

Our friends will see that our terms are cash. We hope they will govern themselves accordingly.

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PROSPECTUS

THE EDUCATOR.

A weekly newspaper published every Saturday in Fayetteville N. C.

THE EDUCATOR, a journal of moral and intellectual advancement, will be especially devoted to the interests of the colored youth of North Carolina.

While not strictly a party paper, THE EDUCATOR will earnestly defend the Republican principles and policy.

Religion, Literature, Agriculture and News will be made special features of THE EDUCATOR.

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Remember, Boys Make Men.

When you see a ragged urchin Standing wistful in the street, With torn hat and kneeless trousers,

Overflow in boyish freak, Chide your child in gentle accents, Do not in your anger speak.

Have you never seen a grand sire, With his eyes aglow with joy, Bring to mind some acts of kindness?

Let us try to add some pleasure To the life of every boy; For each child needs tender interest

The Convention Question.

Immediately after the general election all over the State, on the 6th of last August, the GAZETTE, among the first papers of North Carolina, took its position FIRMLY AND SQUARELY against the call of a Convention to amend the present Constitution of the State.

The Convention question was not an issue in the August campaign; we do not suppose any candidate or any public speaker ever broached the subject any where on the stump; the people anticipated no such issue—and, what is more, thousands who

voted with our party for the first time, would never have done so had they seen any reason to expect a call for a Convention, should it be before them when they will have voted with us for the LAST time.

In short, the citizens—the voters of North Carolina DON'T WANT A CONVENTION; they are not inclined and not able to endure the necessary outlay of money which would be incurred, and they prefer relying upon Legislative enactment for the correction of whatever Constitutional abuses may now rest heavily upon them.—North Carolina Gazette, of 5th November, last.

An Election for Delegates to amend the Constitution of the State, will be held on Thursday, the 5th of August, 1875. The Convention will meet at Raleigh, on the 6th of the following September.

A Cruel Story.

Charles Nordhoff tells in the New York Herald the following story of cruelty and crime in Mississippi—

Here is another incident of Mississippi life. About four weeks ago, a mulatto girl, aged 19, who had been living for some time as servant in the house of a farmer, two and a half miles from Verona, in Lee county, left his service and went to Verona, where she became a house servant in order to attend an evening school.

Two of the men came in and demanded the girl, saying she belonged to them. She refused to go with them, and declared she was free, which was true of course. They knocked her down, took her by the feet, dragged her thus through the house, through the yard, into the street, her clothing torn and deranged in the struggle, and she screaming for help, and this was in open daylight and in the presence of several men, besides women and children—set her on a horse and carried her off.

Now, cruelty and violence may and do happen in any State. The part of the story which seems most horrible to me is this—It is in evidence before the District Attorney that the Mayor of Verona, who is, its Justice of the Peace, heard the girl's cries and saw the struggle, and when asked why he did not interfere himself testified that he thought it was none of his business, as he knew it was only a negro girl.

Why these significant omissions, unless some sinister design is concealed? It will not do to say the rights of the people are secured by the so-called restrictions of the Convention Act.—While these restrictions amount to a confession that many of the provisions of the existing constitution are admirable, (the acknowledgment being extorted from its enemies,) they are by no means a guaranty that the

Plotters are not conspiring against the liberties of the people.—There is nothing within them to prevent the restoration of the county courts; nor the abolition of the township; nor the re-establishment, of the whipping post; nor the requirement of a residence of twelve months in a county, before acquiring the right to vote; nor the fixing of excessive rates of poll tax in the various counties; nor forbidding the forced production of tax-receipts to enable a citizen to cast his ballot; nor the creation of a stringent landlord and tenant act; nor the taking away from the tiller of the soil his rights and property; nor the appointment of judges, solicitors and magistrates by the legislature; nor the taking away from the people the right to choose their own rulers. All these things the

Subscribe, and take the EDUCATOR, during the campaign. It will defend the rights of poor men.

Address to the Voters of North Carolina.

ROOMS REPUBLICAN STATE EX.) COM. RALEIGH, June 15, 75) The late legislature, presuming upon the strength of party discipline, has called a convention to amend the constitution of North Carolina. No intimation was given to the people, in the campaign of 1874, that such a purpose was contemplated. The question of CONVENTION, OR NO CONVENTION, was not an issue in that contest; and generally when candidates for the legislature were interrogated upon the stump, they disclaimed the desire to call a constitutional convention.

When the legislature assembled, a majority of that body were opposed to the call; but at once the agitation commenced. For a long time it was in doubt whether or not the plotters would succeed, because, the dominant party, knowing the temper of the people feared to risk the passage of a convention bill.

The party lash was applied, and one by one, those opposed to the project yielded to party discipline, under protest, declaring they did so as a party measure; and at last the necessary majority was secured. Without being in any manner consulted, the voters are thus compelled to take action; and this compulsion has been resorted to, in spite of the fact that so late as 1871, the people determined, by a large majority, that they did not want a convention.

In like manner the dominant party, in 1861, DISREGARDED THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

During that year, the legislature submitted the convention question to a popular vote, and it was decided by an overwhelming majority that the convention should not be called. Yet within a few weeks thereafter, the legislature called a convention; and the delegates to that body, again without consulting the people, passed an ordinance of secession, and plunged the state into rebellion.

It seems that certain politicians are determined to overthrow the organic law. Since 1870—a period of only five years—they have three several times worried the people into voting upon the question of amending the constitution. It is high time the people had rest, from these CEASELESS AGITATIONS; and it remains with themselves to put a quietus upon them. If the present scheme is defeated, we may reasonably hope no other attempt will be made in a long series of years.

There is a mystery attaching to these persistent endeavors to overturn the organic law. While politicians are exclaiming that the existing constitution is imperfect and needs revision, none of them inform the people in what respects it should be amended. Even the Address, recently issued by authority of the Democratic party, deals in general expressions, gravely advancing the idea that the "necessity for changing many of the provisions of the existing constitution is generally admitted, and is too apparent to require extended argument;" and the same solemn document, in another place announces that its

LIMITED SPACE does not permit a catalogue of the numerous defects and imperfections of the present constitution, or to enumerate the remedies to be offered." From the beginning to the end of this Address, not a single important suggestion of amendment is offered or foreshadowed.

Why these significant omissions, unless some sinister design is concealed? It will not do to say the rights of the people are secured by the so-called restrictions of the Convention Act.—While these restrictions amount to a confession that many of the provisions of the existing constitution are admirable, (the acknowledgment being extorted from its enemies,) they are by no means a guaranty that the

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"RESTRICTIONS" DO NOT PREVENT. And considering the silence of the projectors of the convention scheme; none but the conspirators themselves can foretell what other iniquities may

be resorted to.

Why were the restrictions placed at all within the convention-bill? The promoters of the conspiracy have time and again denounced the very measures they now pretend to preserve. They were insincere before, or treacherous now. Every one of the restrictions are as to measures that have become endeared to the people, and which they are unwilling to relinquish; and it must be borne in mind they are parts of a constitution claimed by its enemies to be the "creature of military dictatorship, born in the throes of a military reconstruction." In truth, it was known by the conspirators that the

PEOPLE DISTRUSTED THEM; and these so-called restrictions, which many of them are ready to disregard, were inserted in the convention-bill, because its authors feared the people.

No arguments whatever have been adduced to prove a lack of excellence in the existing constitution. In many instances, the principles of the present organic law, are the very ones advocated in past days, by

PROMINENT STATESMEN of North Carolina. In 1840, Gov. Dudley recommended the location of the Judges of the Superior Courts in the Districts. In 1854, Gov. Ried recommended that the Attorney General be made an executive officer and that he should reside in the City of Raleigh.—In the same message, he recommended two additional judicial circuits. The same year, Mr. Dortch introduced a bill to elect the judges for a term of years; and Mr. Biggs introduced a resolution to divide the State into nine judicial circuits. During the same session of the legislature, Mr. Bynum proposed to divide the State into ten circuits. In 1869, Mr. Merrimon introduced a resolution instructing the judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of establishing another judicial circuit; and also as to the appointment of an additional judge of the Supreme Court.

As in the case of the judiciary, and the election of officers by the people so with all the important changes made in the constitution. The establishment of a penitentiary; the abolition of imprisonment for debt; the organization of a bureau of statistics; all these have been recommended at different times by our old-time governors and leading men.

GREAT COMPLAINT was made because of the establishment of the Code Commission; and after much clamor, it was abolished. But one of our recent legislatures appointed Judge Battle to do the same work requiring it to be done in a specified time. The General Assembly pretended to pass upon his labors; but so little knowledge had our law-makers of what had been accomplished, that the statute law has been thrown into confusion, and the best of lawyers are uncertain how to construe it.

We have said the agitators REFUSE TO INFORM THE PEOPLE in what respects they propose to amend the constitution. But observing the work of their hands, we are not left entirely in the dark as to their designs.—For instance, read the infamous charters of the cities of Raleigh, Wilmington and Newbern, (to say nothing of other towns,) in which property, not citizenship, has representation; and which overturn fundamental principles of republican government, giving political power to the few and withholding it from the many. Recall the shameful law reforming the senate districts,

VIRTUALLY DISFRANCHISING large numbers of voters. Remember also the outrageous attempt in 1871, to call a convention of the people, by a bare majority vote, of the General Assembly.

In regard to the homestead, call to mind the opinions and advice of prominent conservative lawyers, who construed the

HOMESTEAD ACT to apply only to new debts, claiming that it did not relate to obligations contracted prior to 1868. Should these men obtain control of the Supreme Court, what will become of the homestead, as applied to old debts? No "restrictions" will save the debtor class in such a contingency.

The constitution [ART. 5, sec. 6] allows the General Assembly the EXEMPT FROM TAXATION certain property, to a value not exceeding three hundred dollars. Notwithstanding this liberal provision, the late legislature, in the Machinery Act, exempts only twenty-five dollars worth of personal property. [Sec. 12.] But in the same Act, in cases of incomes, five hundred dollars are exempted. [Sec. 9.] Add to this the exemption of one thousand dollars in the Act to raise revenue, and we have, a together, fifteen hundred dollars exempted from the tax upon incomes. And while there is exempted but twenty-five dollars upon agricultural implements and the tools of mechanics, there is no tax whatever upon the books of lawyers and other professional men.

Again: The same legislature, in the LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

(Chap. 209) puts the renter and cropper absolutely within the power of the landlord, by providing, in cases of renting, whether the contract be verbal or written, that the land owner shall have a lien upon the crops raised which lien "shall be preferred to all other liens." And if any tenant shall remove any part of the crop, without giving five days' notice, before the debt is paid, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Here, it will be observed, the usual safe-guards of a written contract, to bind a poor man's property are not required, and the crops are mortgaged by the operations of an act of the legislature.

They also wish to delude the laboring classes of the

WHITE POPULATION into the belief that when they obtain unlimited control of the government, they will pass laws putting the negroes down, and under them. They know this is impossible, under the constitution of the United States, which prevents discrimination because of race, color or previous condition of servitude. But they care no more for the humbler classes men; and in order to reduce the blacks to a degraded position, they are compelled to legislate also

AGAINST THEIR OWN RACE. Thus, in the case of the charter of the city of Wilmington, already alluded to, in the first and second wards, there are less than seven hundred voters, all told; while in the third ward, there are eight hundred white voters, and two thousand colored voters. But the first and second wards (where the wealthy men reside) have a larger representation in the city council, than the third ward, in which the white voters alone (being mostly mechanics and laborers) exceed in number all the voters of the other two wards. Here, in striking at the colored man, they are compelled to disfranchise the laboring white men, the avowed conflict with the constitution of the United States, that it may be said, there is no discrimination between the two races. There is no doubt they can annex such qualifications for voters that will exclude many colored men; as for instance (disregarding the restrictions) that the black man shall be a landholder, or worth five hundred dollars; but then they will be obliged to add the same qualification to the poorer classes of the white voters.

WE BEGIN NOW TO SEE the purposes of the conspirator. Discriminations are made between the rich man and his poor neighbor, the tendency of all this sort of legislation being to add to the strength of the strong and trample upon the rights of the weak.

This question of so-called constitutional reform is after all but an issue between the haughty lords of the soil, who, before the war, governed with absolute sway; and the poor and humble classes, whom they now would deprive of the sweets of liberty, conferred by the constitution of 1788. The poor man, whether white or colored, would do well not to heed their

HONEYED WORDS AND GILDED PROMISES.

They cannot be sure that even the restrictions of the Convention-Act will be regarded, many members of the dominant party openly scouting them; and some of their editors exclaiming, "Let us hear no more about abiding by the act calling the convention, so far as the oaths and restrictions are concerned."

Thus do the conspirators trample upon the principle that sovereignty, is vested in the people, and that constitutions are but limited grants of power from the people, and should never be framed to enslave the poor man!

The plotters also desire to

RESTORE THE COUNTY COURTS.

They would afflict a law-ridden people with a multiplication of tribunals, which the present constitution has abolished. Do they intend to benefit the people or the lawyers? Do the tax-payers wish to sustain six courts a year, when two will do as well? Would they have their time wasted and their money wrung from them to support a useless and cumbersome system?

So it is intended

TO DO AWAY WITH THE TOWNSHIPS,

the governments of true democracy.—The schemers say this system was never heard of before the event of the "sciolists, carpet-baggers and negroes." But Charles F. Fisher, a leading democrat, in the General Assembly of 1854, introduced into the senate, a bill providing for the appointment of a Council of Selectmen for every county, with the same powers and authority, and to be elected in the same manner, as our present township trustees. Besides being a system that has worked well in other states, it was thus not a novelty in North Carolina.

It is objected that the township system will not successfully work in a SPARSELY SETTLED COUNTRY. But the system inaugurated the American Revolution. Because of it,

the people were taught to rely upon themselves and govern themselves. The minute men of the Revolution were created by the township system, and fought the first battles in the war of independence, at Concord and Lexington. And these glorious achievements, by which the British arms were overthrown, were accomplished in a sparsely settled territory, and were the results of the system it is now sought to overthrow.

The township system is an

EDUCATION IN SELF-GOVERNMENT

and has been commended, at all times, by political thinkers, who have had at heart the good of the people. It is one of the grandest of political principles, leaving absolutely to neighborhoods the right to govern themselves in local matters; and is essentially opposed to the idea of centralization, or a consolidated government. It comes with an ill grace from the party

CRYING OUT AGAINST CONSOLIDATION,

to favor the uprooting of a system that is diametrically opposed to the central idea. The system is necessary to a government of the people, being of the people and for the people. By its operations, they learn self-reliance, and do not depend upon a central power for life and energy; and in turn, they strengthen the general government, giving to health and vitality in all its parts.

In those states where it has not been in operation, there have always been great numbers of illiterates; while the contrary is true in communities where it has existed. The reason is plain—within the township governments, it is impossible to sustain

COMMON SCHOOLS.

Thus, in the old slave-holding states, these directors of the people have been wanting; and now, if this system is abolished, common schools can never be established, and the people will be deprived of the advantages of education.

It is the purpose of the plotters to supply themselves and their friends with office, this being a prominent idea in all their scheming. In passing the convention bill, the late legislature provided for their own continuance in power. The words are few, but their meaning is strong. Observe the following, quoted from the Act: "Nor shall said convention pass any ordinance legislative in their character, except such as are necessary to submit the amended constitution to the people for their ratification or rejection; OR TO CONVENE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY."

So it will be perceived the members of the late legislature, are counting upon being again called together, thus practically annulling the recent amendments to the constitution providing for a biennial session of the General Assembly. This is of like nature with the project to create life offices, taking from the people the power to choose their own rulers.

One of the arguments advanced by the plotters is, that by amending the constitution, the government may be

ADMINISTERED WITH MORE ECONOMY.

Here again, they fail to tell in what manner this is to be accomplished.

But is the calling of a convention an economical measure? The cost of the sitting of the body will in itself be enormous, and the longer the session, the greater the expense. If the constitution should be materially amended, the present system of statute-laws would be overturned, requiring new statutes to be enacted. As the convention will have no power, if the restrictions are observed, to pass ordinances of a legislative character, a long session of the General Assembly will be necessary to remodel the systems overturned. Nor will the new legislation be completed, judging by past history, in a single session; but for years after the sitting of the convention, additional legislation will be necessary, so increasing the length of the sessions of the legislature. The cost of the public printing will be increased, and various expenses attaching to the new order of things will be multiplied. The entire expenses cannot be definitely arrived at; but it is estimated by competent judges, that it will consume as much as FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, or a year's taxes, if not a greater sum, to supply the deficiency. These large amounts ought to be saved to the people, already staggering under burdens grievous to be borne.

Inasmuch as the people have not been consulted in the convention call there remains but one method to defeat the machinations of the schemers, namely by the policy of

IMMEDIATE ADJOURNMENT,

thus appealing from the legislature to the people themselves. It is therefore recommended to the voters of North Carolina, without regard to party affiliation, to support no candidate (Concluded on 3rd page.)