Murth-Carolina Standard

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS OF THE STANDARD. TERMS OF THE WEEKLY .- Four dollars for six TERMS OF THE SEMI-WEEKLY.—Six dollars for months, in advance.

six months, in advance. Terms of Advertising. Advertisements inserted for \$2 per square of 14 lines or

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The Standard is conducted strictly on the cash principle, All papers are discontinued when the time paid for expires. All remittances of money at the risk of those sending.

RALEIGH: FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1864.

The New Congress.

Under the existing law on the subject the new Congress will not assemble until the first Monday in December, 1864; but the House of Representatives has voted to change the time to the first Monday in April next. It is to be hoped that the Senate will concur in this vote. In a government like ours it is important to have representatives fresh from the people.

We begin to indulge the hope that the present Congress may act with more prudence than was expected some weeks since. The opinions of the people, so fearlessly expressed through the press of the country, may have a salutary effect. We trust they will. Confidence is especially necessary in conducting a new government like ours. The Congress must confide in the patriotism of the people, and the people must have confidence in the Congress, or the experiment will fail.

It seems to be feared that the principals of substitutes will be hurried out of the State without giving them an opportunity to sppeal to our Judges to hear their cases. We hope not. Such a step would be productive of evil, and evil only.

We publish to-day several important acts passed at the last session of the Legislature. We shall publish other acts from time to time.

The steamer Advance on her recent return trip from Nassau, was chased by the blockaders and ran on the beach below Wilmington. . We are glad to hear that the cargo will be saved, and that the ship is upright and will be got off without material injury. The Advance is as lucky as she is useful.

THE ALBEMARLE COUNTRY .- The Richmond Examiner has an article headed "The War in the Carolina Swamps," in which we regret to find the following:

"The fact is, this portion of North Carolina is reported to be disloyal, and to be a convenient harbour for deserters and fugitive conscripts, who, with the black banditti and other elements, make up a population unrivalled, perhaps, in Christendom, certainly in the Confederacy, for lawlessness, outrages

The arrticle is in other respects inaccurate, but the above does such grievious injustice to a portion of our State that we must protest against it.

It is not true that the country referred to is asloyal. The people are as true as in any other portion of the Confederacy, though they have suffered more than any other portion. The Albemarle country was lost to the Confederacy, and Norfolk lost with it, by the criminal stupidity or wicked indifference of J. P. Benjamin, who was Secretary of War when Roanoke Island fell. That island was the key to all that fertile and enlightened region which has since been trampled by the enemy. The people have lost nearly all their slaves, and thousands have been suddenly reduced from affluence to want. If the government cannot protect them, it ought not to keep just enough troops among them to irritate the enemy, and occasion those raids which are consigning them still further to want and misery. The "population" proper of that country is among the most enlightened and refined in America. It is the oldest community on the continent. They have never known in their midst either "lawlessness," or "outrages," or "strocity" until the present war; and such characteristics are not in or of them, but are the results of the neglect of its duty towards them by the common government. The Albemarle country was first abandoned by the government; -then protected just far enough to enable it to bring out the surplus corn and bacon for its own use; and then occupied by such a number of troops as to invite raids which they were not able to check: and now. when desolation reigns where prosperity, and wealth. and happiness formerly abounded, the "population" thus "scattered and peeled" is referred to as disloyal, and characterized by every vice which can disgrace humanity. No such information as to the Albemarle people, we are sure, was imparted to the

From East Tennessee-Longstreet after the

Examiner by any true son of our beloved State.

RUSSELLVILLE. Jan. 19th.—There is but little doubt that the enemy intended by his recent demonstration to force Gen. Longstreet out of Tennessee by occupying the country capable of sustaining an army, in which, however, he wholly failed, in consequence of the promptness with which he was met by our troops; which he was evidently unprepared for, as has been shown by his rapid retreat. They are supposed to have withdrawn from Strawberry Plains, and the country, with the exception of the vicinity of Knoxville, will be once more freed from their presence. The loss on either side is slight. The federals removed seventy five wounded from Danbridge. The enemy are retreating towards Knoxville rapidly, and are closely

pursued by our cavalry.

Lieut. Col. Blakey, of the cavalry, was wounded;
Col. Clarke, Hampton's Legion, killed; Lieut. Touchee, aid de camp to Gen. G. T. Anderson, badly

More Yankees Captured.

RICHMOND, Jan. 20 .- An official dispatch from Longstreet reports that Major G. W. Day, with one hundred men attacked one hundred and fifty Yankees at Big Spring, near Tazewell, on the 19th, killed and wounded 6, captured 3 Lieutenants and 61 privates, 67 horses, 50 stand of arms, 6 wagons and

The War News.

The indications in Tennessee are generally uninteresting. It appears that the Yankees, in Tennes-see and Georgia, are busily engaged in perfecting their communications with their bases of supplies in preparation for the spring campaign. The Yan-kees have a number of boats on the Tennessee, which convey supplies to Kingston, at the junction

of the Holston and Tennessee. A gentleman, who has got through our lines from Knoxville, reports that about one hundred and fifty houses, comprising the whole of the city north of the railroad, were burnt by the enemy during the siege of the town. The damage done by this indiarism is estimated at two millions of dollars. Both the depots and the machine shop of the Vir-

ginia and Tennessee railroad are uninjured. There are four army corps at Knoxville and vicinity, nominally under the command of Foster.-Richmond Examiner.

Meekln

Standard.

Voi. XXX.-No. 4.

Distillation of Spirituous Liquors.

As we learn that whiskey is being distilled in va-

rious localities in this State in violation of law, and

as the Confederate government has gone into the

distillation of the precious grain at Salisbury, we

publish below the law of this State on the subject.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE DISTILLATION OF SPIRITUOUS

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly

Secrion 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That from and after the 1st day of January, 1868, it shall not be lawful for any person in this State, to distil any spirituous liquors out of any corn, wheat, peas, and peanuts, oats, rye, chinese sugar cane, the seed thereof, syrup, molasses, rice, dried fruit, or point toes, or any mixture of any or either of them, and all persons righting this set shall for each and

all persons violating this act, shall, for each and every act of distillation, be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be flued and impris-

oned, the fine not to be less than five hundred dol-

lars, and the imprisonment not to be less than sixty days; Provided, That this act shall not be constru

ed to repeal, amend, or modify an ordinance passed

by the Convention of this State, entitled "An

ordinance to prohibit for a limited time, the manufacture of spirituous liquors from grain, but said ordinance is to remain in full force and effect until

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted. That this act shall

be in force and take effect from and after the first

day of January, 1863. That persons offending

against the provisions of this act, shall be deeme

guilty of a distinct offense for every day or part of a day in which they shall be so offending. [Rati

ACTS OF THE LAST LEGISLATURE.

An Act for the Relief of the Wives and Fam

illes of Noldiers in the Army.

sembly of the State of North Carolina, and it i

hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That

the sum of one million of dollars to be paid in Treasury notes of the State of North-Carolina, in

addition to the appropriation heretofore made in

that behalf, be and the same is hereby appropria

ted for the support of the wives and families of the

indigent soldiers of this State, whether in the ser-

vice of the State or Confederate governments, or

whether killed in battle or dying in the military service of the country, such sum to be distributed

among the several counties of the State, as hereto-

fore, according to white population, as ascertained

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the quote

of each county shall be paid to the County Com

nissioner or County Trustee of the same, accord

ing to the provisions of the act of the General As sembly ratified the 10th day of February, 1863, en

titled "An act for the relief of the wives and fami

les of soldiers in the army," and shall be applied

to the support of the wives and families of the sol

diers of this State, as above enumerated, according

to the rules and regulations which have been or

may be prescribed by the Court of Pleas and Quar-

ter Sessions of each county.
Sec. 3. Be it further enacted. That when any

family of a soldier, as aforesaid, shall have removed

from the county of his residence, since the com-

residence in another county, they shall be consid-

ered residents of the latter county, and receive a

share of such distribution accordingly.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That in addition

to the foregoing appropriation, the sum of three thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid

by the Public Treasurer as aforesaid to the County

Commissioners in those Counties in which are resident the families of Indian warriors, who have

rendered service to the Confederate States in the

present war, for distribution among them according

An Act to restore the Courts and for other Purposes.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assem

bly of the State of North Carolina, and it is here

by enacted by the authority of the same, That there

hall hereafter be two terms of the Superior Courts

of Law and Equity for each county in the State,

to be held at the times prescribed in chapter thirty.

one, sections nine, ten, cleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen of the Revised Code, and by an

act entitled "An act to establish the eighth judi-cial circuit and for other purposes," ratified the 12th

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That said Superior

Courts of Law shall have jurisdiction to try and

determine all actions of tort, under the rules and

regulations which existed prior to the passage of an

act, entitled "An act to change the jurisdiction of

the Courts and the rules of pleading therein," rat-

ified the 11th day of September, 1861, and all process hereafter to be issued in such actions and in

all criminal proceedings, shall be made returnable

in like manner and under the same penalties as were

prescribed prior to the passage of said act; Pro-

pided, that no suits in debt, assumpsit, or account shall be tried before said Courts by virtue of any

jurisdiction conferred by this act.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That all process

in the said actions and criminal proceedings from said Courts hereafter issued and made returnable to

the Fall term 1864, of said Courts, shall be deem-

ed and taken to be returnable to the Spring term

1864 of said Courts, respectively.
SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That so much of

said act of Sept. 11th, 1861, as applied to the rules

of pleadings in cases of bills for injunction and se-

questration, and petitions for sale or partition of land be and the same is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. Be it. further enacted, That there shall

hereafter be two terms of the Supreme Court to be held in the City of Raleigh on the second Monday in June, and the thirtieth day day of December, or

on the day after, in case the thirtieth day be Sun-

day.
SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That the County

Courts shall have jurisdiction to try and determine

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That all laws com-

ing in conflict with the provisions of this act be and

Read three times and ratified in General Assem-

An Act concerning Slave Labor on Public

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assem-

bly of the State of North Carolina and it is hereby

enacted by the authority of thesame, That the first section of chapter sixteen of an act concerning "Public Works," ratified 20th December, 1862, en-

titled an "act to authorize the Governor to employ

slave labor in erecting fortifications and other works," is hereby amended by inserting the word "male" before the word "slaves," and after the word "slave," "between the ages of eighteen and forty-

five," so that the section may read as follows : "That

the Governor shall have power and authority to com-

pel the services of any number of [male] slaves be-

tween the ages of eighteen and forty-five years," &c. Sec. 2. Be it further enacted. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Read three times and ratified in General Assem bly the 12th day of December, A. D., 1863.
R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C.,
GILES MEBANE, S. S.

bly, the 14th day of December, A. D. 1863. R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C. GILES MEBANE, S. S.

all cases of contested wills.

the same are hereby repealed.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C.

GILES MEBANE, S. S.

to the provisions herein before made

SEC. 5. Be it further enaction

shall be in force from its ratifi

day of December, 1862.

Read three times and ratified in

bly the 14th day of December, 18

white persons.

by the Census of 1860.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General As

fied the 17th day of December, 1862.]

the 1st day of January, 1863.

RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNES DAY, JANUARY 27, 1864.

Meeting of the New Board of Commissioners. RALEIOH, Jan. 19, 1884. This evening the newly elected Mayor and Board

of Commissioners for the City of Raleigh, for the year 1864, convened at the Mayor's office for the first time. Wm. H. Harrison, Esq., Mayor. Messra Wm. H. Tucker, Alex. Creech and P. Overby, Commis

sioners from the Western Ward. Messra W. R. Richardson, A. L. Lougee and S. W. Scott, Commissioners from the Middle Ward. Dr. Wm H. McKee and Messrs. J. J. Overby and N. S. Harp, Commissioners from the Eastern Ward. Certificates from the Inspectors appointed to hold said elections, were received by the Clerk, accord-

ing to law, announcing the above named gentlemen duly elected. Whereupon the gath of office was ad-ministered to the Mayor by W. H. Tucker, Esq., and then the Mayor administered the oath to each of the Commissioners present for a faithful discharge of their respective duties.

The Board being thus organized, the business first in order was the election of City Clerk; when J. Christophers was elected.

On motion, J. J. Christophers, Esq., was appoint ed City Tax Collector for 1864. The Board then proceeded to vote for Chief Constable, when J. J. Betta, Eq., was elected. Mr. N. V. Denton was elected Assistant Constable.

W. R. Richardson, Esq., was elected City Treas-

K. P. Battle, Esq., City Attorney. F. G. King, Esq., Weigh Master. Committee on streets compose the Commissioners f each Ward. Grave vard committee consists of Messrs, Tucker, Harp and Lougee.

On motion of Mr. S. W. Scott, it was Ordered, That a Captain of the Night-Watch and six Watchmen be elected; when O. H. Horton was elected Captain, and Messrs. E. A. Johnson Wm. Beevers, Wm. C. Parker, M. C. Luter, C. A. Driver and Wm. Overby were elected Watchmen.

Joe Miller has a contract to get atone at 75 cts.

On motion of Dr. McKee, the last Wednesday night of each month was fixed as the regular mee ing of the Board. On motion of Dr. McKee, a committee consisting

of Messrs. McKee, Richardson and Creech, were ap

pointed to fix salaries, and report at next meeting The following accounts were presented, read, and, on motion, allowed: Jos. King, \$28; W. C. Par ker, \$21; Wm. Beevers, \$35 25; M. C. Luter, \$37 O. A. Driver, \$37; E. A. Johnson, \$87.
An account of Mr. Medlin, \$27, for guarding

small pox case was allowed. On motion of Dr. McKee, a committee was appointed to memorialize the Legislature to make do-nation near the State quarry for lot to bury the

Messrs. McKee, Tucker and Richardson were appointed said committee. On motion, the Board adjourned.

J. J. CHRISTOPHERS, Clerk.

The election for City officers held on Monday last, the 18th inst., passed off quietly. Col. Harri son was re-elected Mayor without opposition, having received 338 votes. In the Eastern Ward the vote stood as follows: N. S. Harp, 113; J. J. Overby, 105; Dr. W. H. McKee, 92; D. L. Royster, A. N. Upchurch, 30; L. T. Clayton, 13. Middle Ward: A. L. Lougee, 42; W. R. Richardson, and S. Walter Scott, each, 40. Western Ward: Alex. Creech, 86; Wm. H. Tucker, 85; Parker Overby, 77; T. H. Briggs, 65; John Nichols, 48; A. T. Sawyer, 42; W. F. Askew, 21.

The vote for Constable in District No. 1, stood, David Lewis, 159; W. Upchurch, 87. In District No. 2: W. Sauls, 122; W. H. Ellen, 18.

Extract from a letter to the Editor, dated GRAVEL HILL, Buckingham Co., Va.,)

January 4th, 1864. \
"Your paper has been much denounced, and an effort was made in our Legislature to prevent its circulation in Virginia, but I have lately had an op portunity of seeing it and judging of it for myself. I find that you are an advocate of the rights and liberties of the people against tyranny and usurpa tion from all quarters, and for one, I will sustain Lon'n-

We have nothing definite from the action of Congress. Nothing has been perfected in relation to the currency, or the increase of the army, or the proposed suspension of haheas corpus. As these measures are all discussed in secret it is impossible that the country can be informed as to their nature or the progress made with them.

The-Wilmington Journal of the 19th says that the Home Guard of New Hanover, consisting of the 16th battalion, assembled in Wilmington on the 20th, for a three months term of service.

Dien, in this city, on yesterday morning, of amalgamation, the "State journal" newspaper. The concern was tenderly nursed and affectionately cared for by the stockholders and other "brethren," but the disease was deep seated and nothing could save it. The proprietor we suppose will return to the North or to Europe, where more congenial associations may be found. His accouchers and pall-bearers have our tenderest sympathies.

Papers that have opied the schrrilous attacks of his concern on decent men of this State, will please copy .- Progress.

So the struck buzzard, stretched upon the plain, No more through clouds of filth to soar again, Views his own quill upon the fatal izzard, And winged the shaft that quivered in his gizzard : Keen were his parga, but keener far to feel He nursed the pinion that his fate did seal.

We regret to learn that Gen. R. B. Vance has been captured by the enemy. It is reported that he was captured at Sevierville, between Greenville and Knoxville. We have no particulars.

Since the above was put in type, we have received the following from a friend at Marshall, Madison County:

"The news in regard to a portion of Gen. Vance's command is somewhat unfavorable. He left Asheville, and proceeded through some of the western counties, and crossing the mountains, made his way into Sevier county, Tenn. He then came upon a Yankee foraging train, which he captured, and was making his way out, when he came upon a blockade in the road on Cosby's Creek, which took him some ten or twelve hours to remove. In the meantime, the Yankees started in pursuit of him, and over-hauled him on Cosby's Creek, at the ford, where they are reported to have almost completely surrounded him, and it is feared that they have succeeded in capturing him and the larger portion of his command. These are such facts as we learned on yesterday, from some who made their escape.—
The statements are very confused and conflicting, and we still hope that the affair is not so bad as

DUTY OF THOSE AT HOME.—The army must be Dury or Those at Home.—The army must be fed. The families of our soldiers must be provided for. It does not require a philosopher to determine the duty of those of our people who are at home and in wealth, or even to easy circumstances. Producers should exert themselves to the numest to raise articles necessary to sustain life. Those who are able should give liberally of their means to those in want. The poor of the country have got to be taken care of some way, and the wealth of the country has got to do it. The only question is simply, what is the best plan to adopt to accomplish the desired object.—Richmond Whig.

Is the act of Congress placing in the field priva cipals who have farnished substitutes Constitutional ?

The Confederate government, having as yet failed to pass an act establishing a Supreme Court, and the Courts of the various State governments having held that it was their duty to entertain jurisdiction in all cases, where a writ of hubeas corpus had been sued out by a citizen of the State alleging a detention by an officer of the Confederate government under an act of Congress, we purpose briefly examining the validity of the late act requiring principals who had furnished substitutes for the military service, also to go into the field. Our inquiry will be confined to the validity of the law, as it affects citizens of this State, for as there is no Confederate Supreme Court, it may be that there will not be that uniformity of decisions which would arise was there a Court to which all the various State Courts were bound to yield obedience upon the construction of acts of Congress. If there was a Supreme Confed erate Court, composed of able lawyers, such as I doubt not the President would appoint, I have no doubt it would place the same construction upon the conscription and exemption acts as has been done by our own Supreme Court. So far as the question is concerned, whether the act of Congress allowing substitution was a mere privilege or an indulgence, or a contract, this question has been decided by our Supreme Court after a full and able scussion marked with great ability, and in which the Confederate government was rep resented by two of our most distinguished lawyers and the opinion of the Court that it was a contract has met with the general spprobation of the jurists of the country.

Then, as it is a contract, has Congress the Constitutional power to annul it? To ascertain this question it will be necessary to revert to the organic law, and see what powers have been conferred on the legislative branch of the government. The first thing which we discover in this instrument, is the fact that the Confederate Constitution is brought into existence not by the people of the Confederate States, but by the States themselves, "each State acting in its sovereign and independent character." However much we may have heretofore differed about the sovereignty of the States, or the power and strength of the old Union, that question is now patent from the unmistakeable wording of the or

It is based upon the idea of the sovereignty of the States, and the Confederate government is the mere agent of the separate sovereignties which compose it. It possesses no inherent principles of sover-eignty, except as such are expressly delegated by the States under the Constitution. It possesses no powers except such as are necessary to prevent external as well as internal violence. The paramount object in its formation, as gathered from the instrument itself, seems to have been a closer alliance of the different sovereign States composing it for their mutual protection. It declares that all powers not expressly delegated, belong to the States, thus ignoring every such an idea as that the governmen can do any act not expressly sanctioned by the or-ganic law. It ignores all internal improvements on the part of the government, and leaves such things

to be performed by the sovereignties interested. It repudiates the great principle upon which many supposed the old United States government of the United States for a more perfect Union; and those who formerly held that the Constitution embodied the doctrine of a consolidation of the Union as indispensable to our prosperity and happiness, must be satisfied upon reading our present organic law, that it was the constant aim and stu-dious intention of the framers of the Constitution that no such construction should be admissible. The Constitution establishes a government of

tive branch of the same to bass no law which is not warranted by that instrument. The powers granted to this department of the government are plainly marked out and "blazed;" and those powers not so expressly delegated by the sovereign States, composing the Coulederate government are, by the Con-stitution, reserved to the States. Even under the old government which possessed many of the essentials of nationality which are wanting in our Constitution, Judge Patterson of the Supreme Court of the United States, held in the case of Calder vs. Bull. & Dallas, 386, that the State Legislatures retained exclusively, all the powers of legislation which were not expressly taken away by the Constitution, and that no constructive powers could be exercised by the Federal government. If this was a correct exposition of the law under the old government, how much more correct is it under the new! The States upon ratifying the Constitution, restrict ed themselves of the right to enter into treaties grant letters of marque and reprisal, coin money, make any thing but gold and silver coin a legal te der in the payment of debts; they also covenanted not to pass an ex post facto law or any law impairing the obligation of contracts. Non it is apparen to the most casual observer that as the States had deprived themselves of the above enumerated rights, they could not be exercised by the Confederate gov ernment unless they were expressly delegated. The States, therefore, do delegate to the government some of the above powers, such as the right to enter into treaties, coin money, grant letters of marque and reprisal, &c. Here then we find that the States are not allowed to make any thing but gold and silver coin a legal tender in the payment of debta, nor pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts. Why were these restrictions imposed on the States? The reasons are obvious. Gold and silver coin has the same relative value in all well regulated governments. Suppose the States were allowed to make bills of any corporation a legal ten-der in the payment of debts; and if acted upon, the effect would be deplorable. A man might be com-pelled to accept in full satisfaction of an hundred dollar note, paper currency, which would not com-mand five cents in the dollar. Such an act might deprive a man of his property without just compensation. The reason why a State can pass no law impairing the obligation of contracts, is another wise restriction, for were it otherwise, it would de stroy all enterprise—check all commerce—deprive men of vested rights without any equivalent—in a word, such an act would shock the moral sense of

If, then, there be such weighty reasons why the States should not be permitted to make any thing has gold and silver coin a legal tender in the pay-ant of debts, nor pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, we may inquire whether the States have delegated any such extraordinary powers to the Confederate government. Let any one who supposes that the States have so stultified themselves as to have delegated such powers, study the Constitution closely, and he will rise from its examination satisfied that no such authority can be found.

Suppose, when the Constitution was being sub mitted to the States for ratification, it had contained a clause allowing Congress to pass laws impairing the obligation of contract, can any one doubt what would have been its fate? It could never have received the sanction of a single State. The incor-poration of such a power would have driven all en-terprise from our borders. Trade would instantly have periahed, and the streets of our commercial marts would have grown up in weeds and grass-our country would have soon because a waste and wilderness.

A government claiming the right to pees an act impairing the obligation of contracts can never occupy a position of respectability in the family of nations, however ample are its means or abundant its resources. Such a government could never effect a loan in any foreign or domestic market. It would occupy in the commercial world the same position which a non-observer of his contracts does in his immediate community.

A government claiming the right to violate one species of contract, can with impunity violate any other. Suppose Congress should pass an act appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for the ruction of a Custom House at Wilmington. Under the act the successful bidder completes it according to the agreement, and the building is de-livered to the collector of Customs. Suppose that before it has been of much service to the government, the enemy should capture Wilmington.— What would be thought of the government which should afterwards pass a law ignoring the former contract, upon the ground that the Unstom House was of little or no value the government? The government says substitutes are worth but little—that they will run off, and are not to be trusted. Concede it, and what does it amount to?-simply

WHOLE NUMBER 1507

I have always thought the system of substitution wrong—that it enabled the wealthy to avoid the privations which the poor had to meet; but after the government had adopted the system, it was the height of folly to break its faith and leave the world

that it has made a bad bargain.

to justly suppose the government had no respect for the obligation of contracts.

If the exigencies of the country demand that principals who have furnished substitutes for the military service shall be brought into the field, why not let there be a Convention of the States to amend the organic law in such manner as to make it produces each and every military necessity which may arise?
Why not let the Constitution be amended so as to make the civil authorities subordinate to the military? In all seriousness it would look much more respectable to have a bona fide military despotism, clothed with full powers-for the Executive to be responsible to no one, whose will should be the law. rather than to have a Constitution which we profess to observe, and which, whenever it is disregarded, interposes barriers to measures which Congress thinks will benefit the country. Such a government we could well understand. If its tyranny was detestable,

it would at least be manly and open. The above observations have not been written by one who is in any way affected by the act. The writer has no substitute in the field; but he has been prompted to pursue this course from a desire to call public attention to an act which is another in atance of the recklessness of the present Congress which plainly indicates that any act offering a tem porary benefit will be rushed through the halls of egislation regardless of constitutional limitations and restrictions. PUBLIUS.

For the Standard. Mr. EDITOR :-- There seems to be much difference of opinion as to what the political sentiments of the people of North-Carolina, at this time, really are. Some of the Destructive journals of the State charge that the letters published from time to time in the columns of the Standard, showing public sentiment in different parts of the State, are manufactured in the Standard office; while one of them, the Payetteville Observer, claims that the late Congressional elections showed that a majority of the people of North-Carolina were opposed to the course of the Standard, and of the so-called peace party. There are also a few eminent men in the State wh contend that the peace men are in a small minority, that the proposition to call a State Convention, would be voted down by at least 20,000 majority. pose our proposition to submit the question of "Convention or no Convention" to the people? If the people should vote down the proposition by such a majority as they claim that they would, the whole agitation would at once cease—and of course all the injury, if any, which it produces to the Confederate cause, would also cease; and the peace men would be overwhelmed with shame and disgrace, for it is well known that they claim to be in a very large majority. I do not mean to call in question the never took this view of the matter before; and think I now have reason to believe that they will cordially and zealously co operate with us in our efforts to have the Legislature convened, and the question submitted to the people. I do not see how they can do otherwise, if they are honest in

But, if on the other hand, the people should really call a Convention, as I have no doubt they would by a very large majority, who has any righ to complain? The sovereignty of the State and the people is not questioned. They unquestionably have the right, if they choose to exercise it, of assembling in Convention, to consult together for the public good, and also to consult with the other States of the Confederacy for the common weal.—
They have the right, in connection with the other States assembled in Convention, to direct and control their common agent, the government at Richmond. They have the right to demand of that government. ernment that it shall at once enter into negotiation or peace upon such terms as they may direct, and if it will not do this, they have a right to revoke its powers and terminate its existence, and then to institute negotiations themselves. But the people of the State, in Convention assembled, have still higher powers. If the co operation of the other States cannot be obtained, I suppose no one will, at this late day, undertake to deny that the State may redress ber own grievances, of which she has many and most serious ones to complain. The doctrings taught by the States' Rights men, and which they earned from the great founder of their party, Thos. Jefferson, is that "a State must herself be the sole judge of the time, the mode, the manner and meas ure of redress."

Nay, I do not see how any man could question her right, if she thought it absolutely necessary for her own safety, peaceably to sever her connection with the Confederate government, and enter into negotiations for a separate peace. But while I contend for this right, I do not mean to say that it ought to be exercised immediately, it at all. The people would undoubtedly elect their very wisest and best men and ablest statesmen, to represent them in such a Convention. There would be her Grahams, her Browns, her Dicks, her Dockerys, her Settles, her Reades, her Warrens, her Donne and a host of others as wise and true as they, and to them all of these matters could be safely trusted They would never inaugurate any measures which the honor and safety of the State did not impera tively demand. Where, then, is the danger of call ing a Convention in any event?

Another consideration to induce us to call a Con vention is, that the necessity for it may become im perative. Our State might possibly—which God forbid—be overrun during the next spring or summer, as Tennessee or Arkansas now is, and then no Convention could be elected but by the consent o our conquerors, and under such rules and regulaour conquerors, and under such rules and regulations as they might establish. In such an event it would certainly be of the very highest importance that there should be a power in existence authorized to negotiate in the name of the people.

PACIFICUS.

BRAUTIPUL AND TRUE .- In a late article in F . szer Magazine this brief, but beautiful and true, pessage

Education does not comine on with the alphabet it begins with a mother's love; with a father's smile of approbation, or a sign of reproof; with a sister's gentle for carance; with a bandful of flowers in a green and dainty meadow; with bird's nests admired, by not touched; with creoping anta, and almost in aprecaptible enument; with pleasant walks in shruy lanes, and with though its directed in sweet and kindly tones and words to pattern to acts of beand kindly tones and words to rature, to acts of benevelence, to deeds of virtue, and to the source of all good to God himself

The chaptains in F well's oor pa army of Northern Virginia, act en amerated follows: Methodists, 26; Presbyteriar 5, 15; F aprilets, 10; Episcopa lians, 7.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING This is true liberty, when free-born men, Having to advise the public, may speak free."

The question, "whither are we drifting?" is one that is frequently seen in the newspapers of late, and it is, no doubt, more frequently pondered by all the thinking men of the country. It is an all important, absorbing, and vital question, and, in fact, has been ever since the pussage of the conscript act near two years ago. But lately, it seems to be foreing itself on the attention more than formarly. We were told at the commencement of this war, that we were in a resolution that the North world. that we were in a revolution, that the North wouldn't fight, consequently, the strife would be short. We were told that the blockade was of paper, and of course, of no account; that England and France, on account of our "great staple," would soon be our allies, &c. True, all were not gulled by these assertions, but too many were; enough to conduct us to where we are.

We had, adopted for us, the Constitution of the United States, with a few alterations. The vital parts were proposed to be kept intact. The attempt was made to impress the people with the idea, that, in substance, the old revered document was to be enforced in its true spirit. We were not told that men who enlisted for one year were to be conscribed and kept in the army for many years. We were not told that part of the government's "promises to pay" were to be repudiated in less than three years by the few who manage the issues. We were not told that a custom, which prevailed among the Iqraelites, centuries ago, was to be revived among use in a land boasting to be the "freest of the free," that the few pounds of meat and wool which the widow might be so fortunate as to have with which to feed and clothe her little ones, were to be partly taken away to pamper, those in power, and their minions. We were not told that men who had hired substitutes, were to be declared liable to mili-tary service. We were not told that thousands of bushels of North Carolina corn was to be made into whiskey, with which to moisten the dry jaws of f place-men, when hundreds of little children in the country were crying for bread. But most of these things we have seen, and those we have not it is proposed to exhibit to us. One or two more strides in the direction we are going, and we will have passed into as complete a despetism as any in the old world. Give to one or two men the power of exemption, and suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and we need not ask, "whither are we drifting?"

Do these things in addition to what has already been done, and we are under a military despotism

of the darkest stamp.

The soner minded, thinking men of our country are pondering another question, as well as the one that heads this article, namely: How much longer is this state of things to continue? Will the people—the great mass of the voters of the country, who have been nearly all their lives accustomed to the sweets of liberty-will they continue to look on, supinely, and see the last vestige of freedom swept away, and not attempt to stay the hands of those who would utterly ruin us? Will not the people of North Carolina, especially, rise in their might and demand and assume ther lost rights?

Let the Governor and Legislature just announce to the people of the State they are to have a Convention if they wish it, in order to consult concerning the "greatest good of the greatest number," and there will be an upheaving of the people, such as has not been witnessed for years. work whil) it is to-day, "lest the night cometh when no man can work." OALAMUS.

> Fer the Standard. STANTONSBURG, N. C., Jan. 15, 1864.

W. W. Holden, Beg .:-DEAR SIR!-I write you this to know if there is no way to have our Postmaster detailed to attend to our post office? We are without a Postmaster, and have been for some time. Our office has been partly kept by the citizens since his departure for the army; but there being no one in the place to take charge of the office, or that we could recomthem all except two or three doctors,) for appointment; we suffer great inconvenience in distributing our mail, or at least in getting it. It is an office that has been established for fitty or sixty years, and the mail that comes to it is about four or five times greater than it was previous to the beginning of the war. It is ten miles from Wilson, which is the nearest distributing office on, the Wilmington and Weldon railroad, and a great many letters come to it from soldiers in the army to their relatives and friends at home to say nothing of the been solicited by several to write to you, and hope you will give me what information you can on the subject. As you are the people's friend, and a friend to civil liberty, I am induced to make this request of you for their accommodation.

We would suggest to the people who are accommodated by the Stantonsburg office to memorialize the Postmaster General on the subject. It may be that he will interest himself with the War Department to procure the detail so much needed.

> For the Standard. PUBLIC MEETING.

> > MANY CITIZENS.

There will be a public meeting at a place called High Point, on the N. C. Railroad between China Grove depot and Coleman's Turnout, on the 30th of this month, at 19 o'clock, A. M.

January 15; 1864.

"I'LL SEE MY PARTNER."-Strange devices were adopted by some of the hard up soakers, on Christmas day to get the wherewithal to feel the influence of "the day we celebrate," and none were more ingenious than the method of a pretended mute, who took in some of the merchants that kept open doors a few hours in the morning, to catch the early birds that chanced to fly their way. The mute aforesaid, after scrutinizing the sign over the door, pulled a slate out of his pocket walked in, and writing on it the word, "Got any molasses?" handed it to the merchant. The latter taking the hint-namely: that the gentleman was a deaf mute-wrote down the word "Yes." The deaf mute added immediately the inscription, "How much do you ask for it?"
The merchant jotted down "fifteen dollars." The
deaf mute wrote "Let me see it." The merchant conducted him to the cellar, and gave him a look at the sorghum. Dummy tasted the same, and, manifesting his satisfaction by sundry signs and grinaaces, wrote upon his slate, "I'll see my parther." He then started out; but, as if having forgotten something, and jotted down the cabalastic sentence. "Got any first rate brandy ?" The merchant replied through the medium of the slate "Yes— splendid." Let me see it," responded Dummy in the same way, after cleaning the tablet with his coat sleeve. The merchant conducted him to a bright particular barrel, drew out a few "taster's" full and poured the ruby liquor into a goblet, in which it was illuminated by the circumambient air to a magnificent advantage; Dummy took it—there was over a half a pint lim the goblet—viewed the surrounding scenery of shelves and boxes. though it for a few moments, then slightly tasted it, grinned satisfaction and rubbed his belly, passed the goblet for a moment longer in the air, and then quietly tilted it to his lips, and the brandy disappeared "like ; dream" from the astonished vision of the me; chant. Dummy hoisted his slate again, wruce upon it the words, "I'm see my partner," made a bow and left. Some half dozen merchants were called upon, and "tested" in the same habion, by the original who at langth case in and toddled by the original, who, at length, gave in, and toddle down to one of the numerous " reassfor travellera," on 17th street, and took a glorious gratis slumber, for the rest of the day.—Rickmond Enquirer.

THE MECHANICS. -It seems to us, says the Richmond Despatch, that Congress, in its radical mili-tary measures, should be careful how it deprives the country of the mechanical skill and labor, whether native or fareign, of which it stands so sorely in need. The supply of this kind of industry, absolutely essential to our success, is fracted enough at present, and it would be makened at life enough at present, and it would be makened at life enough at present, and it would be makened at life enough at present, and it would be makened at life enough to reduce it. We have a considerably describe of foreigners in the Confederacy, including skilled in certain branches of mechanical lates, used the legislation of Congress ought to be so framed. the legislation of Congress ought to be so frames to retain and encourage these, as stall as other bone fide mechanics, in their present recations.