

The Charlotte Centennial.

It is gratifying to all those who take an interest in the past glory of North Carolina, to note that Mr. Johnston, of Bunncombe, has renewed his proposition to celebrate the Centennial of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, in this city, on the 20th day of May, 1875, by a grand exposition of the State's products and resources—agricultural, mechanical, mineral, geological, &c. This measure will no doubt meet with general approbation throughout the State—such "sappers and miners" as "X" and Hon. D. R. Goodloe excepted. We hope the General Assembly will be patriotic enough to pass the Johnston resolutions. A commission composed of energetic gentlemen would no doubt perfect all the arrangements in a satisfactory manner, and make the exposition a success.

In connection with this subject, we republish a capital article which appeared in the Raleigh News in October, upon the subject of the genuineness of the document known as "the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence."

THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION.
—In July last, learning that Major C. Dowd of Charlotte, would reply to the articles of D. R. Goodloe, Esq., with reference to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, Mr. J. B. Neathery, of this city, addressed to him the following letter. As it presents in a concise manner, the way in which the discussion of this subject originated, it has been sent to us with the consent of the writer, for publication.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Raleigh, July 15th, 1873.

MAJ. C. DOWD, Charlotte.
Dear Sir:—It is understood here that you or some other gentleman at Charlotte will reply to the articles of D. R. Goodloe, Esq., with reference to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; indeed the Charlotte Democrat is now before me containing "1 of the defence of the 20th May Declaration."

Feeling that every North Carolinian should take a just pride in the fact that ours was the first State to declare its independence of Great Britain, and being fully convinced that said Declaration was made at Charlotte on the 20th May, 1775, I proceed without further apology to give you such facts as have come into my possession bearing on the subject.

I have in my possession files of the Raleigh Register of 1819, 1820, 1821, and in the issue of that paper of April 30, 1819, the declaration is published in full. The editor (Jos. Gales) prefaces the declaration with these words:

"It is not probably known to many of our readers that the citizens of Mecklenburg county, in this State, made a Declaration of Independence more than a year before Congress made theirs. The following document on the subject has lately come to the hands of the editor from unquestionable authority, and is published that it may go down to posterity."

The Essex Register of July 24, 1871, published the declaration from the Raleigh Register, and expressed some doubts as to the genuineness of the resolutions, and hoped the Raleigh Register would give such proofs as a editor had of their true character.

Mr. Gales replied (Aug. 6, 1819), that he was ready to give all the information in his power and adds, "we feel confident after we shall have done so, no longer doubt will remain as to the truth and reality of the proceedings in question." Mr. Gales then proceeds as follows—

"It appears this Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence had during last winter (1818) been the subject of conversation at Washington, among members of Congress, and that in order to put the matter out of dispute, one of the Senators (Hon. Nathaniel Macon) in Congress wrote to gentlemen in that part of the country, most likely to give it, for information in relation to this matter."

Mr. Macon wrote to Gen. Joseph Graham, of Lincoln county, and Gen. Graham received the letter to Wm. B. Alexander, of Alexandria, Mecklenburg county, with a request that Mr. A. would furnish, from his father's old papers, everything bearing on the subject. Mr. Alexander replied to Mr. Macon's letter, Feb. 7th, 1819, from which the following extract is made:

"Nearly all of my father's papers were burned in the Spring of 1800, which destroyed the papers now wanted, as I believe he acted as Secretary to the committee that declared independence for this county in 1775."

Mr. Gales continues in these words: "The declarations and resolutions published were received by Mr. Davidson from J. McKnitt, (brother of Mr. Alexander, the writer of the above letters,) accompanied with the following certificate: The foregoing is a true copy of the papers on the above subject left in the hands of John McKnitt Alexander, deceased. I find it mentioned on file that the original book was burned in April, 1800; that a copy of the proceedings was sent to Hugh Williamson, in New York, when writing the History of North Carolina; and that a copy was sent to Gen. W. R. Davie, J. McKnitt."

Mr. Gales concludes as follows: "All the papers thus certified were sent to us for publication by the Senator (Nathaniel Macon) who had collected the information. We must therefore, that the most skeptical will no longer entertain a doubt of the authenticity of this declaration of independence of Mecklenburg county. If further evidence of these facts were wanting, it is believed the testimony of one of the most respectable inhabitants of this city who was present when the declaration was resolved upon, might be added."

Mr. Gales doubtless alludes to Col. Wm. Polk, then of Raleigh. In the Register of Aug. 13, 1819, Mr. Gales says: "The public will doubtless be gratified to learn that Col. Wm. Polk, of this city, (who was present at the meeting in Mecklenburg county, when the Declaration of Independence was agreed upon in May 1775) is preparing for publication some further information in relation to that declaration. We understand that the Col. will give the names of the delegates, and an account of the proceedings of the committees subsequently established; and correct some misstatements in the publication already made on the subject of the Register, of the 30th April last, and which has been the subject of remarks in the Northern papers."

In the Register of February 18th, 1820, Col. Polk publishes the certificate of George Graham aged 61 near 62; Wm. Hutchison aged 68; Jonas Clark aged 62 and Robert Robinson aged 68, and a better from John Simerson, Sr., dated Providence, Jan. 20, 1820.

Messrs. Graham, Hutchison, Clarke and Robinson declare in their certificate that they were present in the town of Charlotte, on the 19th day of May, 1775; that the delegation from the various Captains' districts was complete on that day—the meeting being organized about 12 o'clock on that day, when Abraham Alexander was chosen chairman and Dr. Ephriam Bevard, secretary. That the delegates continued in session until the night of that day; that on the 20th they again met when a committee under the direction of the delegates had formed several resolves which were read and which went to declare themselves and the people of Mecklenburg county free and independent of the King of Great Britain, &c.

In the Register of May 26th, 1820, appear a letter from Rev. Francis Cummins, a Presbyterian clergyman, to Senator Macon, testifying that he was present at the time of the Declaration, and the certificate of Capt. James Jack that he was not only present at the time but took the Declaration to Philadelphia, &c.

Nathaniel Macon, himself a Revolutionary soldier, satisfied himself beyond a doubt that the Declaration was made on the 20th of May, and he furnished that Declaration for publication in the Raleigh Register.

Col. Wm. Polk, Graham, Hutchison, Clarke and Robinson were present, and certified to what transpired on that occasion.

Joseph Gales, the leading editor of the State, was thoroughly satisfied in regard to the authenticity of the document. These gentlemen lived at a time when they could communicate with those who took part in the Mecklenburg Convention.

Shall we believe these or Mr. Goodloe, who was born after many of the actors in that Convention had died.

NEWS OF THE DAY.
Miss Neilson has gone to Florida for her health.

A Louisville dispatch says the warm weather has ruined much green meat.

The czar of Russia has ordered the Grand Duke Alexis on another tour around the world.

The Virginias has gone to Bahia Honda, sixty miles west of Havana, where she will be delivered up.

Persons who have polled the Senate are confident that Judge Williams will be confirmed Chief Justice.

Gen. Spinner, United States Treasurer, goes to Florida in a few days for his health.

All the gambling houses in Chicago have been closed in apprehension of a raid.

Renold Melville, son of the Earl of Leven, and Melville, is about to become a member of the firm of Jay Cooke, McCullough & Co.

The appropriation of four millions of dollars asked by the Secretary of the Navy, has passed the House.

The old museum building in Baltimore has been partially burned. Barnum's Hotel was threatened. The Theatre Comique lost its wardrobe.

(Condensed from the Raleigh Sentinel.)
LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
SENATE.
DECEMBER, 12, 1873.

Senate was called to order at 7:30 P. M.
Col. Welch moved that the private calendar be made special order for the night.

Mr. Cowles moved to amend by suspending the rule requiring the yeas and nays for the night unless called for by some Senator. Agreed to.

A bill amending the charter of the Fair of the Carolinas; authorizes the election of a Board of Directors and a President, and authorizes the issue of bonds to a sum not exceeding in amount twenty-five thousand dollars.

Mr. Troy moved to strike out the clause which exempts the bonds proposed from State tax. Adopted.

Mr. Seymour moved to strike out the clause exempting the bonds from county and municipal tax. Adopted and bill passed third reading.

A bill in relation to the Catawba Toll Bridge Company; legalizes former acts of the Corporation and revises the charter. The President announced that the bill was on its third reading. Mr. King corrected the chair, said it had not been read at all and demanded the reading of the bill. Said the first thing we knew we would pass a bill to hang somebody. The bill was read and passed.

A bill to incorporate the Catawba Valley Bridge Company, passed its several readings.

SENATE.
SATURDAY, Dec. 13, 1873.
Senate was called to order at 11 A. M.
Journals of yesterday read and concurred in.

Mr. Troy, a resolution requesting the Public Treasurer to furnish a detailed statement of fines collected and paid by Justices of the Peace to the credit of school funds.

Mr. Murphy, a bill to amend chapter 182 laws of 1872-73.

Mr. Price, a bill concerning elections. Provides for the election of two Supreme Court Judges to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Judge Boyden, and the resignation of Judge Dick, and the election of two Superior Court Judges to fill the vacancy in the Second District, resulting from the resignation of the Judge Jones and the vacancy in the Eighth District, caused by non-acceptance of D. H. Starbuck. Read and referred.

An act to authorize public schools in cities of over two thousand inhabitants. Allows voters to determine by ballot whether a tax shall be levied to support public schools.

Mr. Cowles offered an amendment as an additional section, which provides that in levying the tax provided in this act.

The equation provided for in the constitution as to taxing property and polls shall be preserved. Adopted.

Mr. Waring spoke at length against the passage of the bill, said it was a proposition to confiscate the property in towns and cities of over two thousand inhabitants, and to make the property owner educate the children of the non-property holder.

Harris, col., replied at length to the arguments of Senator Waring.

Mr. Cunningham sent up to the clerk's table to be read for information, a letter from Professor McEver addressed to him as chairman of the committee on education, in advocacy of the passage of the bill. The bill having received the approbation of the educational convention, &c.

Mr. Welch offered an amendment, allowing only property holders to vote, but withdrew it.

Mr. Morehead, of Guilford, offered an amendment providing that non-residents of such cities who own three hundred dollars worth of property within the corporate limits of the city shall vote, and providing that voters shall show their tax receipts for the year previous to voting.

Mr. Seymour argued against the constitutionality of the amendment.

Mr. Morehead replied in support of it.

Mr. Cunningham opposed the amendment of Mr. Morehead, and said when he was a bachelor and had no wife and children, he supported a liberal system of common schools in view of the benefits that would accrue to society. That now he had both, and he was more and more convinced each successive year that North Carolina needed a good system of common schools, arguing with much force in favor of the bill.

A discussion upon the constitutionality of the amendment here arose, participated in by Messrs. Merrimon, Norwood, Morehead, Seymour and Troy. The amendment failed.

Mr. Morehead of Rockingham, offered an amendment providing that not more than one-fourth of one per cent tax shall be levied on property under authority of this act.

election upon the question of levying the necessary tax shall be property holders. Adopted.
Bill passed second reading.
On motion of Mr. Guder, Senate adjourned until Monday at 11 o'clock A. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
SATURDAY, Dec. 13.

Mr. Speaker Robinson called the House to order at 10:30 A. M.
Journal of yesterday read approved.

Mr. Rhodes, resolution in relation to the public printing.
Mr. Mitchell, resolution respecting reforms in the general government.

BILLS INTRODUCED.
Mr. Hampton, bill to amend chapter 12, section 1 of the Revised Code.
Mr. Webb, bill concerning the duties of county commissioners.
Mr. Gordon, bill to provide for the pay of witnesses in certain cases.
Mr. Presson, bill, concerning the fees of Justice of the Peace.
Mr. Mitchell, bill regulating the commissions of the sheriffs.

The liquor, or rather the prohibition law, was next read and created much discussion. Pending its consideration the House adjourned.

Raleigh News of Saturday: Last evening, about the hour of 6:30 o'clock, a little son of Judge Settle while playing with some companions on the banisters of the third floor of the Yarbrough House fell to the floor of the second story. The alarm was instantly given, and when the little fellow was reached he was so badly stunned that for a short time it was supposed that he had been killed. Drs. W. H. McKee and E. Burke Haywood were immediately called in and, we are sincerely glad to say, soon reported that no bones had been broken.

The Wilmington Star says: We learn from a passenger on the Carolina Central Railway that a white man under arrest for some crime, and who was being brought down on the stage to Wadesboro, from some point in the direction of Charlotte, on Wednesday evening, jumped from the stage and attempted to escape, when he was shot by his guard and killed. Our informant did not remember the name of the individual.

1873 NOTICE. 1873

FALL AND WINTER TRADE.

WE are now receiving our Fall and Winter stock, to which the attention of Merchants and Planters is respectfully invited, consisting of the following lines of heavy and fancy groceries:

20,000 lbs Bulk Bacon,
1000 Rolls heavy bagging 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 lbs to yd
1000 Bundles Arrow Ties,
1000 Sacks Salt,
100 " Fine Liverpool Salt,
200 " Coffee, Prime, Good and Fair,
100 Bbls Sugars, A. Ex. C. Demerara and Porto Rico,
150 " Syrups, S House and Drops,
200 Boxes Adamantine Candles,
150 Cases Brandy Peaches,
150 " Oysters,
100 Doz Buckets, 2 and 3 hoops,
100 " Sardines,
200 Packages Fish, No. 1, 2 and 3,
20,000 Cigars, Fair to Good.

Tobaccos and Whiskies a SPECIALTY.

200 Boxes Tobacco, N C and Va Brands,
100 Bbls N C Corn Whiskey,
100 " Va " " " "
100 " Motz celebrated corn whiskey,
50 " Ziegler's Rye Whiskey,
50 " Monongahela Rye Whiskey,
50 " Zet's France
75 " Apple Brandy,
25 " Ginger " "
10 " Scuppernon Wine,
French Brandy, Port, Maderia, Sherry, Blackberry and California Wines of best quality always in store.

We are agents for the sale of Thomas Wynn's Improved Open-Throat, Curved Breast, Premium and Diploma

COTTON GINS.

With attached Circle Flue, open to the world; \$4 per saw; can be had on application at our office.
W. H. H. HOUSTON & CO.,
Grocers & Cotton Commission Merchants,
Trade Street, Charlotte, N. C.

JUST RECEIVED.

A FULL STOCK of Notions and Toys at PUREFOY'S.
nov 7-11

THE undersigned have received a complete and full line of Groceries, Confectioneries, Musical Instruments, Toys, Christmas Goods, cigars, tobacco, &c., which they are selling low for cash, and to punctual customers.

A. L. NISBET & BRO.
CALL at A. R. Nisbet & Bro's and buy coffee, sugars, molasses, teas, cheese and salt.

CALL at A. R. Nisbet & Bro's and buy French candies, toy candies, sugar fruits, stick candies, &c.

CALL at A. R. Nisbet & Bro's and buy accordeons, violins, guitars, tamborines, music boxes, &c.

CALL at A. R. Nisbet & Bro's and buy toys of all kinds, for children.

CALL at A. R. Nisbet & Bro's and buy torpedoes, cannon and small fire-crackers, albums, vases, work boxes, &c., suitable for Christmas presents.

ADVERTISE IN THE MONROE ENQUIRER.

THE Enquirer having a large circulation in the counties of Anson, Union, Chesterfield and Lancaster offers unsurpassed advantages as an advertising medium for the merchants of Charlotte.

Published Weekly at \$2 per annum by BOYLIN & WOLFE, Monroe, N. C.

ALDINE ALMANAC FOR 1874.

Something new and neat at TIDDYS.

We are also agents for the Aldine. Those wishing it for 1874, will please hand in their subscriptions. TIDDY & BLO.

Wittkowsky & Rintels' CIRCULAR NO. 2. FALL, 1873.

OWING to the late Great "Panic" at the North, several of the largest Dry Goods Houses saw fit to slaughter their entire Stocks at greatly reduced (or panic) prices. Fully alive to our own interest and that of our customers, and believing in the old proverb: (somewhat transformed.) "That there is a time in the tide of a merchant, which, when taken advantage of at the right moment leads to a good profit," we despatched our Mr. Rintels to the scene of action, and he reports "the slaughter was immense," that millions of dollars worth of goods were sold at from 75 to 50 per cent less than cost; of this opportunity we availed ourselves, and are now receiving our second Stock (this season), which we now offer at equally reduced or "panic" prices. And we here cite a few of the articles to-wit:

2,000 PIECES of PRINTS, The Best Brands of which we offer at 9 1-2 Cents.

20 Cases Bleached, 20 per cent. less than original cost.

1,500 Ladies' and Gent's Shawls, Greatly Reduced in Price.

Complete Lines in all our Departments, At Equally Reduced Rates.

BOOTS & SHOES, 400 CASES OF THE BEST MAKES.

HATS and CAPS, 1,200 Dozen, very Low. NOTIONS.—That Department received our Special Attention, and we challenge Competition.

CLOTHING.

This branch of our business has peculiar claims on the Trade, as we flatter ourselves of having "the largest" and most varied stock of any other House in North Carolina.

HARDWARE.—We are gradually extending that branch of our business.

GROCERIES.—JUST RECEIVED 75 Bbls. Sugar, 60 Sacks Coffee, Pepper, Spice, Ginger, &c., in fact everything in that line. We have thus given an outline of this our second stock, and hope that self-interest will at once suggest to you the advantages to be derived by replenishing your Stock from us. Very respectfully,
WITKOWSKY & RINTELS.

RETAIL DEPARTMENT.—OUR RETAIL DEPARTMENT, at equally reduced prices, sufficient to meet the wants of those visiting us during "The Fair," or thereafter. Here we also have a MILLINERY AND CARPET DEPARTMENT.

THE CHEAPEST PLACE TO BUY CLOTHING

IN

CHARLOTTE,

IS

SHRIER'S

TEMPLE OF FASHION

THERE YOU WILL FIND

THE LARGEST AND FINEST STOCK OF

CUSTOM MADE CLOTHING

FOR

MENS', BOYS' AND YOUTHS' WEAR,

ALSO

The Largest Stock of Gents Furnishing Goods

HATS, CAPS, TRUNKS, VALISES, SACHELS, AND UMBRELLAS,

IN PRICES HE DEFIES COMPETITION

Remember the Place, 24 Tryon Street, David Parks' Building.

Democrat and Home Copy. Nov. 12

NEW

Clothing Store.

J. A. YOUNG & SON,

ARE now prepared to receive their friends, and the public generally, who

may desire a complete or partial outfit in their line, at their NEW CLOTHING STORE, on North Tryon Street, Charlotte, Fourth Door above the Charlotte Hotel. Their Stock is entirely NEW, and selected with care in the Northern cities, from Manufacturers whose Goods are made expressly for the Southern Market.

They offer DRESS SUITS of Black, Blue, Snuff and London Smoke cloths; of warranted genuine Scotch Cassimere, English, French, American Plain and Fancy Cassimeres, in variety of styles and prices.

Also, by the single piece, Coat, Pants or Vest. Velvetine, Orderley, Gray Meltons, Mixed Meltons, Doe Skin Jeans, Seal Skin, Whitney, Imperial Worsted, Kersey, &c., in style and price to suit every buyer from the Bridgroom to the Hod Carrier.

Talismans, of Gray Melton, Mixed Melton, Black Salt, Coral, Black and Blue, Beaver, &c. Overcoats, of every variety, style and price. Youths' and Boys' Clothing—a large and well selected stock. A Full Line of Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods, comprising every article necessary to complete the Wardrobe.

Hats and Caps of every style and price. A large stocks of Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Neck-ties, Bows, Scarfs and Fancy Articles. The above limited outline of their stock, is only designed to assure the reader that by calling upon them his wants can be supplied. They pledge themselves to spare no pains to render every patron satisfied with every business transaction with them, and ask to be tried. [sep 30-11]

JACOB M. MENDEL,

Manufacture and Dealer in

Cigars, Pipes,

Tobacco, Snuff, &c.

TRADE STREET.

(Next door to Brem, Brown & Co's. Dry Goods Store.)

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Dealers wishing to purchase Cigars, will do well to give me a call.