

WESTERN DEMOCRAT, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Western Democrat.
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Tuesday, July 9, 1861.

STATE BONDS.—The Fayetteville Observer, speaking of the action of the State Convention, says:

"A proposition to forbid the payment of interest on State bonds held at the North was, we regret to say, left without final action. If the State Treasurer has any discretion in the matter he should exercise it by refusing to pay interest in any such case."

The Observer is right, but we regret to learn that the Treasurer is in favor of paying the interest, fearing that the credit of the State would be seriously injured by a refusal to do so. We have heard it urged as a reason why the State should continue to pay the interest on bonds held at the North, (by a gentleman who said that the matter was thoroughly investigated) that Northern Banks were paying dividends to southern stockholders, and that no northern State or corporation had repudiated a southern debt. We don't know how that is, but we do know that individuals at the North have refused to pay their debts. A large amount of North Carolina bonds are held by Lincoln's Government in trust for some Indian tribes—they should not be paid, for we have no idea that Lincoln will use the money for the benefit of the Indians. He will use it to carry on the war. We are opposed to repudiation, but the interest might be withheld from northern holders until the war is ended.

CONTRIBUTIONS.—Capt. T. H. Brem requests us to acknowledge the receipt by him of \$50 from A. B. Davidson, \$25 from Fullings & Springs, and \$50 through the hands of T. W. Dewey, contributed for the use of his Artillery Company.

RIGHT.—The Secretary of War, Mr Walker, has addressed a letter through the Richmond papers, to newspaper correspondents requesting them to be careful of the intelligence they communicate to the public from the different military camps. He says the strength or weakness of certain points, or movements of our forces, should not be made public, as it would afford our enemies information which they can get in no other way.

The Char. & S. C. Railroad has declared a semi-annual dividend of \$2 50 per share. The Bank of Fayetteville, and the Bank of Clarendon at Fayetteville, have each declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. The Hillsboro Savings Bank has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA. We have received a copy of the Minutes of the Lutheran Synod of North Carolina convened in Wilmington on the 2d of May, 1861. From it we learn that there are thirty-nine Congregations in the State and 4,083 members.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Rail Road will be held at Salisbury on Thursday, July 11th. It is understood that Mr Fisher, the President of the Road, will decline a re-election, he having enlisted for the war. His place will be hard to fill.

RAL AND GASTON RAILROAD.—The annual meeting of the Stockholders' of this Road was held in Raleigh on the 4th inst. All the old officers and Directors were re-elected, except J. B. Batchelor was elected Director in place of C. L. Hinton, declined. A dividend of 3 per cent for the last six months has been declared.

THE annual meeting of the N. C. Life Insurance Company was held in Raleigh on the 1st. The old officers were re-elected. The Directors have declared a dividend of twenty per cent upon premiums paid during the past year. This means, we suppose, that 20 per cent will be placed to the credit of those who are insured in the company.

T. W. Dewey is the agent for the company in Charlotte. The company pays its losses promptly.

Hon Howell Cobb is organizing a Regiment in Georgia, which he will command, to serve during the war.

The Virginia convention has expelled, as traitors, those northwestern members who are aiding the Washington government.

AID FOR THE SOLDIERS.—The ladies of Charlotte have adopted measures for raising funds to purchase comforts and necessities for the soldiers at Yorktown. A respectable amount was yesterday collected for that purpose.

FEMALE SCHOOLS.—It will be seen by advertisement that exercises in the Charlotte Female Institute will be resumed on the 12th of September. The Principal, Rev. R. Burwell, is so well known in this State as one of the best instructors, that it is unnecessary for us to add anything in his praise. He has already engaged a complete corps of assistants.

DESERVED COMPLIMENT.—We notice that the Board of Trustees of Madison College, Mississippi, has conferred the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts upon Maj James H. Lane of the 1st Regiment N. C. Volunteers, now at Yorktown, and enrolled his name among the honorary alumni of that institution. We know the Major as a gentleman every way deserving the high compliment. We notice it was conferred, too, before the battle of Bethel, in which the Major rendered such valuable and gallant service to the cause of the South.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—A terrible fire occurred in Boston on the 4th of July, near the wharves, destroying warehouses, foundries, machine shops, one hundred and twelve dwelling houses and five vessels. At Albany, N. Y., on the 6th, a fire destroyed a whole Square, 50 loaded freight cars, 5 canal boats, and several lives. A fire also occurred at Milwaukee on the same day. The people in that direction, we expect, are beginning to think that the secessionists are among them, but it is likely these fires are the work of some of their own starving population.

COMPLAINING.—Marcus Erwin, Esq., the Senator from the Buncombe District, publishes a letter stating that he has resigned his seat in the Senate. He takes occasion to attack Gov. Ellis and Adjt. Genl. Hoke for the manner in which they have discharged their duties. The papers opposed to the State Administration are giving prominence to Mr Erwin's epistle for the purpose, we suppose, of damaging Gov. Ellis and Genl. Hoke in the estimation of the people of the State. It is an easy matter to complain and find fault, but we doubt very much whether those who are indulging in this pastime could conduct affairs any better than they have been. Mr Erwin did all he could to place Gen. Hoke in the position he occupies, but because he and Gov. Ellis did not act exactly as he wanted them to do, he attempts to ridicule them. Gov. Ellis and Genl. Hoke have not, of course, been so fortunate as to do everything precisely right and please everybody, but we have no evidence that Mr Erwin and others who are complaining could have done better.

UNION COUNTY.—The County Court of Union was in session last week. Mr J. E. Irby was elected Clerk by the Magistrates, in place of Mr Hough, deceased.

On the same day on which the Delaware Convention was held, a number of Democratic editors of the State of New York held a conference in New York city. Resolutions were passed denouncing the condition of the country and declaring that it was caused by the exercise of unconstitutional powers by Lincoln. The third resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Republican party has proved that all the pretensions of devotion to "freedom, free speech and free discussion," were simply cloak to conceal their real enmity to liberty and the constitutional guarantees of citizens, and that the attempt to muzzle the Democratic press by mobs and terrorism, to prevent citizens from expressing their honest opinions, calls for and deserves the sternest condemnation of every true friend of law, order, liberty and the inalienable rights of man.

HAZARD, Conn., July 5.—Ex-Gov. Seymour offered a resolution in the House virtually upholding the Southern Confederacy, which was supported by eighteen democrats.

STATE TROOPS.—Four Regiments of State troops are now completed, viz: Col. Anderson's, Col. Meares', Col. Tew's and Col. Fisher's.

The 4th Regiment has eleven companies, as follows:

The Iredell Blues, Captain Simonton; Rowan Rifle Guard, Captain McNeely; Davis Sweepstakes, Captain Kelly; Southern Guard, Captain Carter; Saltillo Boys, Captain Andrews; Scotch Rifles, Captain Gray; Iredell Independent Grays, Captain Osborne; Pamlico Riflemen, Captain Marsh; Goldsboro company, Captain Whitaker; Wilson company, Captain Barnes; Rowan Artillery, Captain Riley. The field officers of this regiment are, Geo. B. Anderson, Colonel; John A. Young, Lieutenant; Bryant Grimes, Major.

The Fifth Regiment of N. C. Volunteers has arrived at Yorktown. The following are the field officers and names of companies composing the Regiment:

Colonel—Robert M. McKenney.
Lieut. Colonel—R. R. Ihrie.
Major—W. F. Green.

1. Harnett Light Infantry, Capt. Murchison;
2. Franklin Rifles, Capt. Perry;
3. Mountain Boys, Capt. Corbett;
4. Ellis Guards, Capt. Love;
5. Monroe Light Infantry, Capt. McRae.
6. Northampton Guards, Capt. Stancell;
7. Chatham Rifles, Capt. Battle;
8. Confederate Guards, Capt. Hammond;
9. Rocky Mountain L' Inftry, Capt. Hammond;
10. Sandy Creek Rough & Ready's, Capt. Jackson;
11. Tar River Guards, Capt. Perry;
12. Alamance Boys, Capt. Stockard.

The regiment numbers 1150 men.

A FOREIGN PATRIOT.—The papers report that Prince Camille Polignac, a distinguished citizen and soldier of France, has arrived in Richmond and offered his services in the cause of the South. Like Lafayette, he is said to be a man of wealth and great military experience.

THE COMET.—For some nights past, when clear, a large comet has been visible. It can be seen in the north-west just after dark, about 33 degrees above the horizon. The appearance of this comet, at this time, was predicted by astronomers last year, and is said to be the comet of Charles the Fifth; having a tail 130,000,000 miles in length.

No fear need be entertained of a collision with this fiery visitor, for if it was to start in this direction it would not reach us during the present or succeeding generations. If it could strike the Black Republican dominions and sweep the Yankees from the face of the earth, we should rejoice, but the probability is very small for such good results.

Comets were formerly regarded as harbingers of famine, pestilence, war, and other dire calamities. In one or two instances they have excited serious apprehension that the day of judgment was at hand; and that they were the appointed messengers of Divine wrath, hastening to burn up the world. It may be well, therefore, to devote a paragraph to the question, *are comets dangerous in the Solar System?* That they are not will be evident when we consider, first, that there is scarcely the remotest probability of a collision between the earth and a comet. It has been determined, upon mathematical principles, and after the most extended and laborious calculation, that of 281,000,000 of comets there is only one unfavorable, or that can produce a collision between the two bodies. The risk, therefore, to which the earth is exposed of being struck by a comet, is like the chance one would have in a lottery, where there were 281,000,000 black balls and but one white one; and where the white ball must be produced at the first drawing to secure a prize.

In the second place, if a comet were to come in direct collision with the earth, it is not probable that it would be able even to penetrate our atmosphere; much less to dash the world in pieces.

Prof. Olmsted remarks that in such an event not a particle of the comet would reach the earth—that the portions encountered by her would be arrested by the atmosphere, and probably inflamed; and that they would perhaps exhibit on a more magnificent scale than was ever before observed, the phenomena of shooting stars, or meteoric showers. The idea, therefore, that comets are dangerous visitants to our system has more support from superstition than from reason or science.

Such is the extreme lightness or tenuity of cometary bodies, that in all probability the entire mass of the largest of them, if condensed to a solid substance, would not amount to more than a few hundred pounds. Sir Isaac Newton was of opinion that if the tail of the largest comet was compressed within the space of a cubic inch, it would not then be as dense as atmospheric air!

The comet of 1770 got entangled by attraction, among the moons of Jupiter, on its way to the sun, and remained near them for four months; yet it did not sensibly affect Jupiter or his moons. In this way the orbits of comets are often entirely changed.

That they are in themselves opaque bodies, and shine only by reflection, is evident from their sometimes exhibiting distinct phases; from their increased brightness as they approach the sun; and from the known difference in the properties of direct and reflected light. The idea that they are, in reality, fiery bodies, is unquestionably erroneous.

MORE HELP.—The New Orleans "Delta" of Tuesdays states, as a fact a report which we had previously heard, that the celebrated Jack Hayes, with a party of picked men, was on his way from California to the Confederate States. Col. Crittenton has resigned his command in New Mexico, and will fight for his own native land. He is a son of the Hon. J. J. Crittenton.

RETURNING.—The S C Regiment commanded by Col. Gregg has been paid off and the members are returning home from Virginia, the time for which they enlisted having expired. It is to be regretted that they did not get a chance at the enemy before returning.

Upon motion of D. A. Laney, it was

Resolved, That this meeting hereby express their indignation at all the circumstances connected with, and leading to the death of our departed friend.

Upon motion of D. A. Covington, it was

Resolved, That we will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, and that the windows and doors of the office of the clerk be draped in mourning.

T. D. WINCHESTER, Secy.

PEACE MOVEMENTS.—At Dover, Delaware, on the 27th of June, a State Convention of the friends of peace was held which was immensely attended by the bone and sinew of the State. Ex-Governor Temple presided, assisted by thirty-one Vice-Presidents. The first resolution declares in favor of peace to civil war, and the acknowledgment of the independence of the Southern Confederacy preferable to the attempt to conquer and hold them as subjugated provinces. Several other resolutions offered, denouncing Lincoln, and expressing grateful thanks to Senators Bayard and Salisbury, were unanimously and enthusiastically adopted.

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Passengers from Manassas and the neighborhood of Winchester report that the Confederates under Johnson, repulsed Patterson and Cadwalader's columns three times, with considerable slaughter, and drove them into Martinsburg. Col. Jackson advanced to meet them. The vanguard of the enemy consisted of a company of 50 men, who had fired their rifles, at a distance of 200 yards, forty at a distance of a quarter of a mile. The first fifteen surrendered without a contest; the next thirty fired a few shots and surrendered; of the forty remaining four were taken prisoners, seventeen killed and nineteen wounded. In the meantime, the main body of the enemy came up. The battle lasted an hour and a half, when the enemy retired. Col. Jackson retired near Martinsburg. The Confederates had eight killed and eleven wounded. The rebels were scattered, and the Union forces pursued, taking prisoners.

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