

# The Edenton Gazette.

[Vol. I. Num. 13.]

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1855.

[2 1-2 Dollars per Annum.]

EDENTON: PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BEASLEY.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Monday, Nov. 17.

THE members present took their oaths and seats, and sundry offices were appointed, as mentioned in our last. In a few of our papers a mistake occurred with respect to the election of a Speaker of the Senate, viz. Instead of saying that Mr. Carney was the candidate opposed to Mr. Reddick, it was stated that Mr. Philfer (who proposed Mr. Carney as speaker) was the candidate.

Tuesday, Nov. 18.

Committees of finances, propositions and grievances, of claims, and of privileges and elections, were appointed.

Ordered that engrossing clerks should be ballotted for.

A committee of the house was appointed to wait upon the Governor, to inform him both houses were ready to receive such communications as he might have to lay before them.

Mr. Seawell presented the memorial of John Tuttle, of Lenoir county, complaining that the late election, so far as respects Mr. William Easterling, was conducted in an illegal manner, and praying an enquiry thereon. Referred to the committee of elections.

Mr. Henry Cotton, from Northampton, appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Adam Gaskins, from Hyde county, and Mr. D. Glifton, from Duplin, appeared and took their seats.

A joint committee was appointed to enquire if any alterations are necessary in the act passed last session to perfect the titles of the officers and soldiers of the continental line of this state, and of the claimants under entries in the office of John Armstrong, to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Bryan, from the joint balloting for three engrossing clerks, reported, that Thomas Rogers, Wm. Hill and Kenan Love, were elected.

The committee of elections reported in favour of Mr. Easterling keeping his seat, which was concurred in.

Mr. Tatom reported a bill to amend the penal laws of this state; referred to joint committee. Also a bill directing the method of keeping the public accounts collecting taxes, paying officers salaries and fees, and the manner of rendering judgments on suits brought for the recovery of money; read first time.

A bill was received from the Senate and read, to authorize Christian Jennett, the guardian of infants of that name of the county of Currituck, to sell and convey to the United States four acres of land at the head land of Cape Hatteras.

Also a bill to alter the name of Tobias Sumner, to that of Joseph John Sumner.

Mr. Benton, from the committee appointed to prepare and report rules of order for the government of the House, made a report, which was concurred in, and ordered to be printed.

The following message was received from his Excellency the Governor;

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina.

"Gentlemen,

"Pursuant to the message which I had yesterday the honour to receive from the Legislature, it becomes my duty to detail to you the state of the business committed to my superintendance by the last General Assembly. In doing this, I shall refer to the order in which the several matters occurred, to which I shall ask your attention, and shall also make it a point to trespass as little as possible either on your time or on your patience.

"Agreeably to the wish expressed by the last Assembly, I wrote the Secretary of State for the United States early in the month of January, and endeavoured to point out, and impress on him the propriety and the necessity of an immediate extension of the line delineating the boundary between the inhabitants of this State and the Indians, as heretofore commenced by General Perkins, under the authority of the government of the United States, & left unfinished by him. Inclosed and forwarded to the Secretary the petition of the inhabitants of Buncombe county in this respect, and the proceedings of the Assembly on this petition.

"And the better to insure an immediate attention to the business I wrote likewise to Major Franklin, of Congress, informing him of the measures taken by the Assembly of North-Carolina in that regard, and asking his care of the business.

"Mr. Franklin has done every thing in his power, as will be seen by his letter of the 12th of May last, I am sorry, however, to add, that hitherto I have received no information from the officers of the general government in this behalf, nor have I any assurances from them, that the wishes of our State relative this matter shall be soon ultimately acted on. The changes which have taken place in the course of the year in the departments of State and War, may possibly have occasioned this silence: It would, however, have been particularly pleasant to me to have been enabled at the opening of the session, to inform you that measures were taken for the extension of this line, agreeably to the hopes and expectations of the last assembly.

"The resignation of Judge Moore, which was formally made known to me in the month of January last, next necessarily claimed the attention of the Chief Magistrate. The Council were convened in the month of February, and advised the appointing Samuel Johnson, of Martin county, to fill the vacancy on the Bench, occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Moore. This gentleman I commissioned accordingly. He accepted the appointment, and has discharged the duties of it in a manner, I doubt not, honourable to himself, and beneficial to the country.

"On the 11th of January last, I offered to Major Purviance, the appointment of public agent for the purpose of collecting testimony to be used against the persons charged by the late commissioners with having committed frauds in the land office, &c. He accepted the appointment on the 14th of the same month, and continued to act under it until the 29th of March, when he resigned. On the resignation of Mr. Purviance, the appointment

of agent was given to Mr. White, the Secretary of the State: He held it for a few days only, and then he likewise resigned. The reasons assigned by these Gentlemen for such their resignations, appear in their letters on that subject, recorded in my letter book, which will be laid before you in the course of the session; which book will likewise shew the correspondence which took place in consequence of the law for the trial of the persons charged as aforesaid, between the executive and the law officers of the State. The commencement of the Court (the Judges of which I had commissioned under the authority of the act of the Legislature in that case provided to try the persons charged as above-mentioned) being at the time of Mr. White's resignation, well nigh at hand, it was not, on that account, thought advisable to make any other and further appointment of public agent. About the close of this Court, the unfinished business in which the State was concerned, was postponed and ordered to the several district courts in which the parties accused reside, as the calling of a Court of Oyer, other than the one then past, did not appear to me warranted by the law, nor was it perhaps necessary.

"From the measures adopted, and the appointments made by the Legislature and my predecessors in office, I held it my duty to press the fixing and extending the boundary line between North and South Carolina; and accordingly on the 25th January, I wrote, informing the Governor of South-Carolina, that commissioners on the part of this State, would meet on the 18th day of March then next ensuing, for the purpose above-mentioned, on the Wachaw creek, and at the place where the former commissioners ended their work, and submitting to him the propriety of appointing commissioners on the part of that State, to attend and see that the observations were accurately taken, and the lines properly run and marked. My letter to the Governor of South-Carolina, led to a correspondence on this subject, which will be found recorded, & which I am sorry to be under the necessity of observing, does not evidence a single trait of accommodating disposition on the part of the Executive of that State; on the contrary so very much is the reverse, that our commissioners have been forbidden to cross the reputed boundary, or enter the State, on the business aforesaid, at their peril, and at the risk of being personally maltreated by the military power. Such being the case, it appeared to me advisable to postpone the meeting of the commissioners, and yet longer to defer this interesting and necessary business, rather than commit the dignity of the State, and risk the becoming involved with a sifter State, in a quarrel so unseemly and so unbecoming. Under this impression, I countermanded the orders given to the commissioners, and wrote to the Governor of South-Carolina, as will be seen in our correspondence on that head. It remains, therefore, for this general assembly to take such order, and to make such provisions in this regard, as to them shall seem best to comport with the rights, peace, and dignity of the State. If, however, I were to risk an opinion, after having witnessed that which appeared to me the very backward and uncommo-