

TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Charles Fisher, Esq., of Salisbury, is announced as a candidate for a seat in the next Congress of the United States.

As to the political sentiments of Mr. Fisher, we have no certain information, except that he is understood to be an advocate of the Sub-Treasury scheme of Mr. Van Buren; and with all, a hot-headed Nullifier! When the people about here speak of his politics, they generally sum up the whole matter by calling him a devoted worshiper of John C. Calhoun. If he has undergone any change in sentiment on the two subjects above mentioned, he will of course let it be known speedily, as he must be fully aware that neither of these "experiments" (we mean Nullification or the Sub-Treasury,) can or will be swallowed by many of the people of this district.

The Editors of the Western Carolinian, in reference to the subject of Mr. Fisher's announcement, say—"During the past five or six weeks, our ordinary business has occasioned us to mingle much with the people; we have in this time, visited every County in the district, save one, and we can with sincerity and truth, say that the wish for an opposition to Mr. Rencher, is wide and extensive; indeed, it is almost general; and we may with truth also say, that the call for Mr. Fisher to offer, is equally general."

This "call" reminds us of an anecdote which we cannot repress the inclination to tell, of a son of the Emerald Isle, whose inhabitants are as famous for their quick promptings of their nature, and their opposite wit, as for their love of potatoes.

Patrick having repaired to the place appointed for preaching, sat himself down with becoming solemnity to hear the sermon. His reverence soon rose, and with a yawn and a long face, charged with enough of assumed gravity to fix our Irishman's attention still more profoundly, began to make some awkward and over-strained apologies about his natural repugnance to the task, and utter unfitness to address such an enlightened assembly; but added, that the Lord had "called" him especially to that work: at which Paddy, leaning over to his friend's ear, said—"Now Gilbert, d'ye see! I'm thinkin' there is a mistake in this business after all." "What's that?" said his friend,—"Och! by the powers, he must be mistaken in that same call; or if he aint, the Lord's mistaken in the mon."

The man that was with Nathaniel Macon.—The North Carolinian, a Van Buren paper printed at Fayetteville, in announcing William A. Morris, of Anson, as a candidate for Congress in opposition to the Hon. Edmund Debery, recommends his favorite in a strain of eulogy, not to be surpassed by any thing common. But the greatest exploit, is, that he, (Mr. Morris,) "was with Nathaniel Macon, one of our Republican Electors, in 1836."

Wonder if every man that has "been with," or heard talk of Nathaniel Macon is to be considered fit for a Van Buren candidate for Congress?

FATAL DUEL.

A duel was fought on the 26th inst. near Norfolk, between Jo. Seawell Jones of this State, and H. Wright Wilson of New York, in which the latter was shot through the body and died on the spot. The ball of Mr. Wilson grazed the temple of Jones.—*Ral. Register.*

Has Jones been arrested, and confined as a murderer? or has he fled from justice?

From the Wilmington Advertiser.

STATE LANDS.

We have been politely furnished, at our request, with the following interesting particulars on the subject of the state lands. We will endeavour to inform ourself upon this subject, and will then bring it again to the attention of our readers.

The State owns in the counties of Hyde, Washington and Tyrrel, from 70 to 80,000 acres of swamp lands, which it is proposed to drain under the direction of the Board of the Literary Fund, by two canals, the one from Pungo Lake to Pungo River, the other from Alligator Lake to Rutman's Creek, each of the canals to be about six and a half miles long, which will drain, in addition to the State lands, a large quantity of land owned by individuals, subject to assessment to be made by commissioners appointed for that purpose. The greater part of this land is purely vegetable, reposing on a clay subsoil, and a portion of it is covered with a large growth of cypress, poplar, and gum. The timbered lands lie near the lakes, and the canals could be used for the purpose of carrying down the timber.

Such lands on Mattamuskeet, when prepared for cultivation, sell readily at \$40 per acre. The whole expense of drainage will probably be from \$120,000 to \$130,000.

This is the beginning of a system of drainage, which, it is hoped, will be successfully prosecuted in other parts of the State.

There are large quantities of land owned by the State in Jones Carteret, Brunswick, and other counties.

Note.—I forgot in the memoranda which I gave, to say, that the State Lands are from 14 to 16 feet above the level of Pungo River; and that Lands stated to be in Brunswick are in Brunswick and Columbus.

Wheat Crop.—The Charlotte Journal, on the authority of a gentleman well qualified to judge, says that in that region there has not been for the last ten years such a prospect for an abundant crop of wheat. We are much gratified in being able to add, that the prospect hereabouts is equally flattering.—Should no untoward circumstance mark this season, the labors of the agriculturist will doubtless, throughout all the country, be abundantly rewarded.

Hillsborough Recorder.

The manner in which the late pacific news from England has been received universally throughout the country, shows very conclusively that the "war fever," if it ever existed at all here, has entirely abated. There seems to be a general pervading desire that there should be no interruption to the peaceful relations which now exist between the two nations. Young and old, rich and poor, farmers, merchants, mechanics—all join in the hope for peace.

There is something pleasing in this spectacle. It is consoling to the philanthropist. Surely, in this respect, the world has improved in these "latter days."—*Alexandria Gazette.*

Following Advice.—Some years since a gentleman in Boston, bought from a New Orleans merchant, a lot of sugar, giving in payment a check on a Boston bank. The merchant, a short time afterwards, having mislaid the check, wrote on to the drawer in Boston, that it was stolen, and requested him to advise the bank of the fact, and not only refuse payment when offered, but to arrest the person presenting it.

The check was afterwards found, and the merchant going North himself, presented it at the counter of the bank—when he was accordingly arrested and thrown into jail, notwithstanding all his pretensions to innocence and ownership.

Common Schools in Pennsylvania.—By the school law of 1836, the State of Pennsylvania, (exclusive of the city and county of Philadelphia,) was divided into 1033 school districts. Of this number, as appears by a late report, no less than 840 districts have assessed a school tax, and received their quota of the State appropriation, within the past year. In these 840 districts, in which the law has gone into operation and is now producing its salutary effect upon the men of the next age, there are 6268 schools; 4757 male teachers, 1964 female teachers, and 233,719 scholars.—Nobly is the old Keystone State vindicating herself, after all, on the great question of common school education—a question which, according as it shall be decided, may be held to be of the very highest importance to the prosperity of a free country and to the stability of its institutions.—*Poulton.*

Convention!—If ever a poor country was convention mad, ours is the one. We really begin to fear that not even the social intercourse of the domestic fireside will much longer escape the patriotic eye of some mock-strict conventionist, and that a sanctioning license will be required from these august bodies before a man can with impunity move his chair back when the heat from his own hearth scorches his shins. The latest of those imposing congregations was the great Southern Commercial Convention in Charleston, the proceedings of which we have just been poring over. The members talked, ate, drank and toasted, and appointed another Convention to be held in Macon in 1840!—When this is said, we humbly assert that all has been said, and "southern commerce" is just as it was when the Convention met. If enterprising men of capital would stay at home and mind their business, more real benefit to commerce would arise from their quiet efforts in one year than twenty years' loquacity will produce. We would appeal in vain to history for a single instance in which the commerce of a nation was essentially promoted by conventions.—*Newbern Spectator.*

THE SUPREME COURT.

The enemies of the Supreme Court are continually at work to inflame the popular mind against it. They cavil at the most correct decisions, censure the motives of the Judges, and denounce the whole system as anti Republican, tyrannical and unjust. And who, let us ask, are these assailants? Are they individuals who have been wronged by the decisions, or oppressed by the judicial tyranny of this tribunal? No! but they are the friends and supporters of this Administration—men, who would remove all barriers to the will of the President, and make his sovereign will and pleasure superior to the restrictions of the Constitution, to Treaties and to Laws. "Cease vipers, ye bite a file!"—*Raleigh Register.*

Editor's Correspondence.

Montgomery county, Ia. }  
April 7th, 1839. }

Dear Sir:—From examining the proceedings of your Legislature recently in session, I am much gratified in finding that you have at last waked up to the interest that you, in common with the other members of the confederacy, hold in the public lands.

On leaving my native State and settling here in the West, and on observing the sensitiveness of the people here on the subject alluded to above, I was astonished to see the old States generally as careless of the almost boundless western lands, as if they were valueless—nay, in some instances, legislative bodies in the old States even sanctioned our unjust claims to exclusive interest on those lands. This, you are aware, only occurred when Jacksonism got the ascendancy of patriotism, and I would fain hope that the day of such delusion is passed.

One principal cause why the old States have acted so contrary to their own interest, I am fully persuaded, is, the influence that speculators hold over the community. Speculators, who are always looking ahead, know that if Congress would relinquish their right, or rather the right of the old States to their equal distributive shares of the public lands, in favor of the States respectively in which unappropriated lands lie, that those States would each of them put the price down probably to 25 cents per acre, and that they would thereby be enabled to possess nearly all the valuable bodies of lands, for they would go one or two hundred miles in advance of settlements and make their selections, and as population pressed onward they would be able to sell their fine lands out, and again press onward farther than a few poor men could go and maintain their families.—Thus this very law, so much extolled as the poor man's law, would in effect, be nothing more or less than the wealthy speculators' glory, and it would oppress the poor in proportion as it advanced the speculators' profits. I am not anxious that any change in the price of public lands shall take place, but I do sincerely believe that it would be less prejudicial to the interest of the poor man, that the price per acre be doubled, than that Congress should relinquish the title to the States respectively in which the lands lie.

But admitting that the new States would be benefitted by such gratuity, is that just cause why the older sisters should be deprived of their just rights? Are you so wealthy that you have no need of the immense sums annually collected from sales of land acquired by the joint blood and treasure of the Union? Are you of N. C. not just embarking in a grand scheme of internal improvement and in common schools a this time, and must you not procure funds for those praiseworthy undertakings? Then why not unite unanimously in asserting your rights for "ask and ye shall receive," provided you do not ask amiss.

But while I would highly commend you for contending for your rights, I must say, that in my humble opinion, some of your claims are not founded in equity: If I understand the purport of the argument in your late legislature, asserting your just claim to your proportion of the proceeds of the sales of public lands, it would appear that you deem the new States debtors for all the lands used by them for educational purposes. This, I am of opinion, on a fair investigation will appear not to be a fact. In discussing this matter my remarks will more immediately apply to my adopted State, Ia.

This fertile State, at the close of the revolution, was included within the acknowledged chartered limits of Virginia: therefore we may say that Virginia at that time had a legal deed of conveyance for the State in question. At that time, I have no doubt that patriotism was the prevailing passion in Virginia; probably some other causes might have had their effect in the councils of the "Old Dominion." But be that as it may, Virginia did cede her title to all her unappropriated lands lying northwest of the Ohio river and embracing the present States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, and the territory of Wisconsin, on certain conditions: One of those conditions was that the United States should locate as many as two, and not more than five new States within this territory, and that further the U. States should unite by navigable canal such rivers running westwardly into the Mississippi, with those running eastwardly into the St. Lawrence as shall be found approaching each other respectively.—Amongst the rivers of this class, the Wabash and the Maumee stand prominent.

Within a few years after Ia. assumed the rank of a sovereign and independent State, the U. S. compromised with her the uniting of those rivers by such canal by appropriating to the use and behoof of Ia. alternate sections of a strip of land five miles wide on each side of the line of canal from one extreme end of said canal to the other, reserving the other alternate sections for sale under the laws of the United States, the same as though no agreement had been made with Ia. and Indiana agreed on her part to commence said canal within five years from the date of said compact and to finish the same within twenty years from said time, and further that the U. S. should secure forever, access to the navigation of said canal free from delay, hindrance, tolls or custom. Now who can say that the contract with Virginia was not a generous one, yes a free gift on the part of Virginia! or who will dare to say that the U. S. was not bound to open the canal under consideration and that the compact with Ia. was not a fair one!

But admitting that the U. S. was not bound to open said canal and that no such agreement with Va. had existed, yet the U. S. was greatly benefitted by the contract with Ia. Had the lands on the present line of canal been brought into market previous to a survey of the route of the canal, and altogether unconnected therewith, one fourth part of the 10 miles wide strip of land would not have sold for \$1.25 per acre within ten years; but immediately on locating the canal, the lands were enhanced in value tenfold, and even at that price would have been sought after. Nor was the advantage in this point of view confined to the 10 miles strip; the location of the canal had a powerful influence for many miles on either side.—Thus, had not the U. S. been bound in good faith to procure the opening of said canal, yet interest prompted the agreement and Ia. has paid an equivalent for the said lands.

Again, Ia. has a territory of about 37 thousand square miles equal to 23 millions 680 thousand acres, a thirty sixth part of this land pay \$57,777 acres belongs by law, to the inhabitants of the State, to be, (the proceeds thereof,) appropriated to the encouragement of common schools.—Let us examine whether Ia. is indebted, or whether an equivalent has been paid by her for those lands.

At the time Ia. was admitted into the Union as an independent State, to wit, in the year 1818, if I mistake not, a debt of about 100 millions of dollars was hanging over the U. S. and it was the avowed policy to promote the sale of the Western lands by every means in their power for the purpose of procuring revenue—with this object in view, a compromise was offered Ia., intended as a bounty to induce emigrants to pur-

chase Western lands, the 16th section of each township was reserved from sale and appropriated to the use of the State for the benefit of common schools but mark the condition imposed by the U. S. to wit, that Indians, on her part should agree forever to abstain from taxing lands within her bounds until five years should elapse after the sale of said lands. The object here cannot be mistaken. It is clearly to this import: "Gentlemen of the Atlantic coal go to the West and purchase as much land as you have wherewith to pay; we are indebted and want your money; to encourage you to emigrate we have prohibited whatever State you may prefer to settle in, from taxing you for the term of five years, and as a further inducement we have given you one thirty-sixth part of all the public lands to educate your children to the latest generation; then go and possess the good of the land—but it is your money we are fishing after." To the speculator they said "now is your time, our lands are rich and cheap, go make your fortune; you have money and we need it, and before the State authority can tax your lands you can make 100, probably 500 per cent. on your capital." Now if these 16th sections were not sold to Ia. at a fair price under those circumstances, I know nothing about a fair contract. Yes Ia. is annually paying the price of the contract in taxes levied on the lands and chattles of her citizens at the rate of from 35 to 50 cents in the \$100 valuation while more than six fifteenths of all the lands sold in the State, is not yet taxable.

There is another small item claiming our attention and in that case I will leave it for others to enter the plea of "guilty" against my State.—The item alluded to is some small donations of lands made to seminaries of learning within the State. If other States are behind us in proportion to population, all I have to say, is, ask and receive donations in the public lands in proportion to your numbers. B. S.

Asheboro', May 10, 1839.  
Mr. Swain: A writer in your paper of the 2d inst., who subscribes "Enterprize" appears to have had his sensibilities hurt by something "A Citizen" had previously said about "Randolph," for all which he is exceedingly "sorrowful," but especially, and particularly, for what he said about ASHEBORO'. Now, therefore, "A Citizen" wishes, through your paper, not to say another word about the New Court-House, he will, after this sharp rebuke from Mr. Enterprize, be perfectly content (if the Court so determine) that our State Architect be forthwith employed, to commence as early as his engagements at Raleigh will permit—bring the granite from our quarry in Wake—and erect a Court-House that shall be every way worthy of the great County of Randolph and the still greater town of Asheboro', but the said "Citizen" does wish and most devoutly desire, to assure his friend "Enterprize," for he hopes still to have the friendship of all the family of that venerated name, that it was not his intention to use "offensive terms" in regard to Randolph and still less was it his purpose to use "degrading terms" about ASHEBORO', and he deeply regrets that he has for a moment jeopardised his claims to "intelligence," and he wishes furthermore to assure Mr. Enterprize that he does not now recollect what he said about Randolph, and its Metropolis. Nor will he now take the trouble to review the article, but if said Enterprize is still willing to let all go for "stuff" at the present, when "A Citizen" has nothing else to do he will look over the piece, and if he has inadvertently used "degrading terms" about ASHEBORO', he will correct, alter or even expunge them before a second edition of the work shall appear—and this he will feel the more bound to do both in regard that others may have nerves as finely attuned to the honor of Asheborough as Mr. "Enterprize" himself, and he is conscious he only intended; not to say that Randolph is the richest County in the State, and Asheboro' is the biggest town in creatin. If in this however, "A Citizen," has been mistaken, he hopes in the meantime this "knight of the sorrowful figure" will be so good as to furnish him with some statistics of our Metropolis, as to its population, its commerce, its Manufacture, amount of taxables, &c. &c., and thus aided, to correct any faults or unfavorable impression which his first publication may have made—and set the world right in this matter,—shall be the first care and the highest pleasure of

A CITIZEN.

There are four Hobbies in Agriculture.—Baden Corn in Illinois; Sugar Beets in France; Rohan Potatoes in Massachusetts, and Morus Multicaulis every where.