Abstract of the Speech of Hon. A. H. Stephens. The Columbus (Ga.) "Times" publishes the following abstract of a speech delivered by Vice-President Stephens in the hall of the flouse of Rep-resentatives, at Milledgeville, on Wednesday eve-

ning, March 16th, 1864:

Mr. Stephens began be speech at the hour of 74

P. M. and closed at 2020. The Hall was crowded
with members of the Legislature and citizens generally here being among the latter many ladies. on the people of Georgia had often honored, and to whom they had often looked for counsel in times of peril. He had entered at an early hour, in company with his Excellency, the Governor of Georgia, and had not been observed until he ascended the Speaker's stand. Then there was a burst of hearty applause that seemed to come from all present, testifying how truly, and with what regard, he was called upon to speak.

He began by saying that his object was to speak on the state of public affairs at this present crisis. The time had passed when the measures which brought on the war should be discussed; the great question to beddetermined by legislators was the proper husbanding and management of all the resources of the country. The country was environed by dangers and perils within and without; but though the times were perilous, he did not regard the cause as hopeless. If true to ourselves and to

our cause, we must ultimately succeed.

The enemy had not as yet inflicted any vital blow on our interests, though they gained some important advantages, the chief of which was their success from their gunboats. We could not resist their attacks successfully from this source any more than a lion could successfully attack a shark. If asked whether we should ultimately triumph, his reply would be yes, a thousand times yes, if we properly

managed the resources of the country.

On the currency question he did not intend to speak further than to say that he regarded it as an unwise measure, though it might have been the best that could have been adopted with the conflicting opinions on the subject.

On the Military Act-the second Conscription Act as he termed it—he was more severe. Ha thought it put too large a portion of the fighting men in the field. Only one third of the fighting men of a country, it had been demonstrated by history, could be safely put in the field. Whenever this proportion was exceeded, there was danger to the country in long wars, from the want of means of subsistence of the army. He feared that suffi-cient regard had not been paid to the fact when the bill was under consideration. As to the question assumed in the Act that all the mechanical, manufacturing and agricultural labor of the country could be put under the control of the President that was a question left for the Courts to determine, and he would be satisfied with their decision.

The next important question that would be sub mitted to the Legislature, was the act suspending the writ of habeus corpus. He contended that while Congress had the power to suspend that writ by an implied grant in the Constitution, it did not have the power to do that which the act did, which was to authorize the arrest of persons without a charge being made against them on oath or affirmation, or probable cause of some person. That right Congress had not the power to take away, for it wasexpressly granted in the Constitution. The act contained thirteen specifications, in any one of which the writ might be suspended. There was no need of the act so far as concerned persons guilty of being a spy, or of treason, or of cutting telegraph wires. The entire spirit of unity of the people in the presention of this war, forbid the entertaining of any seek opinion. It could have reference to but one class, which is styled persons seeking to avoid military service.

The great liability to abuse of this power, so fa as that class of persons is concerned, was dwelt upon with great carnestness and force. Instances were advanced in which the power would be likely to be abused. One was the case of a man who was put into military service in the field whom the family record and other evidences showed to be above forty five-years of age, because under a recent order the person's age had to be computed according to the last census, and the person referred to had had his age wrongfully given in. Another instance was adduced of a person seeking to get his son into the army as a volunteer, as under the act he had a right to do, and having that son suddenly arrested and put into prison as " seeking to avoid military service,

Mr. S. thought it the duty of the Legislature to give public expression to their opinion as the most likely to effect the repeal of the act by the next Congress. He favored the free expression of opinion, and thought it as much a duty to disapprove a theasure that is wrong, as to approve of one that is

He considered the great question involved in the war to be independence and constitutional liberty. Without one he did not want the other. He would not desire to survive the deleat of either

Ex PRESIDENT FILLMORE ON THE WAR.—The Northern papers bring us the first expression of comion on the war that we have seen from Millard Fillmore. At the opening of the great Central Fair, at St. James' Hall, Buffalo, he is reported to have spoken as follows:

Three years of civil war have desolated the fairest portion of our land; loaded the country with an epormous debt that the sweat of millions yet unborn must be taxed to pay; arrayed brothe rgainst brother and father against son in mortal conflict; deluged our country with fraternal blood; whitened our battle-fields with the bones of the slain, and darkened the sky with the pall of mourn-Yet these appalling calamities-which as yet have touched our city more lightly than any other in the land-have imposed upon us new duties, which must be promptly met and generously discharged, and new bardens which must be patiently and cheerfully borne.

We cannot, in our humble capacity, control the. events of this desolating war. We hear its thunders and mark the track of desolation, and we must meet the emergency as best we can, but never desp ir of the republic. It is no time now to inquire whether it might have been avoided. Let those who seek light on this subject read Washington's Farewell Address. Nor are we now to criticise the conduct of those who control it, awarding praise here and bestowing censure there. The impartial historian will do this when the passions engendered by the strife have cooled, and partisan prejudices, petty jealousies, malignant envy, and intriguing, selfish ambition shall be laid in the dust, and, it is hoped, buried in oblivion. And much less are we called upon to predict when or how this war will end. Let those who seek light on the subject read Gen. Jackson's Farewell Address. But let us hope that an allwise and merciful Providence will incline the hearts of the people, North and South, to peace-10 a lasting peace, with a restored Union, comented by fraternal affection, under our well tried and glorious Constitution.

Nor is this the time or place to express an opinion as to the policy that should be pursued to reach so desirable an end. But one thing is clear, that much must be forgiven, if not forgotten, on both sides, before this Union can ever be restored; and, therefore, it is to be hoped that all unnecessary acts of cruelty, or wanton destruction of private property, or insult, or insolence in triumphing over a fallen foe should be avoided; for all such acts only fire the heart of our adversary with resent ment and revenge and thus protract the war, increase its horrors, and leave a sting which will ren der re-union more difficult, if not impossible. But it must be apparent to all that the first step toward bringing this war to a close is to conquer the

Affy negotiations for peace before this is done would prove abortive; and any professed elemency to those in arms who defy our power would be a mockery which would be treated with ridicule and contempt. But, when we have conquered their armies, and disposed of their leaders, then let us show our magnanimity and generosity, by winning buck the deluded multitude who have been seduced or coerced into this rebellion, by extending to them every act of elemency and kindness in our power, and by restoring them to all their rights under the Constitution. This I conceive to be christian forwhich can ever restore this Union,

For the Standard. Nominations for the Legislature.

MR HOLDEN: -As the time is near at hand when the Conservatives of the State will find it necessary to nominate candidates for the Legislature, and it is very important that we should carry that body, I trust they will permit one who wishes the cause well, to make a few suggestions.

1st. Let them avoid all association with Destruc-

tives. I do not see how any Conservative who possesses proper self respect can act politically with the Destructives. They have denounced us and held us up as traitors, and we may know that every effort they make to unite themselves with us proceeds from selfish motives. They want the offices, and the opportunity to tyrannize over us, here in North-Carolina, and they know that they are so completely in a minority that their only hope of success in insinuating themselves into our ranks. "Touch not pitch, lest ye be defiled." It is not possible to fuse or unite the Conservatives and Destructives. Their principles are as wide apart as the poles; and even if their principles could be reconciled and made to agree, the Destructives are so selfish and intolerant that they would rule, if they could not use such Conservatives as might unite with them,

2d. Let no man be nominated or supported for office who is not a Conservative "after the straitest sect." I have more respect for a downright Destructive who carries his principles in his hands so that every one may see them, than I have for a fishy, trading, liesitating, half-hearted Conservative.
The great mass of our people are Conservatives,
and they have a right to the services of men who will carry out their wishes. To continue to honor prominent Conservatives who have proved false to their pledges, to their principles, and their friends, and to prefer fishy Conservatives for office to true Conservatives, will be to humble oursalves at the feet of our enemies and destroy our party. The right of the people to govern, and the preservation of civil liberty itself, depend on the Conservative party. Therefore, any man who would break down the Conservative party by merging any portion of it with the Destructive party, or who treats both parties in such a way as to obtain the votes of both, or who runs with the Destructives and professes at the same time to hold with the Conservatives, is not only a political hypocrite,

but an enemy to popular rights and civil liberty. Let no such man be trusted. 3d. Let no man be nominated or supported for office who thinks it "wrong" to trust the people on any subject or in any event. Consolidationists and monarchists are numerous in the land. We hear the declaration frequently made, and we see it more frequently acted out, that popular govern-ment has failed, and that we must have a strong government of privileged orders, supported by the bayonet. I would warn the people in the most earnest terms against the constantly increasing tendencies to a kingly or imperial form of government. It is a monstrous calumny -a fatal delusion to say that free government has failed. Trust no man for office who will not pledge himself to the great principle that the people alone have the right to govern; and if he hesitates to make this pledge, or if he shows a disposition to favor a strong or kingly gov ernment, avoid and reject him as your most dead

4th. Let no man be nominated or supported who will not pledge himself to the most rigid economy in the administration of our State affairs. Ou State debt is already heavy, and rapidly increasing and while every proper expenditure should be mad and our soldiers and their families well provided for, yet no money should be squandered on favorites or oubtful schemes.

5th. Let no man be nominated or supported who admits or holds the Lincoln doctrine, that in any event the State may be coerced by the Confederate government. And let no man be supported who is not in favor of negotiating for peace while we are fighting for it. Our people desire peace if they can obtain it on honorable terms; and they look to the States as well as to the common government to make every proper effort to secure this great bless-

6th. The people are tired of caucuses, conven tions, and packed committees. These agencies had no small influence in breaking up the old government and involving us in this awful war. Let mass meetings be held, and let each Conservative present have the privilege of voting for the man of his choice. The humblest Conservative has as much right to vote in selecting candidates as the most ex-alted and influential. Nominations made in this way will carry more moral weight with them, and give more satisfaction than if made as the result of the deliberations of a committee.

These suggestions proceed from one who is devotedly attached to Conservative principles, and who is most anxious that those principles may con tinue to prevail in North-Carolina. There is no danger of division in the Conservative ranks, if those who are really and honestly attached to the party will adhere to their principles, and make common cause against the Destructives. Our party has a very large majority in the State. We can afford to stand by our own men and by our own principles. and proudly refuse to touch or confide in any candi date who is the choice of the Destructives. may lose some votes and a few selfish leaders by adopting this course, but we shall carry the State triumphantly, and at the same time purify and improve our party. March 25, 1864.

[From the Raleigh Progress.]

MR. EDITOR: - I see that the Destructives of Pitt and New Hanover counties have nominated Gov. Vance for te election. Mr. Fulton, of the Journal leads in New Hangver, and Dr. Blow leads in Pitt These gentlemen, and others of the same stripe, de clared in 1862, that Gov. Vance and his supporters were then dislo al, and that his election was a Union triumph. Who has changed? And the Confederate and other Destructive journals are supporting Gov. Vance and assailing Mr. Holden. A man is known by the company he keeps. Every Conservative who votes for Gov. Vance, will vote with James Fulton, Dr. W. J. Blow, D. K. McRae, John Spelman, W. K. Lane, William Robinson, C. H. Cofield, J. A. Spears, John U. Kirkland, H. K. Nash, Jim Morris, Zeke Jones, and men of that stamp. Is there not "something rotten in the state of Denmark ?"

I also observe that the Confederate of the 23d March, which seems to be the leading organ of Gov, Vance, urges the Vance men or Destructives of the State to adopt as their platform in the meetings which they may hold, the resolutions of the New Hanover meeting drawn up by Mr. Fulton. The Governor is thus cordially embraced by the Destructives in all parts of the State. OBSERVER.

GOVERNOR VANCE.

As we foresaw, the speech of Governor Vance is regarded as a wonderful production, and has already stamped him with a national renown. We regard ed it at the moment when we read it, as in the main a wise, logical, patriotic effort-abounding in sound thought, wholesome instruction, and couched in terms of jest, humor and sublime elequence, admirably adapted to his audience, and displaying a mind of varied and splendid attainment. We thought it the best stump speech we had ever read—and our estimate has not been depreciated by the press of the country.

We are no politica'l or party supporter of Governor Vance. He has been in party matters a party man. If we support h. in, it is as a patriot, who has served his State, and s'till serves her well in the great cause. We support h, im not as a conservative, but, as a member of the co ufederate party. W support him against disloya. Y, against a party which, when organized, will be assentially a Tory Party, and which will be known her. after as such.— Confederate, (Destruction,) March 16, 1864.

We have heard that Gov. Vance at Statesville urged the vigorous prosecution of the w r in the most glowing terms. The Governor posses power of language wonderfully, and it would b ticipating trouble to apprehend that a vine so p. lific in blossoms, will not be abundant in fruits.

For ourselves we have no fear. The luscious grapes from this fruitful vine are even now melting in our mouth.— Confederate, (Destructive,) Feb. 29, 1864.

But the agitation must stop. There must be no more appeals for Convention—openly, or by secret petition. * Men must cease to speak in princte. Folly has long enough had sway .- Confeder, ite, March 2, 1864.

For the Standard Ma. Entron: After reading and studying the Governor's Wilkesbirough speech attentively, his arguments and reasoning have failed to convince. my judgment that the bloody battle field is the only place where an honorable peace can be obtained.
The Governor's speech is a good one, but badly digested; it contains all that his most devoted friends desired, and then enough more to spoil the good.
It was well calculated to tickle the ear and captivate the fancy of his bearers, but I doubt whether he was as successful in satisfying the minds and con-vincing the judgment of his hoarers upon the best mode of obtaining peace. Surely the serpent has not beguiled his Excellency, though he is an insidious, wily, malicious animal, that crawls upon his belly, and feeds upon the public pap. I would suggest to the Governor the propriety and importance of putting on a coat of mail, to shield him from the venem of the animal. I don't think the Governor discussed the topics of his speech in the order of their importance. I think if he had had the propensities of our animal nature shoved off by the serpent, his intellectual faculties and christian feeling would have suggested a different arrangement of the heads of his discourse. I have no doubt he would have talked as fluently upon peace by nego-tiation as he did upon war. Unfortunately, the moral atmosphere that the soul breathes has about as much to do with the moral principles of our nature as the putrid atmosphere from a polluted stream has to do with the physical or animal faculties of our nature. We should endeavor to shape our views and conduct in this world, in reference to the glorious and sublime principles and teachings the meek and lowly Jesus—peace with God, and good will towards man. The better feeling of our nature seems unfortunately to have been lost sight of by his Excellency, in his thirst for popular ap-

plause and human glory.

It would seem from the reading of the Governor's speech, that he not only regards the bloody strife we are now involved in an important one, but that it was susceptible of a double showing; he admitted that he in common with his fellow-citizens was anxious for peace, but that the bloody battle-field was the only place where we could obtain it, and that we must fight it out now, while we had a government and an army. Surely the Governor did not wish to be understood that before negotiation could be instituted that it would be necessary to break up the government, disband the army, and prostrate ourselves, spaniel like, at the feet of the federals! If the Governor supposes any such a desire is entertained by the Conservative party, let me disabuse his mind on the subject, by saying we de-sire no such terms of peace at his, President Davis', or President Lincoln's hands. While we hold the sword in one hand, let us hold the olive branch in the other; let the war, if possible, be transferred from the bloody battle field to the council chamber. where much of the outside pressure that operated in bringing on and perpetuating the war would be shut out, and reason assume her supremacy over the minds of those who deprecate war as a national curse, and desire peace as a national blessing. We are all aware of the fact that there is a constitutional mode pointed out by which not only peace may be made, but war also; yet it so happened that the present war was not made in pursuance of law, or the Constitution. We will not controvert the Governor's views on that point, but the Constitution does not say no other mode shall be resorted to for the accomplishment of peace; the mode pointed out by the Constitution is only a formality. If the same desirable object could be obtained by other means, would it be less beneficial or desirable to those interested in the important issue? Surely not. To suppose such a thing, would be an insult to reason

and common sense.

In the settlement of this cruel war we must bring to bear the better feelings of our nature; we must not only exercise physical force, but we must exercise moral courage; we must be permitted to think speak and act as becomes freemen, christians and patriots upon our unfortunate condition, without the bit in our mouths or the fear of a halter around our necks. To act differently would not only be physical, but it would be moral cowardice; and he that would attempt to suppress free speech, or muzzle a free press, is a despot and a tyrant at heart.

The Governor seems to be a little old fogyish it his notions on points of law, though I don't attach any blame to him, as it scens to be the bent of his nature. I would be so too if circumstances would justify it, but it will not. We are cut loose won the moorings of our fathers, and are now being tossed upon the angry billows of a bloody civil war, with the anxious cry from sea shore to mountain top-let us negotiate while we fight for peace Will those who brought on the bloody struggle still interpose an insuperable barrier to the accomp ment of so desirable an object by a stoical indifference, or the exercise of bad law? We trust not.

I had supposed that the Confederate and State governments were co-ordinate and co-equal, and that neither could infringe upon the reserved rights of the other without impairing the validity of the terms upon which the compact was entered into It is a problem now being solved that the States should watch with jealous vigilance. If the cause we are now struggling for loses its vitality by the abuse of power either by the Confederate or the States' governments, what is it that will compensate for the sacrifice of blood and treasure, the sufferings and sorrows of our people, when this bloody strife shall have ended?

Let us hope and pray that God in his wrath may not longer afflict us with blindness for our past folly LEACHBURG. and weakness.

We publish in another column a communication from "A Citizen," criticising the recent message of Gov. Brown to the Georgia Legislature. While there is force and pertinence in some of " Citizen's' reflections on the tendencies of the times, we are free to confess we had rather see the extreme running in the direction of over-vigilance in respect to the rights of the States. History is said to be philosophy teaching by example, and the precedents of the past deduce no more unfailing truth than that the proclivity of power is "to gradually steal from many to the few." It was once a dispute amongst political theorists whether there was more danger in a confederacy " from tyranny in the head than from anarchy amongst the members." History, with its solemn examples, has put the question forever at rest. The temper and tendencies of all central authority are towards absolute and unquestioning abedience which is the pyre of public berty.

There is much sound sense and sagacious reflec tion in Gov. Brown's message-much which, at this time, is worth the attention of our people. As we understand him, he contemplates no counter action on the part of the Georgia Legislature against the bill of Congress suspending the habeas corpus, only prope sing that a grave legislative protest shall be enteres, against the exercise of the power by the President. The measure has been so unfavorably received through the country, and there really ap pears to be so little occasion for it, that we have no doubt Cong ress will, at an early day, during the coming session, repeal the act.

What Gov. Brown says about peace is not only true but wise, and stamps him a sagacious states man. The sword and the olive branch must accom plish the work amjointly-neither alone can effect it. He urges that the war be vigorously carried on, and that the last man and the last dollar be voted for its energetic prosecution. At the same time he suggests that our moral sympathy be thrown in favor of the party at the North now engaged in a great struggle to exp. l Lincoln from office. He advocates holding out the olive branch to that party, expressing a willingness should they get into office to treit with them to an honorable peace. He goes farther and acquits these conservative men at the bar of history of the great crime against Christianity and civilization of having brought on this war, and bids them God speed in their good work of ousting Lincoln and his co-devils from

In this particular, the points of Gov. Brown's message are well taken and will do a cood. We cannot believe he meditates any collision, with the authorities at Richmond, or will fail to do all that lays in his power to strengthen and support the Presi dent in a most earnest prosecution of the war.-

A king of England has an interest in preserving the fr. dom of the press, because it is his in terest to knew the true state of the nation, which the courtiers would fain conceal, but of which a free press along can inform him.—Lacon.

For the Standard. MR. EDWOR:-In the Confederate of the 15th in-Mr. Edwor:—In the Confederate of the 15th instant, is an article headed, "Dr. Leach," in which the so called junior Editor, with characteristic vulgarity, and obscenity that would isguee a he goat, attempts to stigmatize me as an ignoramus and a traitor. The so called junior Editor, no doubt, enjoys this low and calumnious fling of unadulterated billingsgate, but such is the legitimate fruit of low-breeding and those vulgar associations that have already no inted his nath to perdition. Ignorance already pointed his path to perdition. Ignorance is bliss when not attended by all the degrading propensities of the lower brute creation, as is the case with the so called junior Editor of the Confederate. He is one of the spared monuments of God's mercy, without brains and less decency.

I have no recollection of the so-called junior Editor ever correcting any communication from me, except one intended for his special benefit, "The Whiskey Dooking glass." Had he received a few more such productions, I have no doubt, but that his journal would have been a more popular one, and its Editor a better man. If the junior Editor pretends to say or to intimate that he made any material alteration in "The Whiskey Looking glass," he perpetrates an act that truth does not sanction as I am abundantly able to prove.

If the so-called junior Editor had any of the milk of human nature in his composition, he ought to thank me for that pamphlet on the evils of intemperance. I would suggest to him the importance of reading "The Whiskey Looking glass" in the morning and the Bible in the evening, as the one would be just as essential to his temporal happiness as the other would be to his spiritual welfare. Talk about treason indeed! You, Sir, have box-

ed both the moral and political compass oftener than comports with either decency or patriotism, and to-day the highest price under the hammer for which either could be sold, would be a bottle of bad whiskey.
"The junior Editor of the Confederate shares with the able senior Editor the duties, responsibili-

ties," &c. No doubt, Mr. Junior, for you and the "able Senior" are both going it bare back upon the nag of infamy, and the world will be the better of it, when you get through your journey. You, Sir, are such a pigmy of insignificance and contempt, that were you removed off the stage of existence. your presence would not be missed on earth nor recognized in eternity.

J. T. LEACH. recognized in eternity. March 28, 1864.

> For the Standard. Public Meeting in Harnett County.

At a large and respectable meeting of the citizen of upper Little River District, Harnett County, held at Pineville, on Tuesday, 23d of February, 1864, on motion of James S. Harrington, Esq., Capt. James M. Turner was called to the Chair, and John McL. Harrington requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman in a few brief remarks explained the object of the meeting, when on motion the Chair appointed a committee of five to draft resolutions for the action of the meeting, when the fol-lowing gentlemen were appointed: James 3. Har-rington, Esq., John M. Morrison, Esq., Henry Stew-art, Esq., Henry Faucette and Rev. Daniel McNeill. On motion the Chairman and Secretary were added to the number. The Committee then retired, and after a short time returned and through their Chairman, James S. Harrington, Esq., introduced the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Constitution both of the State and of the Confederate States does guarantee to the common citizen the right to peaceably assemble themselves together and consult for the common good, and to appeal to their representatives for a redress of grievances, whenever such grievances in their opinion does exist; and whereas, in our opinion grievances to an alarming extent doth at this time exist: Therefore be it

Resolved. That this is a cruel, unchristian and uncalled for war; that it has lasted long enough to salisfy every thinking, fair-minded man; that it cannot be settled by the sword alone, and that we believe it to be the duty of all good citizens to meet and consult, and see if something cannot be done that will settle our national difficulty with bonor Resolved, That we believe in the time honored

republican doctrine that the will of the people should be the law of the land, and with that sentiment settled on our minds, we do most earnestly appeal to His Excellency, Gov. Z. B. Vance, to convene the Legislature at an early day for the purpose of submitting to the people the question of Convention or no Convention, that the public mind may be fully ascertained on that subject.

Resolved, That a Convention called by the peo

ple could and would do much toward the settlement of the difficulties under which our beloved country is now laboring, and that we are in favor of a Convention of all the States in the Confederacy for the purpose of making some propositions to the Northern Government for a lasting and an honorable peace to both sections of our once united but now divided and ruined nation.

Resolved, That we believe it to be the bounden duty of the representative in all cases to be governed by the will of those whom he represents, and, therefore, we will not support any man for any office, either State or Confederate, who will not pledge himself to be governed by that will when made known to him through any proper channel.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the course taken by his Excellency, and his firmness manifested in sustaining the Judiciary in North Carolina against the unprecedented stretches of the military over the civil law in our beloved State, and that we pledge ourselves to sustain him in all such positions taken by him, and looking to him as our great political head, we hope he will maintain the civil law of North Carolina at all hazards against any and all encroschments, come from whence it may.

Resolved, That we approve of the proposition made by the Conservative citizens of Johnston County to call a mass meeting of the conservative citizens of the State sometime in April or May, and we most respectfully suggest early in April, as we believe it will so plainly show the state of public feeling in North Carolina as to satisfy any doubting mind on that subject, and may enable our rulers to

shape their course of conduct accordingly.

Resolved, That we regard W. W. Holden as the great champion of the people's rights, and as true and loyal a citizen as the Southern Confederacy contains, and we believe but for his wise and timely admonitions to both Government and soldiers in the field, our armies would not have been what they now are in point of numerical force, and we do pledge ourselves that as long as his political conduct justifies these opinions in us, to sustain, protect and defend him; and we also feel under ma ny obligations to the editor of the Raleigh Progress for the manly and proper course he has taken in this our great struggle for personal and political

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his Excellency, Gov. Vance, with the hopes that they meet his approval, and that a copy be sent to the editor of the Raleigh Standard and the Daily Progress for publication, with the request that all the papers in the State friendly to the cause publish them.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

JAMES M. TURNER, Chm'n. JOHN McL. HARRINGTON, Sec'y.

LETTER FROM MR. VALLANDIGHAM-RETALIATION ADVISED .- The following letter from Mr. Vallandigham is published: . WINDSOR, C. W., March 7, 1864.

Mesers. Hubbard & Brothers, Dayton, Chio: GENTLEMEN-I read several days ago the telegraph ic announcement of the "riddling" of the Empire office by "furloughed soldiers." I offer you no sympathy, for that will avail nothing now or hereafter. I do express to you my profound regret that you were not prepared to inflict on the spot, and in the midst of the assault, the complete punishment which the assaulants deserved; but I am gratified to learn that some of them did soon after receive their deserts. But these cowardly acts cannot always be guarded against. And they do not primarily come from the "soldiers." There is, therefore, but one remedy for past and preventive of future injuries and that is, instant, summary and ample reprisal upon the persons and property of the men at home, who, by language and conduct, are always inciting to these outrages. No legal or military punishment is ever inflicted upon the immediate instruments. Retaliation, therefore, is the only and the rightful remedy in times like these. I speak advisedly, and recoveramend it in all cases hereafter. It is of no ave , to announce the falsehood that "both parties cr...lemn it," after the destruction has been consum

mated. The time has gone by for obedience without protection. I speak decided language; but the continued recurrences of these outrages—frequently attended with murder, and always without redress demends it. They must be stopped, let the consequences be what they may. Reprisals in such cases are now the only way left for a return to law and order.

C. L. VALLANDIGHAM.

Then and Now.

Extract from the Message of Gov. Vance, to the General Assembly of North Carolina, November 16th, 1862.

"I have not seen an official copy of the act, but learn from the newspapers that Congress has con-ferred upon the President the power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in all cases of arrests made by Confederate authority. If this be once admitted no man is safe from the power of one individual. He could at pleasure, seize any citizen of the State with or without excuse, throw him into prison and permit him to languish there without reliefpower that I am unwilling to see entrusted to any living man. To submit to its exercise would in my opinion be establishing a precedent dangerous and pernicious in the extreme. Among a people so united and faithful to their cause as ours, where disloyalty is the rare and solitary exception to the general rule, I can see but little good, but a vast tide of inflowing evil from these inordinate stretches of military power which are fast disgracing us equally with our northern enemies. A free Repub-lic that must needs cast off its freedom in every time of trouble, will soon cast it off forever. Free dom cannot be embraced to day and spurned to morrow: a steadfast and constant worship can alone secure her countless blessings. Her chosen instruments—the Constitution and the laws—were mad the sure covenant of her everlasting residence among us; our delight in times of peace and prosperity and our guide and shield in the day of trouble an calamity. Now, if ever, is the time when we should abide strictly by their stern decrees, and walk up rightly in the narrow path they have marked out for our footsteps. We should, least of all, forsake the helm and the compass when the vessel is driven by the tempest, and clouds and darkness obscure the way."

Ertract from Gov. Vance's Wilkesborough Speech delivered February 22d, 1864.

"There is talk of the writ of habeas corpus being suspended in the Southern States. I understand it has already been suspended by Congress; but the suspension of this writ may not be in contravention of the Constitution; for the courts have de cided that Congress can suspend the writ within certain limits. * * I regret to see the suspension of the writ. It is evidence of wrong existing somewhere—either of a desire upon the part of the government to assume more authority than belongs to it, or of a state of affairs in some parts of the country that argues ill. But in the name of-com-mon sense, if we are a law abiding people, if we regard the King's name as a tower of strength, we must not make a commotion because a law has been enacted which our jurists announce as within the limits of the Constitution of the country that we have sworn to support. We ought to be willing to stand up to our own Constitution and our own laws."

Specimens of Gubernatorial Literature.

Extracts from Gov. Vance's Wilkesborough speech "FELLOW-CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN !- I do not know how it is possible for me to make myself heard by this large audience, unless I adopt the plan of the one armed soldier who could not hug his sweetheart all the way around, and so was forced to chalk the distance he could reach on one side, and then turn and hug as far on the other. (Laughter) "You will pardon me for a funny illustration of

so serious a subject, but I am somewhat like the old lady, who, in company with her 'old man' used to visit a country store kept by one Major Smith, (as there is no danger of identifying him:) The Major kept some fine samples of wet goods in the cellar, to which he treated his customers before displaying his dry goods up stairs; for he knew, as you do that a man in a certain state of exhibitation in he can buy two or three counties, to say nothing of goods and groceries. (Laughter.) And the aforeaid old couple were about the best custemers he had. On one occasion, after repeatedly going up and down stairs, they got in such a good humor, that when they started home the Major could barely lift them on the saddle—the old lady behind in the good old fashioned style. She was in eestacies with the Major. He was "the finest storekeeper she ever see in all her born days. Bless that Major, what nice samples he does put up to be sure, and how he sweetens!" Gripping the old man with one hand and gesticulating with the other, she pro-ceeded to expatiate on the Major's charming quali-ties, until they came to a branch, up the opposite bank of which the old man managed to ride, while the old lady unconciously slipped off quietly into the stream. The old fellow rode some distance be fore he discovered he had lost something, and rode back to the stream when he ascertained what it was. There she lay in the branch, flat on her back, and had damned up the water until it had just begun to run into the corners of her mouth. She imagined she was in the cellar, talking to the Major, and "sampling." Rolling her eyes, pursing up her mouth, she would say every now and then, "no any more I thank you Major, not another drap (Continued laugh Major, unless it is sweetened." ter) Just so with your humble servant in regard to secession: Not another drap Major, if you please, sweetened or not sweetened. (Laughter and ap-

"You know when Saint Paul went to the city of Ephesus and announced the true God, he raised quite a row with Demetrius and the rest of the artists in the place, who had been accustomed to make their living by manufacturing shrines for the Goddess Diana; and they were about to massacre Saint Paul for his interference with their profits At the height of the excitement which was about to break out into actual hostilities, there appeared among them a fellow, the town clerk, who is not given, (and I regret the omission, for I think he was the smartest uninspired man mentioned in Scripture,) who got upon the court house steps or "the stump" and spoke to the people."

Extract from a speech delivered in Richmond, Va. by Gov. William Smith, March 16th, 1864.

"The Governor then referred to the substitute principals who had been required by Congress to report for duty. I know, he said, (addressing the soldiers,) what a frolic you will have over when they arrive in camp. (Laughter.) You will put them through. (Renewed merriment.) The Governor told his hearers that he wanted them to win new laurels, and then, at the close of the war, when they returned home perhaps with a leg or an arm gone, they would talk to the "old woman," and tell the children, who would clamber around their knee, how they had put it to the Yankees here, or put it to them there. (Laughter.) They tell me, said the Governor, that I am getting old, but where there is a Yankee or a woman to be met, I wish it to be understood that I am only twenty five. (Laugh-

[From the Standard of December 22d, 1868.]

PROVIDE FOR THE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES. - We will soon be in the midst of a cheerless winter, and the families of our brave defenders will suffer from its rigors in various ways. They will want bread, and meat, and clothing, and firewood. Those who formerly provided these things for them are either in camps, or in the hospitals, or disabled by wounds or in their graves. The tithing law which takes all the farmers have to spare, and the impressment law which demands more still, will render it exceeding ly hard for those who have made little or nothing, barely to live. But, by the blessing of God and the aid of such as have, they may go through the win-ter, though their sufferings will be great. It is the duty of every slaveholder who has any thing to spare, to divide it among his needy neighbors. See to it, that the needy white people are as well provided for as the slaves. It is a burning shame to reflect that some of our negroes have their meat one-, and twice, and even three times a day, and all of them a certain allowance of meat per week, while thousands of white people, who lived comfortably before the war, do not taste meet for weeks, and some of them not at all. If this war is to be continued for the negro, to the impoverighment, starva-tion, and ruin of any portion of the white race, it is

certainly time to take steps to close it honorable. for, devoted as we are to this peculiar institution it cannot be insisted that it shall stand in the way of of the existence of the white race. It is to the terest of the slaveholder to aftend to the wants of his needy neighbors. If he refuses to do so, wheth er from a spirit of indifference or the promptings avarice, he will "sow to the wind and reap t whirlwind."

We learn that Dr. J. T. Leach, of Johnston Cour ty, the member elect to Congress, sent his negretards last winter, and is doing so this winter, to the houses of the families of soldiers, to cut wood for them, so as to keep the women and children warm, and thus relieve them from the heavy labor of cutting it themselves in the sleet and snow and carrying it themselves in the sleet and snow, and carrying it long distances on their hips and shoulders. This is practical patriotism. True be nevolence is always thoughtful. Who will imitate Dr. Leach's example? Every slaveholder will do it who has a heart in his bosom, and who properly appreciates the condition of the families of those brave men, who are staking their lives in our defence.

Send your negro men, gentlemen, or negro man, as
their condition may require, and cut down the wood
and cut it up near their houses, so that they can have a supply in the dead of winter. Do this, and spare them besides what you can of meat, and meal, and clothing, and the God of mercy will bless you and many a noble-bearted soldier will thank you for it as long as he lives and if he should die in battle or in the hospital, it will be a consolation to him in his last moments to remember that he leaves his family among those who will think of and provide

THE TAX BILL.

AN ACT TO LAY ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT. Sec. 1. The Congress of the Confederate State America do enact, That in addition to the taxes levied-by the "act to lay taxes for the common defence and to carry on the government of the Con-federate States," approved 24th of April, 1862, there shall be levied from the passage of this act on the subjects of taxation hereafter mentioned and collected from every person, copartnership, as-sociation or corporation, liable therefor, taxes as follows, to wit:

I. Upon the value of property, real, personal and mixed, of every kind and description, not hereinafter exempted, or taxed at a different rate, five per cent. Provided, That from this tax on the value of property, employed in agriculture, shall be de-ducted the value of the tax in kind delivered thefefrom, as assessed under the law imposing it, and delivered to the government. Provided, That no credit shall be allowed beyond five per cent.

II. On the value of gold and silver wares and

plate, jewels, jewelry, and watches, ten per cent. III. The value of property taxed under this section shall be assessed on the basis of the market value of the same, or similar property in the neighborhood where assessed in the year 1860, except in cases where land, slaves, cotton or tobacco have been purchased since the 1st day of January, 1862, in which case the said land, slaves, cotton and tobaccoo so purchased, shall be assessed at the price actually paid for the same ty the owner.

Sec. 2. On the value of all shares or interests

held in any bank, banking company or appociation, canai, navigation, importing, exporting, insurance, manufacturing, telegraph, express, railroad and dry dock companies and all other joint stock companies of every kind, whether incorporated or not, five

The value of property taxed under this section shall be assessed upon the basis of the market value of such property in the neighborhood where assessed, in such currency as may be in general use there, in the purchase and sale of such property, at the time of assessment.

Sec. 3. Upon the amount of all gold and silver coin, gold dust, gold or silver bullion, whether held by the banks or other corporations or individuals, five per cent; and upon all moneys held abroad, or therefor on foreign countries, a tax of five per cent; such tax upon money abroad to be assessed and collected according to the value thereof at the place where the tax is naid.

II. Unon the amount of all solvent credits, and of all bank bills, and all other papers issued as currency, exclusive of non-interest bearing Confederate treasury notes, and not employed in a registered business, the income derived from which is taxed

five per cent. Sec. 4. Upon profits made in trade and business

eg follows: I. On all profits made by buying and selling spirituous liquors, flour, wheat, corn, rice, sugar, molasses or syrup, salt, bacon, pork, hogs, beef or beef cattle, aheep, oats, hay, fodder, raw hides, feather, horses, mules, boots, shoes, cotton yarns, wool, woollen, cotton or mixed cloths, hats, wagons, harness, coal, iron, steel or nails, at any time between the first of January, 1863, and the first of January, 1865, ten per cent. in addition to the tax on such profits as income under the "act to lay taxes for common defence, and carry on the Government of the Confederate States," approved April

11. On all profits made by buying and selling money, gold, silver, foreign exchange, stocks, notes, debts, credits, or obligations of any kind, and any merchandise, property or effects of any kind, not enumerated in the preceding paragraph, between the times named therein, ten per cent., in addition to the tax on such profits as income, under the act

III. On the amount of profits exceeding twentyfive per cent., made during either of the years 1863 and 1864, by any bank or banking company, insurance, canal, navigation, importing and exporting, telegraph, express, railroad, manufacturing, dry dook, or other joint stock company of any description, whether incorporated or not, twenty-five per cent on such excess. Sec. 5. The following exemptions from taxation

under this act shall be allowed, to wit : I. Property of each head of a family to the value of five hundred dollars; and for each minor child of the family to the further value of one hundred dollars; and for each son actually engaged in the army or navy, or who has died or been killed in the military or naval service, and who was a memoer of the family when he entered the service, to the further value of five hundred dollars. II. Property of the widow of any officer, soldier,

sailor or marine, who may have died or been killed in the military or naval service, or where there is no widow, then of the family, being minor children, to the value of one thousand dollars.

III. Property of every officer, soldier, sailor or marine, actually engaged in the military or naval service, or of such as have been disabled in such service, to the value of one thousand dollars, provided, that the above exemptions shall-not apply to any person whose property, exclusive of household furniture, shall be assessed at a value exceeding one thousand dollars. IV. That where property has been injured or

destroyed by the enemy, of the owner thereof has been temporarily deprived of the use or occupancy thereof, or of the means of cultivating the same, by reason of the presence or proximity of the enemy, the assessment on such property may be reduced, in proportion to the damage sustained by the owner, or the fax assessed thereon may be reduced in the same ratio by the district collector, on satisfactory evidence submitted to him by the owner of

Sec. 6. That the taxes on property laid for the year 1864 shall be assessed as on the day of the passage of this act, and be due and collected on the first day of June next, or as soon after as prac-ticable, allowing an extension of ninety days west of the Mississippi river. The additional taxes on incomes or profits for the year 1863, levied by this act, shall be assessed and collected forthwith; and the taxes on incomes or profits for the year 1864 shall be assessed and collected according to the provisions of the tax and assessment acts of 1868.

Sec. 7. So much of the tax act of the 24th day of April, 1863, as levies a tax on incomes derived from property or effects on the amount or value of which a tax is levied by this act, and also the first section. of said act, are suspended for the year 1864, and no estimated rent, hire, or interest on property of credits herein taxed ad valorem, shall be assessed or taxed as incomes, under the tax act of 1863.

SEC. 8. That the tax imposed by this act on bonds of the Confederate States heretofore issued, shall in no case exceed the interest on the same, and such bonds when held by or for minors or lunatics shall be exempt from the tax in all cases where the interest on the same shall not exceed one thousand dollars.