

Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Amendment of our State Constitution. No. 1.

Notwithstanding the subject of amending our State Constitution has been so frequently discussed at the Capital during the last twenty years, the great mass of Eastern Carolinians are totally uninformed as to its true merits; and have but a faint idea of the many defects which pervade our fundamental code. Indeed we hazard nothing in the assertion that most of those who have enjoyed our confidence wanted either ability or moral firmness to lay the subject properly before us. We have been led to believe that no important evils existed, and that those attempts at reform were mere sectional contests between the East & West for political power—and perhaps productive of a healthful excitement in the body politic.

If at any period these impressions may have been correct, an impartial investigation will demonstrate their fallacy now. For however well our Constitution may have been adapted to the necessities of the State at the time of its formation, every circumstance indicates that it was temporary in many of its provisions. Framed amidst the din of the Revolution—when we were almost without law—when our State extended from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, one half a wilderness, the other half possessing but few counties thinly inhabited—it could hardly have been expected that it would properly provide for those great changes which time has effected in our relations. These changes have accordingly been great; we have surrendered the larger half of our territory to the federal government—the old counties have not the same relative weight—new ones have sprung into existence—population has increased disproportionately in the West—change has followed change until that instrument though the same in letter is no longer the same in spirit or practice that it was at its adoption. And it is urged that so far from being the protector of equal rights—the dispenser of political justice which our fathers intended—it has become an instrument of gross and grievous oppression.

It is very questionable whether a people can long remain free or happy, who are not characterized for a steadfast attachment to their own peculiar national institutions:—it is proper, therefore, that we should exercise a cautious hesitation in yielding to the advocates for change in our fundamental law, until we are firmly convinced that its defects utterly incapacitate it for fulfilling the great ends for which it was created. But when it is palpable that it has ceased to be what its authors intended—when as the main wheel in our State machinery it has lost its original power of producing equal and uniform action in every part—the act of amending becomes a high and imperative duty; and a people who neglect it are unjust to themselves, are deaf to the wisdom of experience, and relinquish the highest prerogative of freemen—the power of benefitting their own condition—which is, in fact, the very essence and all the value of freedom.

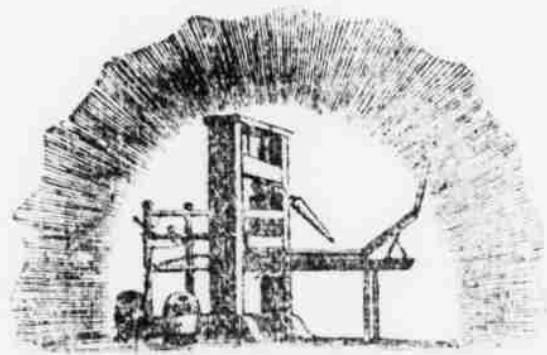
That it is thus with our present Constitution, every aspect of our affairs bears conclusive testimony.

The deep discontent which pervades a large portion of our fellow Citizens—the loud and earnest call of thousands in the West for reform—the discord and contention manifest in our councils—an expensive and puerile legislation—a system of finance bringing slow but sure bankruptcy on the treasury—every interest which can encourage enterprise prostrate—every energy of the State paralyzed—and a people hastening from our soil as if they fled impending ruin—all too solemnly demonstrate that our evils are not imaginary—but that some fearful defect, deep and real, exists in the foundations of our political edifice. Let the people reflect that they alone have authority to apply the remedy.

It is to show the "change which has come over the spirit of" our Constitution

—to develop some of its defects—and to exhibit some of the proposed remedies that I present these numbers as a sequel to those offered by Aristides on the same subject. I therefore ask the earnest attention of the people to the facts and inferences which Aristides has submitted to their consideration.

AN EASTERN CAROLINIAN.



CAROLINA:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1834.

State Elections.—In Ohio, Governor Lucas, the Administration candidate, has been re-elected by a small majority—but the Opposition elected a majority of the Legislative and Congressional candidates. The next delegation in Congress will stand 9 Administration to 10 Opposition members—the present delegation is 11 Administration to 8 Opposition.

In South Carolina, two Union members have been elected—in the present delegation there is only one.

In New York, the elections commenced on Monday last—in a few days we will probably learn the result of the city election.

We learn that the Sheriff of Greene county, John W. Taylor, Esq. was shot a few nights since on his return from Newbern, where he had been to transact some business. Mr. Taylor was within about two miles of home, and he is not certain whether the assassins were white or black, though he knows there were two of them. Mr. Taylor's life is despaired of. He was a wealthy, respectable and useful citizen.

On Saturday night, the 25th ult. Martin, a slave belonging to Mr. Wm. J. Andrews, at Sparta, was drowned in the river at that place.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

Sparta, Oct. 31, 1834.

Mr. Howard: I send you an account of one of the most shocking occurrences imaginable. On Monday night, the 27th inst. the house of Starling Summerell in this neighborhood was consumed by fire, and horrible to relate, two of his children perished in the flames! Mr. Summerell had gone to a neighbor's for the purpose of helping him husk corn, and when he arrived at home his house, together with all the property it contained, (being we understand, all he had,) and two of his children were enveloped in the flames. His wife narrowly escaped, being considerably burnt.

It seems that Mrs. S. did not discover the fire until it had reached the bed on which herself and her three youngest children were lying. These she saved by throwing them out at a window. The two oldest became enveloped in the smoke, and were unable to find means of escape, and the mother had the agony of hearing their dying shrieks without any means to render any assistance. One of the children was nearly grown, and the other eight or nine years old.

The origin of the fire is uncertain. If it were not that we were reluctant to believe that we had amongst us so hardened a villain, we believe many would be inclined to think, under all the circumstances, that it was the work of some fell incendiary. Very respectfully, yours, &c.

Cholera in Petersburg.—The Report of the Board of Health on the 1st inst. says: "Since the last report the Physicians have reported to the Board 37 cases of Cholera; 16 of which were whites, and 21 blacks; of these, 1 white and 2 blacks have died; the remainder convalescent. Of the cases embraced in former reports, one only has died since the 29th ult."

Cholera.—We were in Greenville on Monday and Tuesday last, and were much gratified on perceiving that the alarm respecting the Cholera had almost wholly subsided—the County Court was sitting and the people in attendance as usual. It will be seen, also, by the following articles from the Washington Statesman, that the disease has nearly disappeared from that place.

Washington, (N. C.) Oct. 31.

The Health of the Town.—With mingled feelings of thankfulness and joy,

we now feel authorized by the existing state of things, to say, that the Cholera has so nearly subsided as to create very little uneasiness here. Business is resuming its accustomed channels, and the country people and travellers, visit us more freely. In the last ten days there have been very few cases, as will be seen by the Report of the Board of Health in this days paper; and nearly all of these have been mild and resulted favorably—and all, except one, were people of color. Should another week close without producing any more cases, or a diminished number, our absent friends might safely return, and the people in the Country and all others come to town, without the slightest danger—provided they use the precautions which rational and prudent people should ever do—in regard to eating, drinking, sleeping and clothing.

Statesman.

Report of the Board of Health for the week, ending Thursday, the 30th inst. inclusive,

	Cases.	Deaths.
Friday,	0	0
Saturday,	3	1
Sunday,	0	0
Monday,	0	0
Tuesday,	0	0
Wednesday,	0	1
Thursday,	0	0

At this time there is not a case of Cholera in Town.—*ib.*

It is a remarkable fact, and one that seems to contradict the theory of the non-contagiousness of Cholera—that a Flat came here last week from our neighbouring Town of Greenville, for Goods for the Merchants of that Town—and remained here about 24 hours. Immediately after her return, three out of the four negro men on board of her, were violently attacked with Cholera; two of whom soon died. The Flat had to pass Boyd's ferry landing, where a white man, named Williams, was soon afterwards attacked with the same disease, and died in a few hours. But whether he was on board of the Flat, or not while she was passing that customary stopping place, (to tittle) we have not heard.—*ib.*

Our Superior Court.—This being the Superior Court week of this County, his Honor Judge Norwood (the Judge assigned to hold the Court) gave his attendance and held the Court on Wednesday and Thursday; but finding, that very few members of the Bar, Suitors, Witnesses or Jurors were present, he did no more than make the customary rules and orders, and adjourned the Court, without trying any cause.

The only capital case before the Court was that of Reading Pearce, a free man of color, committed since the last term, on the charge of murdering his brother in this County the last summer. On a call of the Venire, only 13 Jurors answered; and exception being taken, by John S. Hawks, Esq. counsel for the Prisoner, to a Grand Jury to be formed without the 19th, to draw 18 from, to pass upon the Bill of Indictment; and it being intimated, that an arrest of Judgment would be prayed and an appeal taken to the Supreme Court by the Prisoner if necessary, should he be convicted under a Bill, found by such a Grand Jury as the Court then only had it in its power to give him—the Judge declined impanelling them, and remanded the Prisoner; who therefore takes up winter quarters in the Dungeon of our Prison.

This occurrence proves the necessity of some legislative provision, whereby a Grand Jury may be formed, without the chances of evil, where only 17 or 18 Jurors of the Original pannel, attend the Court.—*ib.*

Petersburg Market, Nov. 3.—Cotton advanced to 15c for prime, soon after our last publication, and has continued in brisk demand. By last accounts from New York, that market was less active, and some decline was expected to take place.—*Intelligencer.*

New York Market, Oct. 29.—Cotton—accounts from Liverpool to the 24th Sept. were received yesterday morning

by the ship Independence, which state a very active business in that market. The sales for the week, ending 19th, were 20,542 bales, and for the three days preceding the 25th, 14,000 bales, at an advance, in some instances, of 3d.—Uplands are quoted at 7½ a 3¼ a 9d. Our market immediately became quite animated, and the transactions yesterday were more extensive than for some time past, at very full prices; and, in some instances, at rates which could not before be obtained. The sales, for the three days, amount to about 2200 bales—comprising 1900 Uplands, mostly new crop, at 14½ a 16 cts; 150 Alabama, old, 16 a 15½; and 150 N. Orleans, old and new, 16 a 17½.

Nov. 1.—Since our report of the 25th ult. there has been a very animated demand for this article. The transactions amount to about 4200 bales, consisting of 3200 Uplands at 13 to 16½ cts. 40 Alabamas 14 to 17½ cts. Prices generally have advanced ½ a ¾c. per lb.

Naval Stores.—Turpentine is in good demand; Wilmington at \$3, and North County at 2,62½. Tar very dull at 2 Dollars.

A Tall Visitor.—We were visited yesterday by a gentleman from North Carolina, who measures in height no less than six feet 8 inches. He naturally excited some astonishment among our clerks, one of whom stands rather above 6 feet, but who, long side of the stranger, seemed but a half grown boy. Our visitor stated that he has 4 brothers. His father measures 6 feet one inch. North Carolina may well boast of the tallness of her sons, especially as this specimen of growth is not the highest that may be produced, our friend having assured us that one of his neighbors measures over 7 feet. Truly he must belong to a race of giants.—*Phil. Intl.*

Cape Fear, Yadkin & Pee Dee Rail Road Company.—The Fayetteville Observer states that the Stockholders of this Company held their annual meeting on the 3d inst. when the President made his report, and the Treasurer exhibited the amount of the receipts and disbursements from the commencement of the work to the present time. Pursuant to a provision of the Charter, the Stockholders elected seven Directors, who are to manage the concerns of the Company for the next twelve months, viz: James Seawell, Hugh Campbell, Sr., Lewis Brown, Edward W. Willkings, Dr. Thomas N. Cameron, James Hart, and Dr. Hiram Robinson. Previous to adjourning, Dr. Cameron presented a Preamble and Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, and on motion of Mr. E. L. Winslow, ordered to be printed.

Trial of Wm. Gibson the murderer of his sister.—At the late term of Stokes Superior Court (Judge Seawell presiding) William Gibson a lad of about 13 years old and badly grown at that, was put upon his trial for the murder of his sister a child younger than himself.—It seems that on some squabble taking place between them about cooking some food, when no one was about the house but these two, the lad deliberately sharpened a case knife and cut the little girl's throat in such a manner that she immediately died. On being charged with the act he acknowledged it, but at first gave a different reason for doing it from what he afterwards assigned. On the trial he appeared quite unconcerned at what was going on, and although the Jury acquitted him on account of a deficiency of intellect, many thought that this apathy of manner was the effect of vicious examples, with which he was proven to have been familiar from his earliest childhood. His whole associations have been of the most depraved character and it seemed a matter of surprise to every body, that such a state of morals, as this trial exposed, should exist in a civilized country. The sensation produced in Court on the introduction of apparently so unfit a victim of criminal justice, was great. The Prisoner was prosecuted by the Solicitor General and defended by Messrs. Boyden, Kerr, Nash and J. M. Morehead, whom the humanity of the Court assigned as his Counsel, and who deserve great