant in

ad telegraphed to a private individual He (Norment) had answered: "That individual had the ear of the Commissioners of Robeson, and, coming from Gen. Cox as Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, it had had its effect." The conversation with Col. McLean, before spoken of, had been, he thought, about the fuesday following the election. Gen. Cox's telegram came about that time-he could not say exactly when; to the best of his knowledge and belief should say it was after the Sunday following the election, but was not certain whether t was before or after Tuesday. Gen. Cox did not specify the character of the telegram he had sent. Had no very tengthy conversation with him. Gen. Cox did not say that he had the same right to send telegrams that he (Norment) had, or that his telegram was sent subsequent to Norment's or was a response to it. There were over 800 voters in the rejected pre-cints of Robes n-the result had been changed in the county, himself and colague defeated, and the majority in the payention changed by that action of the ommissioners. Thought the Board fold him they had thrown out the returns but would hear him or his counsel for a recon-sideration. The counsel of the Board was present, but not in a condition, as he bought, to advise any one. Thought they informed him they had consulted counsel He had received from the Republican State Executive Committee at Raleigh a dispatch to this effect: "Make every effort to get cerificates." This was about a week after the election-about the time Gen. Cox's telegram arrived, he thought. He did not think the telegram he received advised him to "use any and all means to get the certificates," but the language used was very strong-too strong, he considered. Did not consider any unlawful method of ting certificates had been proposed. communication he sent the Post was rather bitter but not very personal. Mr. Lean was "tight," at the time of their conver-sation. [In reply to a question.] Had all the evidence before the Convention on the 6th September. The election and time of Assembling were so near together he could not give the full notice required by law of his proposal to contest the election. Was able to give but twenty-eight instead of thirty day's notice. Gen. Cox may have said something to him about having a right to telegraph. The Board of Commission-ers had admitted that all the returns were before them. He knew that a United States Commissioner had been in Lumber-

They did written in the same hand. There was no date on the messages, but they were record ed in his office August 9th. Did not know who brought them to the office. Gen. Cox was Chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee. A good many tele grams were going off about that time. Did not know that members of the Executive Committee sent telegrams signed with Gen. Cox's name. He thought one of the messages was in Gen. Cox's handwriting-the one: "As you love the State, hold Robe-

son." Was not positive. W. Foster French testified: Received the telegram "As you love the State," etc. Don't know that he didn't receive the other. This telegram was not an answer to any h had sent. Had not communicated with Gen. Cox or the Committee on these sub jects previous to its receipt. Had com municated this telegram to only one of the County Commissioners-Mr. Morrison. County Commissioners-Mr. Morrison Sent it to him by mail. He (French) receiv ed the telegram about 1 o'clock Monday or Tuesday night, he thought. He was home asleep when the messenger brought it and waked him. Previous to seeing the telegrams here and hearing the preceding witness he had been under the impression that he received it as late as Wednesda Had never known until he met Mr. Mor rison in this Court whether that telegran was received by him. Was not counsel for the Board until the mandamus case came on at Greensboro. Mr. Morrison lived about twenty-five miles from him. Think he never spoke to any of the other Com-missioners about the telegram. Was not present at the proceedings upon the counting of the votes. Was at home asleep After it was over a lady happened to call and from her he had the first information that it had been going on. He also heard some shouts. Did not remember meeting any of the Commissioners that eveningsaw Mr. Morrison on Monday, however Had also seen McLean, who said the Board did not see any need of recons action. Would not swear he did not ge this second telegram. He got a good many telegrams about that time. Thought Col McLean had been in practice over twenty years. His reputation for learning and ability was very high in Robeson. Thought the telegram had not been received by him at time of his conversation with Mr. Morrison on Monday. Mr. Morrison said at that time that the Board had decided not to reconsider its action. Had no recollec-tion of seeing Col. McLean that day. Did see him till some days after. He (McLean) was not drunk at that time. Saw him du-

to Lexington, Ky., and to Chattanooga, one of these days, and with their connections there make Wilmington the terminus of the shortest practicable lines from Memphis, Louisville and St. Louis, as well as from Cincinnati, to the seaboard.

Fire at Lauripburg.

About 5 o'clock yesterday morning a fire was discovered in the mills of W. D. Parker & Co., of this town, and in a short time the whole mill was in a flame, and the entire premises, consisting of the saw mill, cotton gin, press and grist mill, were consumed. Other light machinery and tools were burned, amounting to perhaps \$5,000, with \$2,000 covered by insurance. Daniel McRae (col.) lost his dwelling and nearly all of his furniture. His loss is supposed to be mostly covered by insurance. The fire is thought to be the work of an inliary, as no fire could be seen at the mill during the entire night,

These particulars we have from a special Laurinburg correspondent.

Bobbery, Murder and Arson. We learn from a gentleman who arrived in this city yesterday that the store of a gentleman by the name of Murphy, at Lynchburg, S. C., on the line of the W. C. & A. R. R., was discovered to be on fire about 2 A. M. on Thursday last, which was entirely consumed, with its contents, consisting of a variety of goods, groceries, provisions, &c. Horrible to relate, the body of the unfortunate owner of the premises was discovered and removed from the ruins, when it was found to be horrible mutilated, several cuts about the head, especially, leading to the belief that he had been robbed and afterwards murdered and his store set on fire. He was a middle-aged bachelor, lived alone in a portion of the building which was burned, and was re-puted to have a considerable sum of money about his premises. There is not the slightest clue, we understand, to the perpetrators of the horrible crimes.

County Commissioners. The Board met yesterday, at 12 o'clock,

J. Sneeden, Nathaniel Simmons, John H. Pugh, Ed. T. Story, Wm. L. Smith, Thos. Short, John Hargrove, Washington Noyes, John Legwin, Robert Scarborough. The Board then adjourned. The case of Patrick Edwards, charged with passing counterfeit money, came up for a hearing before U. S. Commissioner Cassidey yesterday morning. It will be re-membered that Mr. Edwards was arrested Monday night on the arrival of the train, in response to a telegram from the party in Goldshoro upon whom the counterfeit was alleged to have been passed, and lodged in jail to swait the necessary witnesses. Mr. W. T. Dortch, Jr., of Goldsboro, ap-peared for the defence. The fact of the passing of the bill was admitted, but there was no evidence to admitted, but there was no evidence to show that the defendant knew it to be counterfeit, and in the absence of any ap-parent intent on the part of the accused to commit a fraud, and he having also proven a good character, the case was dismissed and Mr. Edwards went on his way re-