



North Carolinian

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. Saturday, January 24, 1857.

C. C. McCORMYK is our duly authorized agent for the collection of all claims due this office.

TO ADVERTISERS. Persons desiring the immediate insertion of their advertising notices should send them in by THURSDAY AFTERNOON, otherwise they will not appear until the succeeding week.

THE CAPE FEAR AND DEEP RIVERS. It is, perhaps, somewhat singular that we should decline the championship of our contemporaries in the prosecution of this matter, but it is nevertheless so.

Alone and unaided, we were left to fight the battle, and alone we claim the palm of victory of the yoke of defeat. Motives, we will not say of what character, doubtless of so-called expediency, influenced our neighbors to withhold their support from the course which we have seen fit, proper and necessary to pursue towards the work, and which course, we know and feel, represents the wishes of the people, and is endorsed by every man disconnected with the work in question.

As we said plainly enough in our last article the cry of "Road and River both" was a humbug patent enough to any man with half the intelligence which his creator designed him to possess. We do not pretend to intimate that any of our contemporaries were adequate enough to believe in the feasibility of passing bills through the Legislature for the benefit and encouragement of both schemes. But we do believe, and we boldly assert, that the trifling, wispy-washy, non-committal course, pursued by some of them, who knew better and might have done better but for a pitiful subservency to personal policy was dictated by a spirit which all becomes an honorable and public spirited man.

Our town contemporaries may wear whatever laurels may bloom and flourish for them because of their mastery course of non-committal policy; and they may reap whatever of profit and emolument the pursuance of such a course brings with it; but we dug up the hatchet, broke the calumnet of peace and, single handed, fought the bitter portion of the battle, and we need no bladders now to produce a diversion in our favor or change the current of the fight. We repeat that it is an act of arrogant presumption on their part to assume the championship of a cause whose merits they have never discussed, and concerning which they have so palpably exhibited the white feathers as to have provoked the contempt of every disinterested man in the community. We wish no such vantage; we scorn contemptuously all such aid, counsel and assistance.

We are led to these remarks by an attempted refutation of charges made upon ourself, and the parrying of thrusts directed at the Carolinian by some anonymous writer in the Raleigh Register, on the part of a contemporary, whose special province in this matter was to "mind his own business." The writer in the Register did not attack him, nor defend any interest to which he was opposed; at least through the columns of his journal; and therefore he was guilty of an arrogant piece of assumption in taking up the cudgel to defend us or this community from the attacks of that writer.

But enough upon this subject;—although we feel strongly tempted to indulge in further animadversions upon a course of editorial conduct at once unfair and pusillanimous.

The writer in the Raleigh Register makes a grave charge upon Gov. Bragg in reference to the priority of mortgages upon the River work. It is presumable that the Governor of a State is an honest and honorable man, and that he would not degrade the dignity of his office, as well as compromise his personal integrity, by stooping to collusion with any class of men engaged in any enterprise whether for state advancement or individual emolument.

Yet, if that writer's declarations be true respecting these mortgages, an imputation is at once cast, either upon the Governor's judicial judgment and capacity, or upon his official integrity as the representative of the State interest in the work. For our own part, we do not believe that Gov. Bragg was advised as to the real, bona fide state of the case, and we will not therefore consent for a moment to let the charge of inefficient judgment or the imputation of collusion with the directory rest upon him.

The reputation of our Governor is based upon too sure and solid a foundation to be shaken by this breeze from the cave of some Deep River Eolus—and his capacity as a jurist is too well known and too universally admitted to allow the impression to go abroad that he considered the prior mortgage "no barrier to the carrying out the provisions of the amended charter."

It is a matter of no moment what may be the condition of the Western Rail Road affairs. That is not relevant to the case in point—although an *passant* we might as well remark that "Civis" is either totally ignorant as to the affairs of that Railroad, or maliciously, knowingly and deliberately resolved to misrepresent, distort and falsify the facts.

No farther back than the 17th of April, 1856, we find in a report of the meeting of the Stockholders of the Navigation Company, held at Haywood upon that day, the following memoranda: "A resolution was offered expressing confidence in the ability of E. A. Doug-

lass, of Pennsylvania, employed as engineer at a salary of \$3,000 per annum—but declaring that he had not devoted sufficient time to his duties, and that he should be required to devote more time to the work or his salary should be reduced." In consequence of this resolution, perhaps, Mr Douglass did not devote as much time as formerly to the work, and his salary was not reduced. The report further says: "A. Q. Waddell, Esq, then offered the following resolution, viz: Resolved, That the directors of this company, have delayed this work unnecessarily, by refusing to accept bids for the work on Deep River from persons who were responsible and who offered to take the work and run the chances of getting their pay out of any funds remaining after the Cape Fear work on the Deep River was let out, they let out only a portion of it, greatly to the detriment of those residing on and owning lands above the points to which it is now only finished."

In our previous numbers, we have endeavored to bring before the Legislature and the public, the wholesale disregard of all the previous acts passed by former legislatures to guard and protect the rights of the State in subscription and appropriation of monies towards the so-called "slack water improvements" contemplated by the peculiar friends of that work.

We have succeeded in getting the Legislature now in session, to institute an inquiry into its management. A committee has been appointed which is investigating its affairs; and we very much regret to learn that the powers of that committee are so limited as not to allow them to go fully into all the operations of the Company. We had hoped that the wasteful expenditure of money in the purchasing of negroes, and the hiring of an overseer with a pack of dogs, at five dollars a day, to keep the negroes from running away—among other things, would in the same connection come out.

But the complaints and threats of the stockholders availed nothing. As chary and cautious as men usually are when engaged in a scheme of public work, they could not exclaim on this occasion against the neglect, to say the least of it, on the part of the engineer to perform his duty. Will our readers notice that last resolution—and can they fail to see the direct charge of favoritism displayed by its report and adoption? Why did the State "vote no" on that occasion? Perhaps, should we lift the curtain respecting that piece of business, an astonishing financial tableau would present itself to the admiring gaze of the cheated, swindled and defrauded people. But we refrain, *non verborum*.

We imagined too, that the proceedings of that celebrated Wilmington meeting would come to light, wherein one of the State directors administered quite a "plum" from the conservatory of the treasury to an individual present, in the shape of a resolution, that the State would assume certain debts—which proposition so charmed and pleased the aforesaid party that forthwith he introduced a resolution to the effect that the aforesaid state director was "a gentleman and a scholar," and declaring that all private and political feuds between them should in the deep bosom of slack water navigation buried be &c. But the investigating committee could go no farther than "a strict constitutional construction empowered," and consequently that nice little piece of diplomacy is unnoticed.

The committee also, tho' fully informed as to the facts of the case, could not legitimately take cognizance of the very important item that Major Gwyn was either grossly deceived as to the original intention of the Cape Fear and Deep River Company, or that his ingenuity at expenses is almost equal to the emergency in which he found himself placed as to his original estimate of the cost. That Major Gwyn's report in that particular is a humbug and a hoax, unintentional no doubt on his part, is demonstrated by the following facts: In 1849, McCullough and Hunter were contractors for all the work on the Cape Fear, consisting as follows of the dams, Buckhorn, Battle's, Northington, Big Island, McAllister's, McNeill's, Narrow Gap, Green Rock, Haw Ridge, Red Rock, Silver Run, and Jones Falls. Thompson, Hunter, Harris and Co, were contractors on the Chesapeake & Ohio canal.

Thompson was the chief engineer of the C. F. & D. H. Navigation Company, recommended by Gwyn, and Hunter & McCullough obtained the whole contract for "locking and damming the Cape Fear for the transportation of agricultural produce, coal and whatever mineral items of freight should be developed upon the completion of the work." These men never fulfilled their contract—and, although the company claimed to have obtained from them ample security for its fulfillment, the bond was never sued. Why? Perhaps if the investigating committee had been empowered to do so, the reason could very easily have been fathomed. A couple of "bravine laddies" from Washington city, or farther North, were there imported to take the place of those faithless contractors, aged respectively 13 and 21 years.

They, having repeatedly drawn upon the treasurer for monies due them for building all the "mountain dam" and old rye between Fayetteville and Buckhorn, were finally discharged upon the ground of incompetency. Elias Evans and others then came along, the former of whom boasted of having made \$19,000 out of the company; took the contract, gave no bond as required by law, failed to complete the work, pocketed their money and "evaporated."

In 1853, Bollinger built a coffer dam for the purpose of erecting a lock at Cross Creek, under direction of Chief Engineer Smith; but after expending some \$12,000 or \$15,000, the site was abandoned. In 1854 the State endorsed for \$300,000. This sum was expended as follows. Mr Douglass selected a new site for the Cross Creek dam; the company purchased forty negro men to work upon it, and employed a man with a pack of hounds, at \$5.00 per diem to catch any negroes who might run away; all the material supposed to be necessary was contracted for and placed on the ground, and Leslie engaged by the directors to complete the work. But Leslie and the directors could not

agree—and they paid him for the work up to date and a bonus of \$2,700 to quit the contract which he very foolishly accepted, as he could have made more by holding on. Extra laborers were then employed at \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day, and the Cross Creek dam completed at a cost of nearly \$75,000. But an "unprecedented fresco" found its way into the Cape Fear; and the River made a new channel for itself around the dam—*et sic ad infinitum*.

P. G. Evans, L. J. Houghton, Isaac Clegg, Jno. Houghton, Capt. Bryau and Dr. Smith were all contractors at different locks and dams on Deep River while directors of the company; no bonds given; the work paid for as it progressed, and never rendered available, not a boat having ever passed any lock on Deep River. Clegg and Evans took contracts for building the lock and dam at Parrish's falls, and having erected a dam around and over which the river made a clean sweep, pocketed their money and abandoned the contract. The company then placed the work in Strickland's hands for a while. It is now under the superintendence of Leach, and still unfinished—in fact recommended to be destroyed, removed and rebuilt.

But why pursue this matter any farther! The subject grows under our pen, and we might go on until Thursday with a relation of these questionable transactions. The investigating committee have doubtless done their duty, and the Legislature is sufficiently informed of the facts—but we were resolved that the people should know these things, and if they need further evidence or stronger confirmation than our own *ipse dixit*, it is at command.

We dismiss, *pro tem*, the subject from our columns.

NO MILLS. Up to the hour of going to press on Friday morning we have received no mail matter since Sunday morning, the 18th inst., and we are consequently unable to report any late intelligence from distant quarters, in this issue of our paper.

We have no telegraph; a parsimonious policy on the part of the legislature, when a community and a whole people are to be benefited, refuses us a railroad; the river is no medium of intelligence; the roads are impassible on account of snow and ice, so that no stages can leave nor arrive, and that ditch is unmitigable by reason of the accumulated filth, offal and trash of generations passed away—and we are unable to furnish our readers with a single item of interesting news from abroad.

Perfectly Natural. Col. Forney has been defeated for the U. S. Senatorship from Pennsylvania by Gen. Cameron, one of the most bitter abolitionists and the blackest black republican in the Keystone State. With a shaft of unguished joy and uncelebrated satisfaction the know-nothing party that forthwith he introduced a resolution to the effect that the aforesaid state director was "a gentleman and a scholar," and declaring that all private and political feuds between them should in the deep bosom of slack water navigation buried be &c. But the investigating committee could go no farther than "a strict constitutional construction empowered," and consequently that nice little piece of diplomacy is unnoticed.

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Up to the present time, there has been nothing of national importance transacted in either branch of the Federal Legislature. Mr Harlan of Iowa has been declared by a vote of 28 to 18 not legitimately elected to the Senate of the United States. His seat is therefore vacant. SENATE.—Mr Seward from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill further to amend the act of 1838, to provide for the better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and for other purposes. Several private bills were taken up and passed; after which the special order, being the bill to provide for the settlement of the claims of the officers of the revolutionary army, and of the widows and orphan children of those who died in the service, was advocated by Mr Foster at some length. Upon the conclusion of his remarks, a desultory debate took place on various amendments, and, without disposing of the bill, at quarter before four o'clock the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House passed the Senate bill relating to foreign coins and the coinage of cents at the mint of the U. States. A bill was reported from the Committee on Mileage to increase the penalty for voluntary absence of members of Congress from their public duties. If this bill should pass, \$25 per day will be deducted from the pay of such members as are absent, notwithstanding the intervention of Sunday, or the adjournment of Congress for one day or more, unless such members be sick, or there should be sickness in their families.

In Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, the House resumed the consideration of the tariff bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means. Mr Keitt, of South Carolina, briefly gave his views on the tariff question, and then proceeded to discuss the slavery question. Mr Bliss, of Ohio, also addressed the House on the President's message. Mr Maxwell, of Florida, has the floor to-morrow.

Holidays for the People. We lack National holidays. As a people we are utilitarian, laborious, dyspeptic, always at work with hands and heads. In our National infancy we had no time to play; there were the great primal forests to be hewn down, the canals to dig, the roads and bridges to construct, the steamboats and ferries to build. All the strong arms and busy brains were necessarily busy, that the land might be reclaimed from the wilderness in which it had remained for ages, while that "numberer of the ground," the useless and cruel red man, held it; and there was need of work, hard work, every day, and everywhere.

Now we are become a great people—the earth groans with the weight of our immense and numerous cities, the barren places are made fruitful and the fertile land swarms with a people, among whom luxury and ease begin to be known. Our masses, rich with the conveniences of civilization, have time to laugh and be merry if they will—to idler out, now and then, the pursuit of dreary and ceaseless labor. It is no novelty to the statesman, the theory that the people require amusement and relaxation. The wise student of human nature does not lack to be told that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Experience has taught him the truth concealed in the nursery rhyme *Levi's name* says the French play; and if the prince, why not the peasant, the artisan and the tradesman?

Having no State Church, no official religion, the Americans have few or no religious festivals—Christmas and Thanksgiving are the only ones of note. We keep New Year's Day—rather riotously, some of us—for it is the beginning of a New Year, and we observe the Fourth of July, in obedience to old John Adams' prophecy, and because poor, tired, exhausted humanity and have some opportunity to stretch its legs and play truant-boy at least once in six months. Now we earnestly insist and maintain that these holidays are not enough for the popular craving. We must have more.

The twenty-second of February is the Birthday of the first and greatest and best of Americans, of him whose fond and patriotic advice to his countrymen yet speaks to us from his grave at Mount Vernon, and warns us from domestic animosity and fratricidal strife—of him under whose auspices the War of our Independence was carried through, our Confederation formed, our Federal Constitution established, and our free and popular Government launched forth on the tide of National success. We should observe Washington's Birthday as an American holiday, and with each return of the auspicious morning, renew our recollection of the noble sentiments of the Patriot whom that day gave to save his country, to adorn his race and to live immortal on the page of history.

PENNSYLVANIA U. S. SENATOR.—Yesterday was the day fixed by law for the Legislature of Pennsylvania to choose a Senator of the United States, to serve for six years from the 4th of March next. J. W. Forney was the Democratic and Simon Cameron the Republican and American candidate. A contemporary says: "Mr Forney, like his competitor, Mr Cameron, commenced his civil life as a typesetter—he was the foreman of a printing office; afterwards an editor—then proprietor of a newspaper—was subsequently clerk to the House of Representatives, and has filled considerable space in the political world—it is a little singular that Simon Cameron has run the same career with John W. Forney. He has also been typesetter, editor, proprietor, and in addition has served as bank president and cashier, and has sat in the Senate of the United States. Both Cameron and Forney are self-made men—both were born in comparative poverty—but achieved their present positions by energy, skill and talent of various kinds."

It appears that eight or nine Democrats refused to go into the caucus that nominated Mr Forney. As the Democratic majority on joint ballot is at most only six, those who remained out of the caucus hold the balance of power.

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PENNSYLVANIA U. S. SENATOR.—Yesterday was the day fixed by law for the Legislature of Pennsylvania to choose a Senator of the United States, to serve for six years from the 4th of March next. J. W. Forney was the Democratic and Simon Cameron the Republican and American candidate. A contemporary says: "Mr Forney, like his competitor, Mr Cameron, commenced his civil life as a typesetter—he was the foreman of a printing office; afterwards an editor—then proprietor of a newspaper—was subsequently clerk to the House of Representatives, and has filled considerable space in the political world—it is a little singular that Simon Cameron has run the same career with John W. Forney. He has also been typesetter, editor, proprietor, and in addition has served as bank president and cashier, and has sat in the Senate of the United States. Both Cameron and Forney are self-made men—both were born in comparative poverty—but achieved their present positions by energy, skill and talent of various kinds."

It appears that eight or nine Democrats refused to go into the caucus that nominated Mr Forney. As the Democratic majority on joint ballot is at most only six, those who remained out of the caucus hold the balance of power.

Up to the present time, there has been nothing of national importance transacted in either branch of the Federal Legislature. Mr Harlan of Iowa has been declared by a vote of 28 to 18 not legitimately elected to the Senate of the United States. His seat is therefore vacant. SENATE.—Mr Seward from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill further to amend the act of 1838, to provide for the better security of the lives of passengers on board of vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam, and for other purposes. Several private bills were taken up and passed; after which the special order, being the bill to provide for the settlement of the claims of the officers of the revolutionary army, and of the widows and orphan children of those who died in the service, was advocated by Mr Foster at some length. Upon the conclusion of his remarks, a desultory debate took place on various amendments, and, without disposing of the bill, at quarter before four o'clock the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House passed the Senate bill relating to foreign coins and the coinage of cents at the mint of the U. States. A bill was reported from the Committee on Mileage to increase the penalty for voluntary absence of members of Congress from their public duties. If this bill should pass, \$25 per day will be deducted from the pay of such members as are absent, notwithstanding the intervention of Sunday, or the adjournment of Congress for one day or more, unless such members be sick, or there should be sickness in their families.

In Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, the House resumed the consideration of the tariff bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means. Mr Keitt, of South Carolina, briefly gave his views on the tariff question, and then proceeded to discuss the slavery question. Mr Bliss, of Ohio, also addressed the House on the President's message. Mr Maxwell, of Florida, has the floor to-morrow.

Holidays for the People. We lack National holidays. As a people we are utilitarian, laborious, dyspeptic, always at work with hands and heads. In our National infancy we had no time to play; there were the great primal forests to be hewn down, the canals to dig, the roads and bridges to construct, the steamboats and ferries to build. All the strong arms and busy brains were necessarily busy, that the land might be reclaimed from the wilderness in which it had remained for ages, while that "numberer of the ground," the useless and cruel red man, held it; and there was need of work, hard work, every day, and everywhere.

Now we are become a great people—the earth groans with the weight of our immense and numerous cities, the barren places are made fruitful and the fertile land swarms with a people, among whom luxury and ease begin to be known. Our masses, rich with the conveniences of civilization, have time to laugh and be merry if they will—to idler out, now and then, the pursuit of dreary and ceaseless labor. It is no novelty to the statesman, the theory that the people require amusement and relaxation. The wise student of human nature does not lack to be told that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Experience has taught him the truth concealed in the nursery rhyme *Levi's name* says the French play; and if the prince, why not the peasant, the artisan and the tradesman?

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