

Communications.

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The State Constitution.

No. 5.

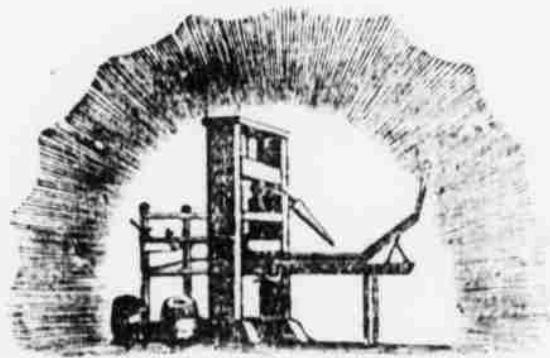
My task is ended, if not completed. In the preceding numbers, my design has been not so much to attempt an analysis of this subject, as to invite public attention to it. Nothing more is necessary to ensure the triumph of truth over error—of reason over prejudice, than that the understanding should have fair play. Public men have not dealt frankly with the people upon this subject. They have not told them how deep and pervading is the dissatisfaction, that prevails in the large counties in the West, with some of the provisions of the present Constitution. They have concealed the important fact, that an ascertained majority of the qualified voters of the State, constituting the actual sovereignty, have expressed their dissatisfaction through the ballot box—and not satisfied with these sins of omission, they have given in to the vulgar prejudices of the day and represented it as a mere question of political power. Instead of inculcating the patriotic sentiment, that we are all brethren of the same political family, having a common interest and owning a common country, a spirit of jealous hatred has been encouraged, fatal to the character and hostile to the best interests of the State. Under the paralyzing influence of this pernicious spirit, parties have originated, based upon a supposed conflict of interest between different sections of the State. Thus we have a party or rather a faction who regard the interests of the Cape Fear country as paramount to the interests of the whole State—another, the range of whose vision does not extend beyond the rich and fertile valley of the Roanoke—while a third, is impressed with the Quixotic idea, that a great commercial sea port is to be built up at Beaufort, from which streams of wealth are to radiate, and reversing the order of nature flow upwards to the mountains. No wonder our fields are deserted—our towns dilapidated and in ruins. No wonder that public spirit is extinct and individual enterprise prostrate. No wonder that those, who are in pursuit of wealth or fame, are compelled to seek a field where the one more surely rewards the labour of industry and the other crowns the efforts of literary or political exertion.

I am aware that it is absurd to attempt to make an actual government conform to any abstract notions of political right. Government is a practical thing, and that government is best, which is best in its practical results. But it is needless to answer the oft repeated demands of a majority of the people, the actual sovereignty of the State, for a revision of the fundamental law, by telling them that in our system no practical evils exist. They will ask in return, if the long and expensive sessions of the Legislature, beggaring the Treasury without benefiting the people—if the fact that the expenses of the State greatly exceed its income, if these operate as no practical evil? They will point to the fluctuating and uncertain character of our legislation, and enquire if that alone does not indicate a radical defect in our system? They will direct our attention to the sectional jealousy which distracts our councils, obstructing every thing like concerted action, and perhaps be surprized to learn, that there are honest and intelligent men, who are unwilling to hush the strife that has so disturbed the tranquillity of the State, and contributed so largely to make her laggard in the race to wealth and importance.

I repeat there is a radical defect somewhere. All candid men must acknowledge it. At the period when the States confederated, North Carolina was among the first in wealth—in population—extent of territory and in political importance. And now what is her actual condition? With a climate, whose average is unrivalled for its softness and its salubrity—a soil, adapted to the production of almost every object of man's industry—with a population hardy, intelligent and enterprising, we seem content to

read the paths of humble mediocrity to which our own apathy has consigned us. Our lands are daily diminishing in value—in our towns the busy hum of commercial industry is no longer heard—and many of our most useful and active citizens are deserting the homes of their fathers, to swell the tide of wealth that is rolling so rapidly to the West. Is there no remedy for these accumulated ills? Do we not owe it to those who are to succeed us, at least to correct those that are palpable, and for the correction of which, means are at hand? Having done this, a part of our duty will have been accomplished, and let the result be what it may, we can satisfy ourselves with the proud reflection, that we have achieved a triumph over deep rooted prejudices, and sacrificed long cherished opinions upon the altar of our country's good.

ARISTIDES.



CARRBOROUGH.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1834.

☞ We regret to learn that the Cholera is prevailing to a considerable extent at Washington, in this State. The authorities of this place have adopted precautionary measures to prevent its introduction. Rumor says that no new cases have been reported at Washington since Monday.

State Elections.—On Tuesday last, the general elections were held in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio. Both parties appear to be sanguine of success.

In Maryland, the Opposition have succeeded in obtaining a considerable majority in the Legislature.

In Maine, the Administration party have triumphed, but by a diminished majority.

☞ We are requested to state that the expenses of the Poor of this county, from May Court 1833 to May Court 1834, was \$763 34½.

Runaway Negroes.—The Salisbury Watchman contains the following paragraph:

"We learn that a company of Negroes have occupied caves in the neighborhood of Petersburg, ever since the insurrection. When our informant passed Petersburg, the military of the place was on the march to try and draw forth those delinquents from their hiding places."

Cotton Crop.—The Nashville Banner supposes that there will be a fair average crop of Cotton throughout the state of Tennessee. The short crop caused by the drought in the Southern counties of Middle Tennessee will, it is said, be fully made up by the unusually fine crop in the Western District. It was expected that the price in the Nashville market, would open at ten cents.

New Cotton.—So unfavourable has the season been, that only five bales of the new crop have come to market. They were sold at 13. Last year, sales of the new crop commenced about the middle of September, and several hundred bales had been sold by the 10th of October.

Newbern Spec.

☞ As we expected, Governor Swain refuses to pardon James Willis, the murderer of Samuel L. Thomas, *un-arrested* and *un-ried* by a jury of his country.

Wash. Statesman.

Superior Court.—At the Superior Court for this county, held last week, the trial of John Murphey, *alias* John Sugg, charged with murdering his step-mother, was continued on account of the absence of a witness, alleged to be material to the prisoner's defence.—*Ral. Star.*

The right of Instruction.—We hope our friends the Hon. A. H. Shepperd and Daniel L. Barringer, will consider themselves instructed, at the next session of Congress, to sustain the present Administration in its measures in relation to the United States Bank. Their districts have spoken in the late elections, in a language that cannot be misunderstood.

Milton Spectator.

The French Claims.—In confirmation of the rumor which we mentioned on Tuesday of our Minister at Paris desiring to be recalled, we are now enabled to state that a letter has been received in this city from one who is in intimate relations with Mr. Livingston's family, affirming that he is ill at ease both in body and mind, annoyed by the procrastination and evasive policy pursued by the French Government in relation to our claims. It states that the ministers declined bringing the subject before the Chamber of Deputies at their late session, under the pretext of the shortness of its duration, and the consequent hazard of defeat. That neither Mr. L. nor any of the Americans there have the slightest confidence in the sincerity of the professions of the Frenchmen, but believe their design to be to gain time by the invention of these and other frivolous excuses of delay. The fallacy of the pretence that there would have been danger of the bill being lost is apparent to all who are aware of the very great ministerial majority in the Chambers, the cabinet can carry any measures which they choose to bring forward, and their shuffling in regard to our claims, conceded and guaranteed by their own ratified treaty, affords clear enough evidence that they purpose to evade paying altogether if they can.

New York Times.

Gold Mines of the United States.—What were considered the dreams of visionaries, stimulated by grasping cupidity, at the early discovery of the North American continent, turn out to be true predictions. In all the old charters, and in the first, especially of "The North and South Virginia Companies," comprehending the entire American continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, these truly magnificent grants to the then bold adventurers under Raleigh, Cabot, Soto, &c., and which were looked upon in pretty much the same light as the promises of Don Quixotte to Sancho Panza, the Jameses and the Charleses, on the thrones of England, always cautiously and scrupulously reserved to themselves the profits that might arise from any mines of gold, silver, or other precious metals. Time has shown that these conjectures have proved true; and that had we continued in colonial dependence, our mines would have become a lucrative source of revenue to those royal personages. It is estimated, we perceive, in the transactions of the Geological Society of Pennsylvania, that since the commencement of the working of the gold mines, that run in a mineral belt, it may be said, parallel to the course of the Blue Ridge, from Georgia to Maryland, there has been obtained gold to the amount of no less than *six millions* of dollars. The mines are generally in talcose slate gneiss, &c., scattered superficially in the gravelly beds of small streams, and therefore easily worked. Three deposit mines alone, in Georgia, have yielded half a million dollars. Those of North Carolina generally furnished a million of bullion annually to the mint. But little, however, of the great production gets into circulation. Most of it is worked up into jewelry, or exported.—*N. Y. Star.*

☞ The Boston papers publish the Report of the Committee appointed at a meeting of the citizens of Boston on the 12th August, to investigate the recent outrages in Charleston. It occupies four columns of the Boston Daily Advertiser, and is signed by Charles G. Loring, as chairman of the committee, and thirty-seven members, respectable citizens of Boston. This numerous committee sat every day, with the exception of Sundays, for a fortnight from nine o'clock in the morning until sunset. They examined upwards of one hundred and forty persons, and besides obtaining information enabling them to lay before the public an account of the affair, their investigations led to the arrest of several individuals.

The destruction of the Ursuline Convent is attributed in the Report to a widely extended popular aversion, founded in the belief that the establishment deserved those imputations of cruelty, vice and corruption, so generally credited

of similar establishments in other countries, was inconsistent with the principles of our institutions and in violation of the laws of the commonwealth. These imputations, according to the able Report of this committee, were utterly groundless. The belief in their justice, was not only prevalent in Boston and the vicinity, but the committee have reason to think, pervaded many distant parts of the State, and were extended into other States, "affording a monitory lesson" says the Report, "as to the extent and excitability of public credulity when in accordance with popular prejudice."

The Convent was founded in the year 1820, by Doctors Matignon and Cheverus, and was at first established in Boston. In 1826 it was removed to Charleston, and in 1827 the main building was finished. The reputation of the seminary opened in it by the nuns extended so far, and the number of pupils from New England, and other States, and from the British Provinces increased so much, that in 1829 two large wings were added to it. The number of nuns has varied at different times from four to ten, and that of the pupils from forty to sixty, (the number of Catholics at no time exceeding ten,) and wholly unrestrained in their communications with their friends concerning all that transpired in the seminary. Although the vow of the nuns was among themselves regarded as inviolable, it was perfectly understood by every one of them that in this country there were no legal means to enforce it, or detain any one who might choose to return to the world. Their moral conduct is affirmed to have been always unexceptionable. In communicating the result of their inquiries, the committee disavow being influenced by any impression that the truth of the imputations would have constituted any justification of the wrong.

They state, that there can be no doubt that a conspiracy had been formed, extending into many of the neighboring towns, to destroy the Convent. They then describe the first excitement, and consequent investigation of the Selectmen of Charlestown on the day preceding the outrage, of which they give a detailed account corresponding with that published at the time, from which it appears that the Selectmen of Charlestown are chargeable with gross neglect of duty. No satisfactory reason has been suggested, they say, why the mob was not arrested in its career, by the great multitudes by which it was surrounded, than the supposition that, from the omission of magisterial interference, doubt and mistrust existed, whether the work were not so far sanctioned by popular opinion, or the connivance of those in authority, that resistance would be hopeless. The committee conclude this portion of the report in the following forcible language.

"The fact that the dwelling of inoffensive females and children, guiltless of wrong to the persons, property, or reputation of others, and reposing in fancied security under the protection of the law, has been thus assaulted by a riotous mob, and ransacked, plundered and burnt to the ground, and its terrified inmates, in the dead hour of night, driven from their beds into the fields; and that this should be done within the limits of one of the most populous towns of the commonwealth, and in the midst of an assembled multitude of spectators; that the perpetrators should have been engaged for seven hours or more in the work of destruction, with hardly an effort to prevent or arrest them; that many of them should afterwards be so far sheltered or protected by public sympathy or opinion, as to render the ordinary means of detection ineffectual; and that the sufferers are entitled to no legal redress from the public, for this outrage against their persons, and destruction of their property, is an event of fearful import, as well as of the profoundest shame and humiliation.

"It has come on us like the shock of an earthquake, and has disclosed a state of society and public sentiment of which we believe no man was before aware.

"If for the purpose of destroying a person, or family, or Institution, it be only necessary to excite a public prejudice, by the dissemination of falsehoods and criminal accusations, and under its sanction