

consideration the report, statement, vouchers, &c., of the Commissioners of the Atlantic and North-Carolina Railroad, and consider the propriety of printing the same.

The House concurring in the proposition, the speaker appointed Messrs. Clarke of Craven, Wooten and Mendenhall on the part of the House.

Mr. Clarke, of Craven, presented the proceedings and resolutions of a public meeting in Craven county. Mr. Whitehair presented the proceedings of a public meeting held in Craven county.

Mr. Perkins presented the proceedings of a public meeting held in Craven county. Mr. Ewell presented the proceedings of a public meeting in Martin county.

Mr. Hill presented the proceedings of a public meeting at Rowan Mills, Rowan county. Mr. Hill said that the resolutions, (which were strong for the Union and opposed the calling of a State Convention,) did not reflect the sentiments of the people of Rowan county.

Mr. Wainwright presented a memorial from H. E. C. and others, relative to the purchase of arms for the State, and the propriety of establishing an arm factory on Deep river.

The memorial was read, and referred to Committee on Military Affairs. The speaker read before the House the statement of the Bank of Wadesboro, which on motion was sent to the Senate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES. Mr. Patchelor, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the bill to transfer the office of the Superior Court from the estate of a parent, with a substitute, and recommended its passage.

Mr. Person, from the same committee, reported back the bill to increase the salaries of the Judges of the Superior and Superior Courts, and recommended its passage.

The same, a bill to regulate Criminal Prosecutions, in Courts County and Superior, and recommended that it do not pass.

Also a bill, to place on an equality the creditors of deceased intestates, and recommended its rejection. Also a bill, to amend an act relating to the County Courts of Randolph County, and asking to be discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. Simpson, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill amending the charter of the Ironhill Blues, with amendment, and recommended its passage.

Mr. Ferrelle, from the committee on Education, reported back the bill for the incorporation of the Highland Institute in Haywood County, and recommended its passage, with an amendment.

Mr. Jenkins, chairman of the committee on Education, reported back the bill to reduce the salary of the Superintendent of Common Schools, and recommended its rejection.

Mr. Wainwright, from the committee on Corporations, reported back the bill to incorporate the Ironhill Mining Company, with amendment, and recommended its passage.

The same, a bill to charter the St. Catherine Mills and Charlotte Mill Road Company, and recommended its passage.

Mr. Horton, from the committee on Cherokee Lands, reported back the bill giving the management of the Western Turnpike Roads to certain County Courts.

Mr. Hill moved that a message be sent to the Senate, in a proposition to print all bank statements heretofore rendered, and that might hereafter be rendered. The motion was concurred in.

Mr. Mendenhall introduced a resolution recommending the surveying instruments of Mr. Lilley of Staunton, Va., exhibited in the House this morning.

Mr. Hoke's resolution in favor of L. H. Lorance, late Sheriff of Lincoln County.

A message was received from the Senate transmitting a bill for the incorporation of the Salem and Theasaville Turnpike Company, and asking the concurrence of the House.

The hour having arrived for the consideration of the bill authorizing the Governor to call a convention of the State, which was made the special order for to-day at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Hill said, that the bill was one of great importance, and he had no doubt the discussion of the subject would take a wide range, and he therefore moved that the House go into a committee of the whole for the consideration of the bill.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. We have heretofore published in part or in whole, the proceedings of over forty meetings of the people in every portion of the State—every one of which embodied a wish for a Convention and for preparing to meet any danger. The following are the meetings we have published:

Wilson, Wayne, Brunswick, Pitt, Cumberland, (2) Rowan, Craven, Lenoir, Onslow, Catawba, Lincoln, (2) Halifax, Gaston, Wilmington, (2) Bladen, Cleveland, Littleton, Greene, Charlotte, Duplin, Warren, Robeson, Edgecombe, Sampson, Caswell, (2) Asheville, F. Depot, Franklin, Surry, Richmond, (2) Mecklenburg, (2) Cabarrus, Chatham, Henderson Co., Nash, Chapel Hill.

We have now on hand the proceedings of numerous other meetings, all going for a Convention; but we find it impossible to insert them all into this paper for practical purposes. And in addition to these, we have before us proceedings of numerous Union meetings, four-fifths of which go for arming the State or for a Convention.

Never, before, was there such an unmistakable declaration of the popular will on any proposed measure—never, before, has any public servant received such an endorsement of his official course or such a general concurrence in his views and recommendations on Federal relations, as contained in his recent Message, as has Gov. Ellis. In this array—this real "voice of the people"—the vigorous policy of Gov. Ellis is applauded, and the "watch and wait" policy of his enemies most signally rebuked.

The following is some of the additional resolutions adopted: A meeting without distinction of party in Carteret, passed the following:

Resolved, That we approve of the recommendations to the Legislature in the message of His Excellency, John W. Ellis, in that—the State should be placed in an adequate position of defense by reorganizing the militia and arming and equipping volunteer companies at the public expense.

JOHNSON COUNTY—UNION MEETING. Resolved, That a Convention of the people ought to be called by the Legislature to consider and determine what the interest and honor of North Carolina requires her to do.

HARNETT COUNTY. The citizens of Harnett adopted the following: Resolved, That we request our Legislature to call a Convention of the people of North Carolina, at the earliest practicable day, for the purpose of taking into consideration the formation of a volunteer corps, and we pledge ourselves to sustain North Carolina in whatever position, in the wisdom of the people, she may choose to assume.

MARTIN COUNTY. The citizens of Martin, without distinction of party, amongst others adopted the following: Hon. Asa Biggs took part in the proceedings: Resolved, That a period has arrived in the affairs of this State that demands action—deliberate, patriotic and firm action; and this meeting is of opinion that a Convention of the people ought to be called at an early day to deliberate and determine upon the course of action the State ought to take in the present agitated state of the country.

MOORE COUNTY. The people of Moore, at a meeting in Carthage, adopted the following: Resolved, That we approve the proposition to hold a State Convention for the purpose of considering the course to be taken by North Carolina in the present crisis of National affairs.

Resolved, That we are in favor of a re-organization of the militia, the formation of a volunteer corps, and an appropriation by the Legislature for arms and equipments.

DAVIE COUNTY. At a meeting in Mocksville, irrespective of party, the following was adopted: Resolved, That we, the people of Davie county, in view of the impending crisis in our affairs, and the danger resulting from the election of a sectional President, and the action of some of our Southern States, and believing that there is always safety in the voice of the people, we are in favor of calling a convention of the people of the State to take into consideration the unsettled condition of the country.

CABARRUS COUNTY. At a meeting of the voters of District No. 11, on the 21st ult., the following was adopted: Resolved, That we are in favor of a Convention of delegates elected by the people of this State, to consult what the interest and honor of North-Carolina require her to do in the present state of affairs.

ROWAN COUNTY. At a meeting of the people at Enoch's Church and also at Mt. Zion, resolutions were adopted in favor of a Convention as provided by the Constitution.

CABARRUS COUNTY. The people of Cabarrus, at Concord, adopted the following: Resolved, That this end the Legislature now in session, and the people generally, by voluntary action, should proceed at once to put the State in a position of defense as regards its military, financial and commercial arrangements, and that the Legislature should call a Convention of the people in order that North-Carolina may lift her warning voice to the North, and at the same time arrest the precipitate action of the South.

ANSON COUNTY. At a public meeting in Wadesboro, the following: Resolved, That the State should be placed in a condition of defense, and complete preparation for whatever exigency may arise, by a re-organization of the militia, and such other measures as the Legislature, in its wisdom, may deem expedient and necessary.

PITT COUNTY. A second meeting was held in Pitt county, and the following is a part of a resolution adopted: We believe that the State should be prepared for defence, and that a Convention of the people should be called, with ample time for deliberation and reflection, in order that they may decide for themselves what their future relations to the Federal Government shall be; and we believe that a Convention of all the slaveholding States ought to be held at some convenient time and place, in order that they may confer together concerning their common interests, and demand from our Northern brethren such guarantees for our future peace and security as they, in their wisdom, may think right and proper, and upon failure to obtain the same within a reasonable time, then for us all to separate from the North, and to demand, and have, at all hazards, our just share of the common property of the Government.

BLADEN COUNTY. The citizens of Bladen, at Elizabethtown, adopted the following: Resolved, That we approve of that portion of the Governor's message which recommends the arming of the militia, and we are opposed to any delay of the passage of the bill now before the Legislature for that purpose.

Resolved, That we approve of the holding of a Convention of the State as recommended by the majority of our Legislative committee on Federal Relations, but think the time specified by them is too early.

RICHMOND COUNTY. In the town of Rockingham, the people of Richmond passed the following:

Resolved, That in the present disturbed and alarming condition of the country, we are in favor of calling a Convention at an early day, in order that the people of North-Carolina may take the matter in their own hands, with the understanding, that whatever be done, shall be submitted to them for ratification.

GAZON COUNTY. At a meeting of the people of Gaston at Union church, the following was adopted: Resolved, That we are in favor of a convention of the people of our State, to determine the necessary course to be pursued in securing our rights in the Union, if possible, but out of it if necessary.

A large number of other meetings have been held and their resolutions laid before the General Assembly, but as they have not been published we cannot get to them.

THE LEGISLATURE. The Convention bill is now before the Legislature, and has been ably advocated during Wednesday and Thursday, by Messrs. Avery, Barringer, Erwin and Thomas, of Jackson, in the Senate—and by Mr. Person, in the House. Mr. Brown leads the opposition to the bill in the Senate and has been followed on the same side by Mr. Ramsey. In the House Mr. Crumpler consumed the greater part of Thursday's session in opposition to the bill.

The speeches of Messrs. Avery, Barringer, Erwin, Person and Thomas were those of statesmen and patriots, and contrasted strangely with those in opposition to the bill. Mr. Brown has changed on the Convention question, and occupies now a most anomalous position. He professes great affection for the people, and yet one of his reasons for opposing this bill is, that it leaves the people full power over all matters pertaining to their organic law. In this Mr. Brown is backed by the self-constituted champion of the people, the Editor of the Standard.

The friends of this bill, and the true friends of the people, are willing to leave the people untrammelled and are not afraid to trust them with unlimited power. We refer to Wednesday's proceedings on this subject.

We will examine the positions of gentlemen on this question in our next. The crowded state of our columns enable us merely to allude to them now.

THE COURSE OF THE STANDARD. The course of this paper towards democracy and demagogues is now so well understood that it seems unnecessary to allude to it. That course is simply this: that having failed to rule the party, and to control its members to its own selfish and ambitious ends, it now seeks to ruin the one and to "kill" the other.

That paper is pursuing, most persistently and most shamelessly, a course of the most outrageous misrepresentation ever witnessed in partisan warfare. It has assailed, in this spirit, Gov. Ellis, with a bitterness almost fiendish, and now it is turning its petty battery against Messrs. Avery, Erwin, Person, Hoke, and others.

It is not our purpose to enter into a defence of these gentlemen at this time. They are quite capable of taking care of themselves, as was clearly shown yesterday, Thursday, in both branches of the General Assembly. The course of the Standard in its last issue, induced Messrs. Avery and Erwin in the Senate, and Mr. Person in the Commons, to vindicate themselves from the foul imputations and shameful misrepresentations of the Editor; and they did it most signally. In our next the proceedings of Thursday will show it. We will now only again caution the people of the State to receive, with great caution, what the Standard has to say of democrats and democracy.

THE NEWS. We publish to-day numerous telegraphic dispatches of most important news touching the condition of our Federal affairs. These will be found interesting and ought to satisfy the people that we are surrounded by danger of an ordinary kind and that they should be up and doing to prepare to meet it. The news from Charleston is startling; and has been confirmed from various sources, though the exact particulars have not yet transpired. That some vessel was fired on by the South-Carolina authorities, at Charleston, is beyond doubt, but what vessel and with what effect is yet uncertain. We see that throughout the whole North the people are arming and in motion, and the cry is "the Union must be preserved"—in other words the South must submit.

We tell the people, as we hope for Heaven, that this is true, and we believe their lives, their liberties and their property are menaced. We tell the people to arouse and not slumber under the false security thrown over them by designing politicians. We are no alarmist, nor are we given to panic; but as a "faithful sentinel on the watch tower" it is our duty to report what we see and what, to the least observant, must be evident.

ARMING THE STATE. On Tuesday last, after a tactious struggle, the bill for arming the State passed its final reading in the House of Commons and is now a law. This bill, with a pitiable appropriation, for such a purpose, of \$300,000, we blush to say, was met, to a considerable extent, by a petty party warfare. Our readers are in possession of the reasons urged against it, and all that remains now for us to do is to hand down to posterity the names of those who voted against a bill to enable the people to defend themselves against a danger now at their doors. Here they are:

Messrs. Carson, Clarke of D. Cowles, Crumpler, Davis of B. Dickson, Farrow, Fessenden, Gathier, Gorell, Green of C. Green of S. Guthrie, Hanes, Henry, Howard, Horton, Kelly, Latham, Martin, Mendenhall, Patterson, Poindexter, Shober, Whitehurst and Winslow.—26.

A UNITED VOICE FROM WASHINGTON. Below we present the respectful solicitations of all the Democratic members of Congress from this State, for the call of a Convention of the people on Federal relations. The people have demanded it, and the large majority of their Representatives in the General Assembly are for it, and now the majority of our Representatives in Congress urge it. How long will this demand be delayed? Or must the people call it themselves?

[For the State Journal.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1861. To the Members of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina:

In response to enquiries severally made of us, by members of the General Assembly, we would respectfully say to you, that in our opinion, the present condition of the country renders it important that a Convention of the people of North Carolina should be called, to take into consideration our existing Federal Relations.

With the greatest respect, THOS. BRAGG, T. L. CLINTMAN, L. O. BRANCH, BURTON CRAIG, WARREN WINSLOW, THOS. RUFFIN.

We understand the Hon. W. N. H. SMITH also favors the immediate call of a State Convention.—Ed. STATE JOURNAL.

GOVERNOR LETCHER'S MESSAGE. Gov. LETCHER'S message occupies nearly 14 columns of the Richmond Enquirer. He is against the proposed Convention; he believes in the right of secession, but not in the expediency of a precipitate exercise of that power. He denounces a resort to coercion by the General Government against a seceding State, &c. The message is admirably written, and its conservative spirit, says the Petersburg Express, "will not be commended by the majority of the people of the Commonwealth, and of the South."

A VOICE FROM THE PULPIT. We commend to-day, and will conclude in our next, the publication of the Thanksgiving Sermon of Rev. Dr. Palmer, an eminent Presbyterian Divine, of New Orleans. We commend this sermon to all reflecting men and to the editor of the Standard.

We learn from our exchanges that the Hon. Thos. L. Clingman has been elected by the Dialectic Society to deliver the annual oration at the next commencement of the University of North Carolina. This is a good selection, and the Society and the public at large may expect a rich treat.

The proceedings of the meetings in Granville and Currituck will appear in our next.

Our notice of the Rowan meeting is crowded out. It will appear hereafter.

STARTLING NEWS FROM CHARLESTON! THE STAR OF THE WEST FIRED ON BY THE CHARLESTONIANS—THE FIRST SHOT! A responsible gentleman this morning from Charlotte, informs us that a dispatch had been received there stating that the U. S. troop ship had been fired at, and seemed to be in a sinking condition, as her troops were being transferred to other vessels. Two other dispatches of the same tenor had been received.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 9, 12:50 P. M. The Star of the West, in endeavoring to enter our harbor, about daylight this morning, was opened upon by the garrison on Morris Island, and also by Fort Moultrie. The steamer put about and went to sea—having not been able to state whether steamer, or any persons on board, were injured—the belief is that the injury was sustained either to the steamer or to the crew. Fort Sumter did not respond.

Lieut. Hall, of Fort Sumter, came to this city about eleven o'clock, with a flag of truce. He reported to the quarters of Gov. Pickens, which was surrounded by crowds of citizens. He was in secret communication with the Governor and Council for two hours, and then, in a carriage, with the Governor's Aids, to the wharf, and returned to Fort Sumter. The object of his mission is not known, but it is supposed to relate to the firing on the Star of the West. The people were intensely excited, but made no demonstration against Lieut. Hall. Great curiosity was manifested to know his mission. Lieut. Hall closed his interview with the Governor and Council, about 2 o'clock. The facts have not yet transpired. We learn, however, from high authority, that they are of a most threatening character.—Wilmington Herald.

[For the State Journal.] ARMING THE STATE. Mr. Editor:—A correspondent of the Standard in taking "a financial view" of the proposition to arm the State, has, we think, made several errors in his estimates. First, for the item, "960 Revolvers for Cavalry at \$21 each, \$20,160," we would substitute 960 Revolvers for Cavalry at \$12.60 each, \$12,096,—that is, the weapons (equal to any ever manufactured) could be delivered in Raleigh for \$8,000 below the estimate of "E."

This provision is made for 96 pieces of cannon—then 30 pieces a thousand men! The proportion in the United States service is 3 pieces to the thousand men. Instead, then, of his items, "12 Batteries of Artillery, 48 field pieces, with equipments, at \$400 each, \$19,200," and "48 Navy Howitzers, at \$500 each, \$24,000," let us put 48 Batteries, consisting each of 4 field pieces at \$400, and 2 Howitzers at \$500, making 30 pieces, costing \$19,000.

Again of the item, "960 Revolvers for Artillery" we would remark that however useful such a weapon might occasionally be to Artillerymen, yet certainly they are rarely if ever supplied with them, and it is not exactly fair to put so extravagant an item into the calculation; if we included it at all it would be at the rate of \$8,000 less than his mark, but strictly it should be left out.

"E's" estimate for Artillery and for Revolvers is \$83,520 and ours \$25,096, a difference in round numbers of \$58,424; but we would reduce this difference several thousand by supplying the Cavalry with Colt's Carbine Stock, to which the Revolver barrel could be attached at pleasure. Of the cost of this stock we cannot say positively, but suppose it would still leave us nearly \$50,000 below the estimate of "E."

Nor do we agree with him that these arms and equipments could be made in this State for \$150,000; but if they could, and arrangements were at once started to that end, we could scarcely afford to wait for their completion. Extensive manufacturing establishments are to be established soon enough to meet our present urgent wants. Those arms if they are to be purchased, should not be on the way South.

The proposition that North-Carolina should take prompt measures to insure for the future supplies of arms and munitions of her own fabrication we heartily endorse. Certainly in conjunction with one or more of the slaveholding States the experiment could not be a very costly or hazardous one, but to depend upon any source but the North for improved weapons would be to place ourselves at the mercy of any formidable enemy.

If the State bonds are at a discount of 20 per cent. it is very unfortunate that purchases of arms or purchases of any thing else should be made, but however unfortunate it is not the less necessary. Should "E" be in danger and ill-prepared, he would willingly give \$25 for a weapon which otherwise he would not touch at \$20. Thus it is with North-Carolina; she is not exactly menaced, but few will deny the strong probability that arms will be needed, and she ought to make the sacrifice. State bonds will not be the only property going at 80 per cent. we will be it for the Country Council if in the times now approaching, she can keep them at anything like that figure. W.

LETTER FROM GEN. LANE. The Columbus (Ga.) Times publishes the following noble letter, written to a relative, and not intended for publication. The latter fact is evident, and we perhaps owe an apology to the distinguished writer for printing it at second-hand: WASHINGTON, D. C. Dec. 14, 1860. My DEAR LITTLE COUSIN: With all my heart I thank you for your kind and patriotic letter of the 19th inst. I am proud of you; you are a regular little hero; you are for equality in the Union or for independence out of it. You are right, and I am with you heart and soul. I hope and trust that Georgia may never submit to inferiority, inequality and degradation. God forbid that any such want of manhood may be found among the sons of that gallant State. I know that her daughters will never submit to anything that is not honorable and just; they will never submit to degradation. Death by dishonor is now and will be the motto of the proud daughters of the noble State of Georgia—then how can her noble sons do less than stand by their rights and equality? And, if they cannot have them in the Union, (and that is now quite manifest,) they will never submit to degradation. Death by dishonor is now and will be the motto of the proud daughters of the noble State of Georgia—then how can her noble sons do less than stand by their rights and equality? And, if they cannot have them in the Union, (and that is now quite manifest,) they will never submit to degradation. Death by dishonor is now and will be the motto of the proud daughters of the noble State of Georgia—then how can her noble sons do less than stand by their rights and equality? And, if they cannot have them in the Union, (and that is now quite manifest,) they will never submit to degradation. 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