

WESTERN RAILROAD.—On the 20th inst. contracts were let for the graduation &c. of the last Division of the Road to the Coal Fields—as follows—

Sec. 27 to A. J. Kivett. Sec. 28 to J. Q. A. Leach. Sec. 29 and 30 to Lennihan & Cotten. Sec. 31 and 32 to Terence McKenan.

Bridge and culvert masonry on the whole Division to Lennihan & Cotten.

The track-laying has been completed 23 miles. The work is now in such a state of forwardness as to justify the confident expectation of the completion of the road by July.

DIVIDENDS.—The Bank of Charlotte has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent. The Bank of Fayetteville a dividend of 5 per cent. See advertisement.

EDITORIAL CHANGE.—In consequence of the failing health of a member of his family, the Rev. Willis L. Miller has resigned his joint Editorship of the North Carolina Presbyterian, leaving the Rev. George McNeill sole Editor, for the present.

WHIG MEETING.—The Whigs of Alamance county held a meeting on the 6th inst., at which the Chairman, Giles Mebane, Esq., spoke, and 40 delegates were appointed to the State Convention to be held on the 22d February.

THE WRONG CREDIT.—The Salisbury Watchman has credited to the Observer a paragraph on the Charleston trade which we did not write nor publish. It contains imputations of bad motives to the country merchants, such as we never entertained or expressed.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The late Legislature unanimously adopted a series of resolutions declaring that the slave-holding States should immediately meet together to concert measures for united action directing the communication of their resolve to the said States, and earnestly requesting the appointment of delegates; and appropriating \$100,000 for military preparation for any emergency.

VIRGINIA.—The Legislature having called on Gov. Wise for a statement of the number of troops collected at Charleston, and the cost to the State, the Governor replies that he cannot tell the cost, as the accounts are not yet all in, nor can they be until after his term of office expires, which will be with the end of 1850.

MANUFACTURING PUBLIC OPINION.—It is said that at a late Senatorial caucus to select a Democratic candidate for Printer, Senator Brown of Mississippi produced a document showing that Cornelius Weadell, late Printer, has been paying Gen. Bowman, present Editor of the Constitution, \$20,000 a year to take that paper off his hands and carry it on as the Government organ!

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New York Ledger for January 7. HARPER'S WEEKLY, for Dec. 31st, to-morrow, Dec. 29. E. J. HALE & SON.

SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS.—We copy a sensible and timely article from the N. Y. Journal of Commerce on the treatment of suspicious characters at the South. We are grieved to learn from it, that in some places the prejudice against Northern men has been carried to an extent at once injurious to the interests and disgraceful to the character of the South. The statements of the Savannah Republican astonish us. We fear too that such conduct has found imitators in other parts of the South; for we are surprised to hear by persons just from Alabama, that the cars in that State and Georgia were crowded with an unusual number of passengers, among whom were families returning to the North in a very unamiable mood, as may be imagined, at the indignities offered them.

Do Southern people mean to drive off the many excellent citizens of Northern birth who have become identified with the South by feeling and interest, who hold property at the South, and perchance have married and had children born at the South? Much better would it be to cherish such a population, and to increase it if possible. It is the itinerant peddlers, show men, and such like persons, that we ought to get rid of, and of them only by legal means. Let us discountenance every thing like Lynch law, tarring and feathering, &c. The Law is ample to punish incendiaries. Let the Law do it.

WHAT DO THEY WANT?—The Democrats profess to deprecate the action of the Republican party against the South, and the existence of the Republican party at all. Yet they complain at the slightest indication of a return to reason and patriotism on the part of any of these said Republicans. If some of the more conservative of them, who scorn to be considered abolitionists, vote for Mr. Gilmer for Speaker, hoping to effect an organization, otherwise impossible, it is at once a cause for Democratic abuse of both Mr. Gilmer and themselves. If thousands of conservative Republicans unite in a meeting, the professed object of which was to render "Justice to the South," such Southern patriots as the Wilmington Journal ridicule it as, for that reason, questionable whether the movement has any value at all.

For our part, we wish that every Republican in the land would do just such things as these—abandon their own party, vote for good Southern men and slave-holders for Speaker and other offices, and not only resolve to do justice to the South, but do it too. That would bring the party to an end. But while the South abuses the Republicans for acting with the South, how can the South hope that they will act with it? Perhaps the Democrats do not wish it? What then? Of course the South, being in a minority, must be beaten.

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CONGRESS.—In the Senate, on Wednesday of last week, the Standing Committees were announced. There is no material change from the last list. Mr. Clingman is fourth on the Committee on Commerce, and Mr. Bragg fifth on Lands and third on Claims.

On Thursday and Friday, nothing of any interest. Adjourned over to Tuesday, ordering adjournments for three days at each time to Jan'y 3, 1850—the usual holiday custom.

On Tuesday, the Message. Adjourned to Friday.

In the House of Representatives, on Wednesday of last week, Mr. Davidson of Lou. spoke for "Southern Rights." Mr. Cobb of Ala. followed on the Speaker'ship, and appeared to the Southern Opposition for aid to elect a Democrat. This called up Mr. Etheridge, and a discussion followed, pretty much as between Messrs. Etheridge and McRae the previous week, and with the same results. Mr. Clark, New York Democrat, followed, giving the reasons why he could never vote for an Administration candidate. Mr. Boteler, Whig, withdrew from the contest, nominated Gen. Millson, Virginia Democrat, and the 17th vote was had, as follows: Whole No. of votes 226; necessary to elect 114; Sherman 106, Millson 96, balance scattering—(12 of the Southern Opposition voted for Millson; they all done so he would have still wanted seven votes to elect.)

On Thursday, the discussion between the Democrats and the Southern Opposition was continued. The Democracy were badly worsted in the discussion, which wound up in another demonstration that a Southern man could be elected if the Democrats would join the Whigs and a few of the more moderate Northern men in electing a Southern Whig. Mr. Burnett, Kentucky Democrat, was complaining that he believed the Northern votes cast for Mr. Gilmer would have been withdrawn if the Democrats had voted for him; and further that Mr. Gilmer had withdrawn his name and taken away their chance to vote for him—when, one after another, the Pennsylvania and New Jersey men who had voted for Mr. G., rose and stated that they voted in good faith and were ready to unite with the Democrats and elect him. Mr. Gilmer was then nominated by Mr. Harris (American) of Maryland, and the 18th vote had as follows: Whole No. of votes 223; necessary to elect 112; Sherman 95; Millson 79; Gilmer 36; balance scattering. Had the Democrats who voted for Millson (79.) voted for Mr. Gilmer, he would have been elected, the House organized, and Sherman beaten. When the name of Mr. Hardeman, Georgia Whig, was called, he said: "It is known that I have during this organization voted against Mr. Gilmer, because he is not my choice for Speaker of this House; but believing, from assurances given me, that he can be elected, and wishing an organization of this House with a good constitutional man, I vote for John A. Gilmer."

Mr. Keitt, of S. C., then made a proposition: that the Democrats should select a man from the Americans or anti-Leocompton Democrats, and that these latter should select a Democrat, and all unite to elect him—a very fair proposition, wanting only practicality, for nobody can whip in the refractory anti-Leocompton Democrats to vote for any body but one of their own number. The 19th vote followed with no result. And then Mr. Winslow proposed a recess from voting till some day in January. No action.

On Friday, a sectional discussion was had, quite angry but of no force, and then the 20th vote: Necessary to elect 107; Sherman 103; balance scattering.

On Saturday, after much speaking, the 21st vote was taken. Necessary to elect 104; Sherman 100; balance scattered on 24 others.

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WANTED. IMMEDIATELY, a Wet Nurse,—a healthy woman. Address Box 146, Fayetteville Post Office.

Jewelry and Fancy Goods at Auction. THIS EVENING, at candle-light, I will sell Sets plain GOLD, LAVA, JET, CAMEO, FANCY and MO-SAIC JEWELRY, and a great variety of FANCY Goods.

Real Estate and Stocks. ON WEDNESDAY NEXT, the 4th Jan'y, I will sell—1 LOT on East side Hogz Street, adjoining Mrs. Fitzharris and Rev. W. L. Miller; 10 SHARES High Stock; 1 Harness Horse; 1 Close Carriage and Double Harness.

Valuable Real Estate at Auction. WILL be sold at the Market House, on Wednesday, Jan'y 4, 1850, the House and Lot joining the Fayetteville Hotel on Hay Street, also the Brick Store on Person Street, at present occupied by Harris. The above property is sold on account of a former purchaser. Terms liberal, and made known at the sale.

Lots in Campbellton for Sale. BY order of the Court of Equity, upon the petition of W Wesley Thomas et al, I will sell at the Market House on Monday the 9th January 1850, Lots No. 80, 81 and 82, in the plan of Campbellton, upon which there is a dwelling and Out-houses, &c.; situated on Person street, about 150 yards above the old Tobacco warehouse, and nearly opposite the Davis Exchange. Also Lot No. 97, between 3rd and 4th Street in the Brazier plan, containing about half an acre. Upon the first mentioned Lots was the residence of the late John Thomas.

Negro Man for Sale. THE negro man ISAAC, belonging to Mr. Francis Evans and others, having been postponded, will take place at the Court House door in Fayetteville, on the 3d day of January 1850.

Notice. THE NEGROES belonging to the estates of Duncan McLean and Catharine McLean will be hired out, at the late residence of the said Duncan in Hartness county, on the 5th day of January 1850.

A. D. McLEAN, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, SUMMERSVILLE, N. C.

Bethlehem Academy. THE SECOND SESSION of this Institution will commence on the 25th of JANUARY in January next. It is situated about five miles west of Carthage, in a healthy and moral neighborhood. The course of instruction will be thorough, embracing such branches as are usually taught in schools of the highest grade.

The Wilson Schools, WILSON, N. C.

PROSPECTUS OF THE CHURCH INTELLIGENCER.

THE undersigned proposes to publish in the city of Raleigh, in North Carolina, a weekly newspaper designed to advance the interests of the Episcopal Church at the South, and to diffuse intelligence concerning its labors and its progress. In this enterprise, he has reason to hope for the approbation, and to some extent the aid of the Bishops of Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, and the Southern States of the South-West. An each of these dioceses he expects to have a resident contributor to the columns of his journal, who shall give information to its readers of any event of interest occurring in the diocese to which he writes.

THE benefits of such a paper, if well conducted, will be acknowledged to be great, when it is recollected that in all these dioceses just enumerated, constituting in themselves a mighty and rapidly growing empire—there is not a single newspaper expressing the sentiments and recording the contemporaneous history of the Episcopal Church—that what is known by its clergy and people living in this extensive and prosperous region on these subjects is gathered mainly from newspapers published at remote points of the South, which is the inverse of the case in these dioceses and the special duties of the churchmen therein are comparatively obscure and neglected subjects. In the meantime the principles, the past history and present condition of the church are often misrepresented in that popular church which is now so abundantly and frequently understood, and there is no organ and no opportunity by which, publicly and effectually to refute such misrepresentations and correct such mistakes.

By means of a newspaper in these dioceses conducted on a regular and religious basis, the members of the church might be assisted not only in the general improvement of their spiritual state, but especially in the performance of the peculiar duties imposed on them by the constitution of society in the Southern country—duties which lie very near the hearts of many of them.

It is furthermore intended to enrich the columns of the paper with as many as possible of those treasures of thought and learning which the Periodical Religious Literature of the world contains, and to abundantly pour forth—and to give occasional views of the state of religion and learning on the continent of Europe. But there is one subject closely connected with the rights and interests of the South, which is designed that this paper shall give selections of attention. It is the realization of the magnificent idea of the University of the South at Sewanee, and in order to do this the dissemination of intelligence concerning it, and the issue of appeals in its behalf. Designed then as the contemplated paper is to effect objects so important and so beneficial, the undersigned confidently hopes to receive the active aid of his brethren of the clergy and laity in the Southern country. It is intended to give the paper the name of THE CHURCH INTELLIGENCER, and to issue the first number, it possible, early in March, 1850.

Its terms will be two dollars and a half per annum, payable in advance. Advertisements will be inserted at the usual rates, and a liberal discount made for standing advertisements.

The paper will be sent free to any clergyman who will forward the names and the subscription price of ten subscribers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This document is at hand this morning. The following is its commencement. We will issue the remainder (seven or eight columns) in a supplement as soon as it can be put in type:—

Follow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Our deep and heart-felt gratitude is due to that Almighty Power which has bestowed upon us such varied and numerous blessings throughout the past year. The general health of the country has been excellent; our harvests have been unusually plentiful, and prosperity smiles throughout the land. Indeed, notwithstanding our demerits, we have much reason to believe from the past events in our history, that we have enjoyed the special protection of Divine Providence ever since our origin as a nation. We have been exposed to many threatening and alarming difficulties in our progress; but on each successive occasion the impending cloud has been dissipated at the moment it appeared ready to burst upon our head, and the danger to our institutions has passed away. May we ever be under the divine guidance and protection!

Whilst it is the duty of the President "from time to time to give to Congress information of the state of the Union," I shall not refer in detail to the recent sad and bloody occurrences at Harper's Ferry. Still, it is proper to observe that these events, however bad and cruel in themselves, derive their chief importance from the apprehension that they are but symptoms of an incurable disease in the public mind, which may break out in still more dangerous outrages and terminate at last in an open war by the North to abolish slavery in the South. Whilst, for myself, I entertain no such apprehension, they ought to afford a solemn warning to us all to beware of the approach of danger. Our Union is a stake of such inestimable value as to demand our constant and watchful vigilance for its preservation.

In this view, let me implore my countrymen, North and South, to cultivate the ancient feelings of mutual forbearance and good-will towards each other, and strive to allay the demon spirit of sectional hatred and strife now alive in the land. This advice proceeds from the heart of an old public functionary whose service commenced in the last generation, among the wise and conservative statesmen of that day, now nearly all passed away, and whose first and dearest earthly wish is to leave his country tranquil, prosperous, united, and powerful.

We ought to reflect that in this age, and especially in this country, there is an incessant flux and reflux of public opinion. Questions which in their day assumed a most threatening aspect, have now nearly gone from the memory of men. They are "volcanoes burnt out, and on the lava and ashes and scalded scoria of old contentions grow the peaceful olive, the cheering vine, and the sustaining corn." Such in my opinion, will prove to be the fate of the present sectional excitement, should those who wisely seek to apply the remedy, continue always to confine their efforts within the pale of the Constitution. If this course be pursued, the existing agitation on the subject of domestic slavery, like everything human, will have its day and give place to other and less threatening controversies. Public opinion in this country is all-powerful, and when it reaches a dangerous excess upon any question, the good sense of the people will furnish the corrective and bring it back within safe limits. Still, to hasten this auspicious result, at the present crisis, we ought to remember that every rational creature must be presumed to intend the natural consequences of his own teachings. Those who announce abstract doctrines subversive of the Constitution and the Union, must not be surprised should their heated partisans advance one step further, and attempt by violence to carry these doctrines into practical effect. In this view of the subject it ought never to be forgotten that, however great may have been the political advantages resulting from the Union to every portion of our common country, these would all prove to be as nothing should the time ever arrive when they cannot be enjoyed without serious danger to the personal safety of the people of fifteen members of the confederacy. If the peace of the domestic frontier throughout these States should ever be invaded—if the mothers of families within this extensive region should not be able to retire to rest at night without suffering dreadful apprehensions of what may be their own fate and that of their children before the morning—it would be vain to recourt to such a people the political benefits which result to them from the Union. Self-preservation is the first instinct of nature; and therefore any state of society in which the sword is all the time suspended over the heads of the people, must at last become intolerable. But I indulge in no such gloomy forebodings. On the contrary, I firmly believe that the events at Harper's Ferry, by causing the people to pause and reflect upon the possible peril to their cherished institutions, will be the means, under Providence, of allaying the existing excitement and preventing future outbreaks of a similar character. They will resolve that the Constitution and the Union shall not be endangered by rash counsels, knowing that, should "the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken,"—at the fountain, "human power could never reunite the scattered and hostile fragments."

I cordially congratulate you upon the final settlement by the Supreme Court of the United States of the question of slavery in the Territories, which had presented an aspect so truly formidable at the commencement of my administration. The right has been established of every citizen to take his property of any kind, including slaves, into the common Territories belonging equally to all the States of the Confederacy, and to have it protected there under the Federal Constitution. Neither Congress nor a territorial legislature nor any human power has any authority to annul or impair this vested right. The supreme judicial tribunal of the country, which is a co-ordinate branch of the Government, has sanctioned and affirmed these principles of constitutional law, so manifestly just in themselves, and so well calculated to promote peace and harmony among the States. It is a striking proof of the sense of justice which is inherent in our people, that the property in slaves has never been disturbed, to my knowledge, in any of the Territories. Even throughout the late troubles in Kansas there has not been any attempt, as I am credibly informed, to interfere, in a single instance, with the right of the master. Had my such attempt been made, the judiciary would doubtless have afforded an adequate remedy. Should they fail to do this hereafter, it will then be time enough to strengthen their hands by further legislation. Had it been decided that either Congress or the territorial legislature possess the power to annul or impair the right to property in slaves, the evil would be intolerable. In the latter event, there would be a struggle for a majority of the members of the legislature at each successive election, and the sacred rights of property held under the Federal Constitution would depend for the time-being on the result. The agitation would keep alive a dangerous excitement among the people of the several States.

Thus has the status of a Territory, during the intermediate period from its first settlement until it shall become a State, been irrevocably fixed by the final decision of the Supreme Court. Fortu-

nate has this been for the prosperity of the Territories, as well as the tranquility of the States—Now, emigrants from the North and the South, the East and the West, will meet in the Territories on a common platform, having brought with them that species of property best adapted, in their own opinion, to promote their welfare.—From natural causes the slavery question will in each case soon virtually settle itself; and before the Territory is prepared for admission as a State into the Union, this decision, one way or the other, will have been a foregone conclusion. Meanwhile the settlement of the new Territory will proceed without serious interruption, and its progress and prosperity will not be endangered or retarded by violent political struggles.

When in the progress of events the inhabitants of any Territory shall have reached the number required to form a State, they will then proceed, in a regular manner, and in the exercise of the rights of popular sovereignty, to form a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union.—After this has been done, to employ the language of the Kansas and Nebraska act, they "shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission." This sound principle has happily been recognised, in some form or other, by an almost unanimous vote of both houses of the last Congress.

All lawful means at my command have been employed, and shall continue to be employed, to execute the laws against the African slave-trade. After a most careful and rigorous examination of our coasts and a thorough investigation of the subject, we have not been able to discover that any slaves have been imported into the U. S. except the cargo by the Wanderer, numbering between 200 and 400. Those engaged in this unlawful enterprise have been rigorously prosecuted; but not with as much success as their crimes have deserved. A number of them are still under prosecution.

Our history proves that the Fathers of the Republic, in advance of all other nations, condemned the African slave-trade. It was, notwithstanding, deemed expedient by the framers of the Constitution to deprive Congress of the power to prohibit "the migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit" "prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight."

It will be seen that this restriction on the power of Congress was confined to such States only as might think proper to admit the importation of slaves. It did not extend to other States or to the trade carried on abroad. Accordingly, we find that so early as the 22d March 1794, Congress passed an act imposing severe penalties and punishments upon citizens and residents of the U. S. who should engage in this trade between foreign nations. The provisions of this act were extended and enforced by the act of May 10 1800.

Again: The States themselves had a clear right to waive the constitutional privilege intended for their benefit, and to prohibit, by their own laws, this trade at any time they thought proper previous to 1808. Several of them exercised this right before that period, and