

NORTH-CAROLINIAN.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

Saturday, June 17, 1854.

FOR GOVERNOR,
THOMAS BRAGG, ESQ.,
OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

We announce C. H. Cofield and J. G. Shepherd, Esq's, two of the nominees of the late Democratic County Convention, as candidates for the House of Commons of the next Legislature.

THE FOURTH OF JULY will be celebrated at Fayetteville by the customary ceremonies. B. Fuller, Esq., has consented to deliver the oration, and Col. John W. Cameron to read the Declaration of Independence.

Laying of the Corner Stone.

The ceremony of laying the Corner Stone of the Fayetteville Female High School was performed on Thursday afternoon by the Masonic Fraternity of this town. At half past 4 o'clock a procession was formed on Gillespie street under the direction of Col. Charles Lutterloh, chief marshal, G. W. I. Goldston and Joshua McDaniel, assistants, and marched through Hay street to the foundation of the Building, where, after the singing of a Masonic ode and prayer, by the Chaplain, an address was delivered by J. G. Shepherd, Esq. The Stone was then adjusted to its place by the Master of Phoenix Lodge, and pronounced "well formed, true and trusty." Another address was then delivered by William H. Haigh, Esq. A large audience of ladies and gentlemen witnessed the ceremonies.

The Stone is white marble, weighing about 700 lbs., and was prepared by Mr Geo. Lauder. Engraved on the North side are the words "Founded June 15, A. D. 1854—A. L. 5854"; and on the East side, "H. Vernon, Architect." In the centre is a hole, 8 or 10 inches square, in which was deposited a copper box containing the following articles: Copy of the Holy Scriptures and of each of the Fayetteville papers; current coin of the United States, from half cent to half dollar; specimens of cloth manufactured at the different Factories in the town; piece of No. 1 Rosin manufactured by the first Still erected in Cumberland county; specimens of the different products of the State, such as corn, wheat, peas, rye; copper, silver, and gold ore, coal, &c.; record containing the names of the President and Vice President of the United States, Governor of the State of North Carolina, officers and members of Phoenix Lodge York Masons, members of Board of Trustees of Fayetteville Female High School, Municipal officers of the town, &c., together with copies of sundry addresses.

Western Railroad.

We direct attention to the advertisement of Messrs Seymour, Risley & Co., in another column, inviting proposals for grading, &c., on the first thirty miles of the Western Railroad, being nearly three-fourths of its entire length. It will be seen by reference to the advertisement that bids for single sections (two miles) will be received. This will put it in the power of persons of moderate means to propose for one or more sections.

One of the gentlemen of the above firm (Mr Risley) arrived in our town recently for the purpose of attending to the affairs of the Company. He brought with him letters from distinguished gentlemen of Washington city, which fully establish his character as a gentleman in whose integrity and honor the fullest reliance can be placed.

The Board of Directors of the Western Railroad have called for an instalment of five per cent., payable on the 15th of July next, and another instalment of equal amount payable on the 15th of August next. This looks like going ahead. We hope that these requisitions will be promptly met.

It may not be improper in this connexion to mention that the contractors have conceded to the Stockholders here, the location of the western terminus of the road.

We are indebted to Mr A. N. Williamson for a club of six subscribers upon which the full amount of one year's subscription has been paid. The club consists of Messrs Joseph T. Tolar, Joseph Pate, Isaac Hollingsworth, Rob't T. Ellis, David Bone and A. N. Williamson. *All for Bragg!*

DROWNED.—A laboring man by the name of Reich, of Alamance county, was drowned in the Cape Fear River on Tuesday last, at Red Rock, near the residence of John C. Williams, Esq. He was in a canoe with two negro men, when it capsized, and he being unable to swim, was immediately drowned. He is represented as quite an estimable man. The negroes both swam out.

In Granville county the democratic nominees for the Legislature are as follows: For Senator, Charles Taylor; for the Commons, Wm Lyons, Jas M Bullock, and Wm S McClanahan. The whig nominees are, for Senator, John Bullock, Jas S Amis, Leonidas Edwards, and Wiley Perry. The temperance party is to hold a convention on the 17th, when it is probable a separate ticket will be brought out by them.

In New Hanover, the democratic county convention has nominated Owen Fennell, Esq, for the Senate, and Saml. J. Person and Thos. H. Williams, Esq's, for the Commons.

THE BRITISH PERIODICALS.—Blackwood's Magazine for May has been received. Its contents are as usual, highly interesting.

The Edinburgh Review for April contains a very interesting account of the Mormons, their origin, principles and history. The British periodical Reviews are re-published by L. Scott & Co., No. 79 Fulton street, N. Y., at the following rates: For one Review \$3 a year; for three \$7; for the four \$8; Blackwood's Magazine \$3; Blackwood and the four Reviews \$10.

A Misrepresentation.

An article from the Asheville Spectator has been going the rounds of the whig press, headed "Democratic Platform Repudiated," in which David Coleman, Esq, the democratic candidate for the Senate in the district composed of Buncombe, Madison, Yancy and Henderson counties, is represented as advocating the white basis and repudiating that portion of the democratic platform which pledges the party to the present basis of representation. Mr Coleman publishes a letter in the Asheville News, denying the truth of the statement, and giving his real position on the basis question. That position was, that whilst he believed that the white basis was right in itself, yet he had no hope of obtaining it, and thought its attainment by the West an impracticability, and that therefore it was idle to advocate it. That the balance of power was with the East, and that section would not allow the basis to be changed because it was for its interest to keep it as at present. He said, however, that the West was a growing section, and by the next apportionment (in 1862) would have the balance of power, when it would no longer be the interest of the West to change the basis, and the West would then oppose a change of basis as strongly as the East does now. So far from advocating white basis, the scope of Mr Coleman's argument was to reconcile the West to the basis as it is.

So much for this misrepresentation.

"According to a statement which I have, and which is reliable, this Government owns nearly fourteen hundred millions of acres of public lands. North Carolina would be entitled, if distributed upon fair and equal terms, according to representation, to forty-seven million eight hundred and sixty-three thousand two hundred and fifty-six acres, which, at the Government price, would amount to \$59,809,070."—*Speech of Mr Rogers of N. C., delivered in the House of Reps. on the 28th April*

The above is a pretty fair example of the style of argument indulged in by the whig leaders on the question of the public lands. How any man who really gives the people credit for common sense, can risk his reputation by such a course of argumentation, is one of the mysteries which we have never been able to understand. "This government," says Mr Rogers, "owns nearly fifteen hundred millions of acres of public lands." This is true, but where do they lie? What is their character? By far the largest proportion of them lies in the territories of the far west and north-west, and in the State of California. Hundreds of millions of acres are embraced in the arid plains which lie between the outskirts of civilization on the western frontier and the Rocky Mountains—in the great unexplored basin which spreads out between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada of California—a region destitute of vegetation, and with the exception of very small patches of land, desolate, unproductive and uninhabitable. In Oregon there are over 200,000,000 of acres of public lands, and a great proportion of these lie in a barren volcanic and uninhabitable region. Mr Rogers goes into a calculation to show how much this immense desert would be worth at \$1.25 per acre, which he gravely calls the "Government price." And his calculations are seized upon greedily by the whig press and heralded forth with a flourish of trumpets, and held up for the faithful to swear by. Does any one suppose it possible, much less within the bounds of probability, that this immense sterile and uninhabitable waste can ever be sold at \$1.25 per acre? Does any one suppose that it will ever be sold at any price? We should as soon think of buying up a nice little farm in the Desert of Sahara, or the steppes of Tartary as of settling in the Great American Desert. Why even in Europe where a crowded population presses upon the means of subsistence, and where every foot of available land is brought into subjection to the uses of man, there are large bodies of waste land—immense tracts partaking somewhat of the character of our Western deserts. There is not the slightest probability that these lands can ever be sold at any price. Why then are they brought into the calculation and set down at \$1.25 per acre? Manifestly for the purpose of swelling the amount which the whig leaders say would be distributed among the States if their policy were adopted. This unfair and unreasonable method of argument is not confined to Mr Rogers, but has been resorted to by the whig party generally. It is the kind of argument with which they think the people can be most readily humbugged; but we think they miscalculate the intelligence of the masses. The people ought to distrust a party which resorts to such arguments as this.

"Now, Mr Speaker, on the 30th September, 1851, there were of lands, one billion three hundred and ninety-nine millions five hundred and—divide the number of acres by the number of representatives from all the States in Congress, and you have to each representative 6,066,807 acres of land. North Carolina has eight representatives: multiply the 6,066,807, the number of acres to each representative, by eight, and you have 48,054,456 acres for North Carolina. Valuing it at less than the minimum price established by law, and North Carolina would have the round sum of \$50,000,000. Each county in the State, if it were divided out, would have \$625,000. The white population in North Carolina is 272,369. Divide the fifty millions between the white population of the State, and you have \$184 to each white man and boy. The white male population of Bladen, for instance, is 2,529: therefore if the money were divided according to Counties, then divided among the men and boys, the white males of Bladen would get \$246 10 each."—*Mr McDugald's speech on Public Lands.*

What a precious morsel of humbuggery is the above! The whole paragraph is based upon an impossibility—viz: the obtaining of something like \$1.25 per acre for the barren plains of the West and Northwest. An immense proportion of the public domain is of a desert and uninhabitable character. Who will settle on it? Who will give a dollar and a quarter per acre for it? We refer the reader to what we have said above on the same subject in commenting on a similar argument by Mr Rogers.

The Public Lands.

A great deal has been said by whig editors and journals on the squandering of the public lands; and columns of figures have been exhibited to prove that the new States are receiving all the benefits from this source, whilst the old States get nothing. It is represented that Congress is continually giving away the public lands for all sorts of purposes to the new States; and we have seen it stated frequently, that more public land had been given away by Congress than had been sold.

From a speech recently made by Hon. S. H. Rogers, a representative from this State in Congress, we make the following extract:

"From a statement which I have, from the Commissioner of Public Lands, it appears that the amount granted up to the 30th of September, 1853, is one hundred and twenty-nine million one hundred and ninety-five thousand nine hundred and eighty-three acres; and this does not include the grant of many millions of acres of swamp lands to California, of which there has yet been no return. These grants are for the benefit of only a part of the States; the old States have been wholly excluded. Had this land, granted to the Land States and Territories, been sold at the Government price, it would have amounted to \$161,494,978. The share of North Carolina, according to the representation, would be \$5,521,192.

I have another statement which shows that the amount of public lands sold up to the same date, is one hundred and three millions one hundred and ninety-seven thousand three hundred and fifty-six acres, less by over nineteen millions than the amount covered by grants to Land States and Territories."

Appended to Mr Roger's speech is a tabular statement of the grants which have been made by Congress, and the purposes for which they were made. Of the 129,195,983 acres which according to this statement have been granted to the new States, 49,416,435 are placed under the head of grants for schools and universities. Now this looks like a very large amount of lands for the purposes of education. But pray how are the figures obtained? Why just in this way: A law of Congress provides that the sixteenth section of every township of surveyed land shall be reserved from sale for school purposes. Every township contains thirty six sections. The law therefore reserves 1-36 of the lands for educational purposes. Now before Mr Rogers' figures can be realized, the whole of the public domain must be disposed of, including the whole of Oregon, California, Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska, mountains, deserts and all. Mr Rogers' tabular statement contains 12,186,987 acres of land granted to Oregon, 7,453,120 acres granted to New Mexico, 6,681,707 acres granted to Utah, 5,089,244 acres granted to Minnesota, 6,765,404 acres granted to California for the support of schools and universities. One might suppose that these immense grants had taken effect, and that those lands had already been used for educational purposes. Yet we know that such is not the fact, and moreover never will be, because a large proportion of those lands are worthless, must always remain so. They are blighted, the curse of the Eternal, and possess no marketable value than the bones of the Atlantic Ocean. If one of every section in these waste territories were sold down as grants to the States, which they lie, then it is fair that the other thirty-five sections be put down among the lands reserved for the law which reserves one section provides also for the other thirty-five not so set apart. That these deserts can never be used for any purposes or any other. Here 1-36 of all the Government lands are sold, settled and unsettled, cultivated, cultivated, deserts, mountains and all, as appropriated to school purposes in the new States, when the fact is that the law provides that they shall be so set apart as the lands are surveyed and put into market. This where the enormous amount of nearly fifty millions of acres is obtained in Mr Rogers' table, and set down among the grants to the new States.

The grant of one section of land in every township is the old and established policy of the Government, and can be defended on impregnable grounds. No one can deny that it enhances the value of the remaining sections of the township. For there is no man who is not steeped in ignorance, who would not prefer to live in a neighborhood where he can send his children to school. These grants for schools are therefore right and proper. They promote the ready sale of the public domain and thus bring money into the Treasury.

Of the 129,195,983 acres which Mr Rogers claims as having been granted to new States, we have disposed of nearly fifty millions of them, and show that they have so far as granted at all, been disposed of for a laudable and proper object. There are many other points in his remarks which are equally liable to criticism.

The length of this article admonishes us that it is time to curtail our remarks for the present. Hereafter we shall have more to say upon this subject.

"BRAGG'S BATTERY."—Our readers, many of whom have followed Mr Bragg in the campaign, will find in another column brief accounts of his speeches at Oxford and Yanceyville, together with some notice of Gen. Dockery at Jackson, on his way from the hanging in Halifax to his appointment in Person.

We learn that Mr Bragg and Gen. Dockery met again in Greensborough on Thursday last, and that the triumph of the former in the discussion was alike signal and brilliant. The Greensborough Whigs were, for the most part, much depressed at the result of the discussion, while the gallant little band of Democrats there were in the highest spirits.

"Bragg's Battery" is telling with most destructive effect upon the wavering lines of the opposition. With a "little more grape" now and then, and the united support of his friends, the field will be his on the first Thursday in August.—*Standard.*

Lewis Montagne, charged with the killing of Gardner G. Thompson on the night of the 17th of June, 1852, in Petersburg, had a second trial in that city last week, and was acquitted.

R. K. Williams, of Duplin county, N. C. was tried at the same court on a charge of forgery, and acquitted.

It appears by the recent news from Europe that the ports of Japan are to be thrown open to the trade of all nations. It is stated that a meeting was held near Jeddo between Commodore Perry and the Princes and Ministers of Japan appointed to confer with him.