NORTH CAROLINIAN.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

SATURDAY, December 18, 1858.

The President's Message.

As the publication of this document last week was incomplete, owing to the crowded state of our columns, we propose to give the striking points in the Message.

1st. The acquisition of Cuba by purchase is distinctly urged by the President as a measure of great importance to our commercial policy, and within the scope of legislative authority. He proposes that Congress shall provide the means for its immediate purchase by the United States.

2d. A protectorate over the Mexican provinces of Sonora and Chihuahua, or military occupation of that territory by the United States, as a protection to our border, and a reprisal for outrages committed upon our citizens.

3d. The use of the Federal troops and navy to protect our rights and our interests, by keeping open the several transit routes to the Pacific Ocean, through the Central American State of Nicaragua.

4th. The enforcement of our claims upon the Spanish government.

No American State paper disclosing more sagacity or practical statesmanship ever emanated from the executive chair. The policy of the American government is clearly and boldly defined upon every national question claiming attention from Congress.

To us the absorbing point of interest is the views of the President upon Cuba. It is well known that in a financial point of view Cuba is a source of no revenue to the home government of Spain, that the expenditures exceed the income of the Island, and unless its owners, through the connivance of the European powers, become a party to the mooted project of establishing out of it an independent sovereignty, they will gladly embrace an opportunity to replenish the coffers of the Spanish government out of its sale. The necessity to incorporate or adopt the present population of the Island has no conjunction with the policy of its accession to American territory. A new and hardy population from the States would soon occupy it, and carrying with them the enterprise and characteristics of our people, would soon extinguish every mark of Spanish dominion.

In the event of a failure to make a successful negociation for the purchase of Cuba, it will become a just measure of expediency to enforce the payment of American claims upon Spain, by taking possession of Cuba as security for their liquidation. Although this is not directly recommended by Mr. Buchanan, it is implied in his suggestion to follow the scheme of purchase by these demands upon the Spanish government.

Cuba lies in the very path of our commerce, the key to the Gulf of Mexico and its adjacent shores: and the arguments of the President in favor of its immediate acquisition by our government are powerful and conclusive.

It is highly important that Congress should take some early and decisive step in adopting this recommendation of the President. Unless the present session are ready and willing to perfect those schemes of legislation to which the Democratic party are committed, there is little hope of their execution hereafter. The next term of Congress will most probably shew a majority for the opposition, unfriendly to any measure having paternity in the administration, no matter how conducive to the interests or welfare of the country.

The important questions we have mentioned in connexion with the annexation of Cuba, have all a party aspect, and are too thoroughly the features of a democratic policy and a democratic administration to receive adoption from the Black Republican party.

The bold stand taken by the President in regard to the Nicaragua transit routes should be firmly sustained by Congress. It is simply to enforce the right of sharing in privileges, for the common benefit of all nations, through force of arms if necessary, by maintaining that the keys to the commerce of the Pacific shall not be closed against any nation, but be neutral ground for the commerce of the world.

We hope the present session of Congress will leave Kansas and President-making for the next term, and apply themselves energetically to the work before them.

Threatened Rupture with England.

The British outrage upon the American Steamship Washington, in the face of the strong position taken by our government upon the "right of search," threatens to be a serious affair. The excuse rendered by the British officials are too shallow to have any respect at Washington, especially as the offence was committed under the eye of the British minister at San Juan. Cuba is in the eye of both England and France, and at the bottom of these outrages.

The never-tiring Democracy of Virginia have chosen as their standard bearer for Governor Hon. John Letcher. Many gentlemen were competitors for the honor, and much time was consumed in making the nomination; but with a loyalty superior to selfishness, the friends of the different candidates gave their support to the ticket. The Richmond Enquirer holds the following generous sentiments, well worthy of imitation:—

It is, then, not in the humility of defeat, but in the pride of success that we offer our endeavors to secure the election of John Letcher, of Rockbridge, to the office of Governor of Virginia. And we call earnestly to the whole host of Democrats in Virginia, with whom and for whom we labored to defeat his nomination, and especially to the picked troop of gallant gentlemen and distinguished statesmen who battled in Convention only more firmly, more unflinchingly, because they found themselves in a minority there, to rally to the standard of Democracy, and lift up the standard bearer and hold him aloft on the very topmast triumph of a full Democratic majority. Come forward, knights of the forlorn hope! We just want such spirits as yours, not in the rear of the phalanx, but foremost in the van of the advanced guard. Throw aside the objections which have impelled you to oppose the aspirant; let them have no weight against the nominee.

The Convention offered the following resolution before adjourning:—

RESOLVED, That, trusting to the patriotism, wisdom and fidelity of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, and in view of the conduct which has hitherto characterised his direction of public affairs, we recognize it as a duty binding on every true Democrat, whatever honest differences may have arisen on isolated questions of public policy, to rally to the support of the Administration in his name, and for the sake of the party whose best interests must remain identified with its own.

The Usury Law—Greensboro' Patriot.

Our cotemporary, the "Greensboro' Patriot," contains an editorial on the subject of USURY, strongly opposing the repeal of the law imposing penalties on those who take more than six per cent. interest, on the loan of money. The Patriot seems to look upon the movement in favor of repeal, as smelling of Democracy, and asks the question why the subject was not discussed by Gov. Ellis and the Democratic candidates for the legislature? Now we have never regarded it as a *party* movement at all. It may have been, and very probably was discussed by candidates for the General Assembly in many of the counties, previous to the election. But we have yet to learn that the question has been made or is likely to be made a party question.

If we had no other information on this subject, the facts mentioned in the article of the Patriot would be sufficient to satisfy us that the usury law should be repealed. For instance, the Patriot tells us that the North Carolina road had to borrow money at 12½ per cent. interest, and that too from the Banks. Now, if the Patriot knows this to be so, and the usury law is right, why does not the Patriot cause the Banks to be prosecuted for a violation of the law? But perhaps this loan was effected in such a way that the law would not reach the case. Then the law has been *evaded*, and if it can be so easily evaded it must of necessity be worthless. If it be worthless why keep it on the Statute book? What is its present effect? According to the statement of the Patriot, it is disregarded by the Banks, and it is evaded moreover, every day in the week, by money lenders all over the State. There are a few monied persons who do not evade it. Some of them send their money abroad for investment, and some of them continue to loan it out in the State at the legal rate of interest. What is the inference from these facts? That the law does not affect those who have control of the great body of the monied capital in the State, but does affect a few who either from timidity or a conscientious regard for the law, refuse to infringe it. Is it right to retain a law which operates thus unequally?

Another fact which we glean from the Patriot is that the political economists are all opposed to the principle of the Usury laws. These are, according to the Patriot, mere theorists, having no practical knowledge of the subject. Now, we are accustomed to refer questions of law to lawyers for advice, questions of medicine to doctors, and questions of science to men of science. And why? Upon the well grounded assumption that a man who gives his peculiar attention to a particular class of subjects is better able to decide all questions connected therewith than a mere outsider, who perhaps lacks the time or the inclination to sift such subjects to the bottom.

Political economists have investigated this question of usury with great industry and the single purpose we must suppose of eviscerating the truth. If having done so they have generally come to the conclusion that all laws restricting the rate of interest are unwise, we think the argument from authority against such laws must needs be very strong. If, as the Patriot states, very many well educated gentlemen, elected to seats in the Legislature, are also in favor of repealing the law, we think the argument loses none of its force.

Our contemporary asks the question how we shall keep the money in the State, when by sending it abroad the owner might realize a larger profit, and answers the question by proposing to tax the profits on all such capital as is sent out of the State so heavily, as will cause the owners to bring it back and invest it at home. We conjecture that this scheme would not work so very happily. The present laws drive the capital from the State for investment; but the tax proposed by the Patriot would drive the owners after it. Men will send their money where they can get the most for it; and if the State should impose an onerous tax on them for it, they will easily get rid of the tax by removing from the State. We should then have driven out both capital and capitalist. And is this a consummation to be desired? No, indeed. There must be a co-operation of labor *and* capital, to advance the best interests of a people, and they are so intimately connected, that any legislation unfriendly to capital must of necessity be unfriendly to labor.

We don't know whether foreign journals make such comments as those below through ignorance concerning American politics or not. It is either from the first or from malice that the last Edinburgh Review perpetrates the following:

Webster bowed his splendid head to the yoke of the South, and died broken-hearted at the consequences of the humiliation. Clay sustained repeated disappointments, and left a tainted reputation, as having been the obstacle to the restriction and reduction of slavery in some of the frontier States, and the cause of its establishment in Missouri, Florida and Arkansas. Calhoun died broken hearted also.

"OCCASIONAL THOUGHTS."—We wrote, a few days ago, to a gentleman of our acquaintance, to favor us with a few sketches from his pen of his recollections of North Carolina. He had been a resident of the State some years since, and we had frequently heard him speak in glowing terms of his stay in the Old North State: hence the reason for our request.

In answer, our friend writes: "I cannot undertake the writing of any articles of 'Recollections of the Old North State, for the reason, that while the memory of the hospitable and generous feelings manifested to me, a transient resident, remains fresh and green, many of the incidents have become indistinct through the dust of years, and I lack at this time the skill of the artist to retouch and bring to light their pleasing points. I will, however, furnish some 'Occasional Thoughts,' at intervals, ranging 'from grave to gay, from lively to severe,' and place them at your disposal."

The first of a few articles we have received appears on our fourth page.

WRITING INK.—We have received from the manufacturer, Mr. A. Lawson, of Lumberton, a bottle of "superior writing fluid, warranted to be free of acids and gums, and not to corrode." We recommend Mr. Lawson to advertise the article, as we feel assured our readers are always willing to encourage home manufactures.

Speech of John T Gilmore.

We publish in another column, from the Raleigh Standard, the excellent speech of the Senator from Cumberland and Harnett, delivered in the State Senate, upon the coalfields Railroad bill. The material furnished in the subject for a masterly and uncommon effort had a just measure of appreciation at the hands of our representative, and although attended by no practical result favorable to the project, demonstrated that argument and power were not wanting as its auxiliaries.

With such a graphic and forcible presentation as is set forth in this speech, the Legislature was at least made sensible of the peculiar merits of the Railroad Bill and its title to their bounty, and if disregarded in the end, must so fail from influences more potential than the power of reason or the dictates of wisdom.

THE INQUSITION OUTDONE.—PRISON DISCIPLINE AT AUBURN, N. Y.—Whenever a poor unfortunate was subjected to the tortures of the Inquisition, a medical man was in attendance, lest the victim should be tortured beyond his power of endurance. No so, in this enlightened age, in the great State of New York, where it is with difficulty a jury of twelve men, with ample proof before them, can be found who will pronounce the murderer guilty, so averse are they to the penalty. At Auburn, a few days ago, a colored man named Moore, for merely *threatening* to do violence to his keeper, was subjected to the usual mode of punishment in that institution—the shower bath, and died from the effects of the torture. Although this may be the first instance where death has supervened from the cruelties practised upon the prisoners, it is well known that blindness and insanity have frequently resulted from them, and yet we hear scarcely a word of condemnation from the host of *philanthropists*, who chronicle cruelties said to be perpetrated by their neighbors, but which exist only in their own bewildered imaginings. Verily, they require reforming at the North.

We copy from a New York paper, a description of the mode of refined cruelty by which the man was put to death:

"A cloth was placed about the neck-board of the instrument of torture, which is said 'to raise the water about the mouth and nose, thereby inducing the horrid sensation of suffocation by drowning.' In this case the prisoner was unquestionably killed by the punishment. That is to say, if he had not been thus punished, he would now be living. From the testimony, it appears that his death was a terribly cruel one. His hand was found wrenched from its strong fastening. He had slipped from his seat. He was actually hung by the neck in the stocks. All the water which the operators had at hand—about three barrels—was exhausted, when it was proposed to take him out and put the 'yoke' upon him. But death, more merciful than man, had already interfered in behalf of the wretched creature."

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER," &c.—H. F. Clark of New York, and Z. B. Vance of this State, have taken their seats on the Opposition side of the House. Mr. Clark has selected his seat next to that of Mr. Grow.

STILL THEY COME.—Although we have received already much encouragement in a swelling list of subscribers and Job patronage, we feel that we still have strong claims for further evidence of interest in the success of a Democratic paper in Fayetteville. Now is the time for the friends of the party to exert themselves so as to increase our subscription list several hundreds on the commencement of the new year. We have resolved to be unsparing in our efforts to make a paper worthy of party support and public patronage.

The Legislature.

HOUSE.

SATURDAY, Dec 11, 1858.

COALFIELDS RAILROAD.

On motion of Mr McKay, the rules were suspended and the bill taken up.

Mr Williams moved to amend by striking out $600,000, and inserting $400,000.

Mr McKay drew attention the amount, per mile, granted to other Railroads in the state, and that asked for by this bill. He said the amendment would compel the stockholders to take one half the stock; but, in full confidence of the result, he would accept the amendment. The bill was recommitted to the committee on internal improvements, to make the necessary alteration.

NEW BILLS.

Mr Thompson, to charter Goldsboro' Mutual Insurance Company.

Mr Fleming, to amend the charter of the town of Salisbury.

Mr Stanford, to charter the town of Kenansville.

BILLS & RESOLUTIONS.

The Speaker announced the following bills and resolutions which were ratified.

A bill to extend the time for registering grants, deeds, and other conveyances.

A resolution approving the naval commission of the United States to examine the coalfields, and for other purposes.

A bill to prohibit betting on elections.

A bill to provide for the procuring of evidence against the keepers, owners and dealers of Faro banks, Faro tables and gaming tables.

The bill to incorporate the Cowee Mining and Manufacturing Company passed its second reading.

MONDAY, Dec. 13, 1858.

SENATE.

Mr Brown, from the committee on Banks and currency, reported in favor of the bill to incorporate the Oak City savings Bank, with amendments.

The following bills passed their second reading:

The bill concerning Auctions and Auctioneers.

The engrossed resolution relative to the distribution of Dr Emmon's report.

HOUSE.

The resolution of Mr Hill, of Halifax, repealing the rule appointing Saturday for the discussion and passage of private bills, was adopted.

The bill to charter the N. C. College at Mt. Pleasant, Cabarrus county, passed its third reading.

BILLS ON THEIR SECOND READING.

The bill to abolish the militia system. Rejected.

Bill concerning deeds of trust. Rejected.

Bill requiring the clerks of the General Assembly to take an oath of office, passed its second reading.

Bill incorporating the Wilmington Hotel company passed its second reading.

Bill authorizing the Justices of Cumberland Court to appoint a special term, passed its second reading.

TUESDAY, Dec. 14.

SENATE.

The Committee on the Judiciary reported allowing Sheriffs till the first Court after first December, to make their settlements of taxes with the public treasurer. Also report against the passage of the bill to appoint tax collectors for the several counties.

Mr Thomas offered a resolution instructing the committee on the Judiciary to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the Governor to sue for and collect the moneys due from the Federal government to the Cherokee Indians. Adopted.

Mr Leach introduced a bill to establish a new county by the name of King, Referred.

The special order, the bill to abolish the Geological Survey of the State, consumed the balance of the session. Passed by a vote of 26 to 15.

HOUSE.

In the House to day a pretty large quantity of business was done. The following bills were introduced:

Mr Moore, of New Hanover, a bill to create a new county to be called Lillington, out of a portion of New Hanover.

The bill to aid the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad company was rejected by by vote of 63 to 41.

LEGISLATIVE.

Correspondent.

RALEIGH, Dec. 15, 1858.

MESSRS EDITORS:

To-day the Bill to extend the aid of the State to the Fayetteville and Western Railroad, was read in the House of Commons, in the amended form, and laid upon the table. It may now be taken up at any time by a majority vote. The bill as amended provides for an exchange of bonds with the State to the amount of Four Hundred Thousand Dollars, provided the individual subscriptions shall amount to an equal sum.

The case of Rev. W. P. Taylor, of Chatham, was discussed, and decided in his favor by a very large majority. His seat was contested on account of his being a clergyman. The precedent is now established that a clergyman who has not the charge of a flock may sit in the House of Commons as a member.

It is now ascertained that Hon. Thomas Ruffin, of Alamance, accepts the office of Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Judge R., though seven y two years of age, is still vigorous, and capable of severe labor. His intellect unimpaired by age, and his lofty integrity of character, eminently fit him for the exalted station which the Legislature have assigned him.

The rules of the House were suspended this morning, in order to put upon its several readings a bill authorizing a majority of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to transact business. Heretofore the law has required them all to be present to form a quorum. The cause which gave rise to the passage of the bill was the sickness of Hon. Weldon N. Edwards, who has been seriously ill for some weeks past, at his residence in Warren county. As it is highly important that the commissioners should make a report to the legislature at an early day, it was thought proper to authorize a majority to act.

The only election that I know of, yet to be held, is that for fourteen trustees of the University. The election of a fourth Judge of the Supreme Court is talked of. That court, as now constituted, is composed of three judges. The argument in favor of a fourth Judge is this: 1. It will give greater efficiency to the court by increasing the number of its working members. 2. The adjudications of the court would then rest on a firmer basis. To illustrate this last position—Suppose as the court is now constituted, that a decision goes up from a very able Superior Court Judge—Suppose then that one of the ablest of the Judges of the Supreme Court concurs in the decision of the Court below, the other two Judges overruling the decision. Then you have two able Judges on one side of the question and two on the other. If however the Supreme Court should consist of four members, then there can never be an equal weight of authority on both sides of a question, for if the Supreme Court should be equally divided, then the decision of the Court below stands as the law, and you have the authority of three Judges against two.

Yesterday, a Bill passed its second reading in the House, repealing the law which provides for an Agricultural and Geological survey of the State. The majority for the Bill was very large. The law providing for the survey will undoubtedly be repealed.

To-morrow the case of Mr Haywood, of Wake, will again come up for consideration.

The House of Commons have adopted the rule of meeting at 9½ o'clock, A. M., and adjourning at 2 o'clock, P. M. This gives four working hours. The evening is occupied by committees who are busily engaged in maturing business for the action of the House.

Yours truly,

X. Y. Z.

Speech of Senator Gilmore.

MR. SPEAKER: As this is the proper time to consider the objects and provisions of the bill, I would ask the attention of the Senate, whilst I make a few remarks in favor of its passage. This is one of the most important measures that has ever been presented to the Senate, or occupied the attention of the people of the State. It involves the great question of the extent and value of the coalfields, and whether the article of coal and iron ore exists in sufficient quantities to justify the passage of the bill. The coalfields on Deep river were known before the revolutionary war, and fragments of the iron then manufactured may now be seen at one of the mines.—Afterwards the Crown issued letters patent to a company to work the mines. This company, having left the mother country, proceeded on its way to the mines and reached within some 30 or 40 miles of its destination, when the disturbances in the State occurred, and the company was compelled to return. This fact is established by the records of the Board of Trade of Liverpool. The period referred to must have been about the time the Regulators began. The coalfields were then considered chiefly valuable for iron ore. After this the fame of the coalfields passed away until 1851, when a Geologist was employed to make a survey of the State and reported in 1852, by which public attention was called to the subject again. Shortly after this report was made, a controversy in the newspapers between scientific gentlemen was carried on in relation to the quantity of coal and ore and the extent of the coalfields. This discussion produced the deepest interest not only between the parties themselves, but also among the people of that section of the State. When this controversy subsided, popular opinion finally settled down in favor of those who maintained that the coalfields were both rich and abundant. After this the auger was applied, the shaft sunk, and the coal and ore taken up. At one of the mines, machinery costing $50,000 dollars is now ready for the raising of coal and ore as soon as means of transportation are provided. These coalfields are 30 miles long and from 3 to 6 miles wide. The quality of the coal is superior to any—it is free from smut and sulphur, and is therefore not unhealthy. It burns with a clear light, containing from 10 to 12 gallons of oil to the ton, and is superior to any other coal in the production of gas; and when we take into consideration the increased demand for that article in lighting the cities, it forms no inconsiderable item in estimating the value of this coal; and, besides this, the residuum of the coal after being burned forms a coke of great value in the manufacture of iron. The coal alone is sufficient to place the State in the most prosperous condition. It has been compared not only with the coals of this country but of Europe, and has been pronounced superior to them all. In this day of improvement, when the boundary of knowledge has been enlarged, and the arts and sciences improved, it behooves us to look to the incidental as well as the principal products of the State. Coal is now becoming more and more abundant in its use, and is an indispensable fuel for almost every steamer; and when we look to the constant increase of steam power, we cannot too highly estimate the great value of these coalfields. There is no product upon the earth so eagerly sought after by capitalists as that of coal. Gold and silver mines are liable to give out—they are uncertain—but experience proves that the quantity of coal can be more easily ascertained and with greater certainty.

But the coal is not all; the iron ore is of incalculable wealth, and is proven to be equally extensive and abundant. There are five kinds of ore, and among the number that which is preeminently known as the blackband iron ore. It is from this that the best Scotch pig iron is made, and I think that is esteemed the best in any market. To appreciate this matter properly we should know the fact that this blackband ore has been found nowhere upon the earth, except in Scotland and at these very coalfields.—This ore produces from 12 to 16 gallons of oil per ton, and at a very small expense. The coal and ore are found together, and in removing the one you necessarily remove the other. These coalfields are nearer the ocean than any others on the Atlantic slope. Every Governor for the last ten years has recommended the development of the resources of the State. The Legislature saw its importance, and hence about forty thousand dollars have been expended in Geological surveys of the State. Whatever doubts may have been heretofore entertained in relation to the vast quantity of coal and iron ore existing in these mines, there can be none now. I can here refer with confidence to the naval commission under Com. Wilkes, by whom an examination was made, in reference to the establishment of government machine shops at these very coalfields, and upon the very best authority, by letters in this city, it is beyond a doubt that his report to the government will be of the most favorable character.

We have no means of ascertaining certainly the quantity of iron imported into the state, but the lowest estimate that has been made by those I have consulted, is $5,000,000, exclusive of railroad iron. The duty upon iron is 20 per cent—commissions, profits and freight will exceed 10 per cent.; making in all at least 30 per cent., which is about $1,500,000, nearly one third of the whole cost of the iron. If, then, this amount of iron should be manufactured in the state by our own citizens, it would be an annual gain of $1,500,000; for even if this iron should sell as high as the imported iron, still the entire profit would be retained in the state, and if manufactured by citizens out of the state or by foreigners, there would still be a very large expenditure out of this sum which would enure to the benefit of the state, for the wealth of the citizen is the wealth of the state. Assuming then, what I believe to be true, that a large and populous town would be created and extensive establishments erected for the manufacture of iron, it follows necessarily that instead of the manufacture of $5,000,000 worth of iron, it would become ten, fifteen or twenty millions, and the increased advantages to the state would be in the same increased proportion.

No measure has ever been submitted to the Senate, in which the interests of the state of North Carolina have been so deeply involved. Before the stockholders have asked any aid of the state, $340,000 have been subscribed and mostly expended upon the road, which is constructed of the very best material and promises to be equal to any road in the Union. The bonds of private companies, all know, cannot command high rates, whereas the bonds of the state can. The company therefore propose an exchange of bonds to the amount of $600,000. The state is secured at every step. When 12 miles of the road is finished an exchange of $100,000 is to take place; and when the whole road is finished an exchange of the last $100,000 is to take place, and the State is to have a lien upon the whole road, stock, houses and lands, and if the company fail to pay the interest within 12 months after it is due, the State is to take possession of all, and the same provision is made in case of failure to pay the principal. This road differs from all other roads in the state, for the freight is ready as soon as the cars arrive. It is thought it will pay 15 or 20 per cent. on the amount of capital invested; and when we look at the fact that the Reading road cost over $100,000 per mile, and pays 6 per cent., all must admit this calculation to be reasonable.

Mr Speaker, the road under consideration is 43 miles long, 12 miles of it is in running order and now in operation, and 8 miles more is graded. A single tract is estimated to transport five hundred thousand tons of coal annually, and that coal would be worth at Wilmington three million of dollars, and the transportation of the coal is worth two dollars per ton, making one million of dollars. But some have said that I must show that this coal can be shipped and meet other coals successfully in northern markets. This I will do. The cost of the coal at the mines is one dollar per ton, which brings it to three dollars per ton at Wilmington, and freight to New York is two dollars and a half, making in all five dollars and a half. This coal can be sold in New York for seven dollars and a quarter per ton, in quantities of a hundred thousand tons, thus showing that it will bear shipment and at a good profit.

I will now ask what must be the effect of all this upon the localities and upon the state at large? The United States' Arsenal at Fayetteville has been made an Arsenal of construction, but can never become extensive in its operations without the completion of this road, for it is by this means only that coal and timber can be supplied. It leads to one of the finest timbered regions in the state. If this road were completed, the general government would make large appropriations to carry on the work because it would be her interest to do so, and Fayetteville would increase in population and wealth. Wilmington would become a populous city, and the enhanced value of real estate at all three points and along the line, which would greatly swell the amount of taxation, together with a very great increase of the poll tax, form considerations of vast importance to the revenue of the state, which ought not to be overlooked. In an able speech delivered by the Senator from Guilford (Mr Gorrell) two years ago, I think he estimated the amount of taxable merchandize imported into the state at thirteen millions of dollars—add to this the sum of two millions not taxed—all this, as well as the iron imported into the state, must be paid in exports or in money, which is liable to the difference of exchange. Here, then, is a debt of twenty millions subject to the deduction of our exports. There are no certain means of ascertaining the quantity or value of our exports, but I have heard them estimated at ten millions of dollars. This, then, would leave us to pay exactly ten millions in money subject to the difference of exchange; add to all these the sale of state bonds and those of railroad companies, both amounting to several millions subject to a loss in exchange. No state can prosper long where the balance of trade is against it. That is the law of political economy from Adam Smith down; and there is no product on earth which can be developed so cheap, so quick and so abundant as that of coal, and hence it becomes the most important article in equalizing the exchanges of the state.

Sir, if Georgia or South Carolina had treasures like these, they would have been heralded to the world, and this very coal would, 'ere this, have given motion to steamers in the seas of China, or to those of the South Pacific ocean.

These are the only mines of coal and iron ore known in the South Atlantic States. The day may not be far distant when their value may be felt. Sir, you recollect the period of 1850, when that lofty statesman, with giant mind, stood in the midst of the Senate and gave warning of the approaching danger—when the patriots of all parties rallied around him for the safety of their country—and when those stars of the Union, which had shown so brilliantly in peace and in war, began to grow dim. You recollect, sir, the period of 1856, when again those stars began to lose their accustomed lustre, and the heart of every lover of his country throbbed for its safety. If, sir, those stars should ever fade away, and those stripes be torn asunder—if this Union should be dissolved—then may I ask where is your iron to cast your cannon and your ball, and what will put in motion your infant navy? Sir, I do not speak of this to harrow up the feelings of the Senate—I trust it may never be; but such has been the fate of other governments, and such may be the fate of ours. In whatever aspect this measure is viewed, 'tis marked with interest to the state. If passed, North Carolina will become the richest of the southern States.

Sir, we have advocated almost every measure of internal improvement. I appeal to the extreme East. We sustained you in your greatest work—we stood by you in your Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal—will you stand by us now? I appeal to those on the long line of the Raleigh and Gaston Road. We stood by you at your natal hour and sustained you, and that too at a time when it required a mind to conceive and a nerve to execute—the members from Cumberland voted for your road, and returned home to meet an astonished people. They justified the act and were sustained. Will you too stand by us now? I appeal to the West. We have stood by you from the beginning to the end, and never deserted you. I appeal to the friends of internal improvement. We have stood by you all. I appeal through the Hon. Senator of New Hanover, (Mr Ashe.) He has devoted his time, his services, his talents, to your cause. I appeal through my friend from Bladen, (Mr McDowell,) who in like manner, has sustained you upon every occasion, though he asked for nothing, and his people wanted nothing. I appeal through our own great and lamented Dobbin, whose metallic voice held the Commons in suspense, and whose eloquence delighted the ear and captivated the heart; but that voice is heard no more—'tis hushed in the deep silence of death, and the eloquence of my country is buried in his tomb. Will you turn your back upon your most ancient ally, who stood by you in your infancy, followed you in your progress and gloried in your ascension, until you have now become the ruling power in the State? Gratitude was the highest, the noblest virtue of the Romans; yea, it was the brightest jewel in the rich diadem of virtues; and bright as was that jewel then, it is as brilliant here to-day as it ever was in the proud Senate of the commonwealth of Rome. When the illustrious Cicero proclaimed that gratitude was the mother of virtues, he rendered his fame more immortal than he ever did by his masterly defence of Milo, or his unrivaled phillipics against Cataline. Sir, it is not my voice you hear upon this occasion. It is but the echo of 1,815 voters who have sent me here. It is the United voices of the counties of Cumberland and Harnett. In making these appeals here to-day it is to show where we have stood, and where we are now. I place this great work upon higher ground. Stern justice is all that we desire—more than that we do not ask, and less than that you ought not to give. We have passed resolutions unanimously instructing our Senators, and requesting our Representatives to use all proper means in procuring the establishment of work shops by the General Government for the manufacture of machinery and a National Foundry, to be located at the coal fields. If this bill should pass, ensuring a speedy outlet to the ocean, the General Government would be encouraged speedily to commence the work. If we fail to pass it, our own confidence will be distrusted. No measure has ever been presented to the Legislature that came with the same merit, or occupied the same elevated position. In the Gubernatorial canvass it was proclaimed in almost every county in the State, from the remotest confines of Cherokee to the distant shores of the Atlantic. It was heard upon the mountains, in the valleys, and in the towns; and no opposing voice disturbed the harmony of the sound. The rival candidates both sustained the measure, and it was carried in triumph through the state. In candor and in truth I can say, it was approved and ratified by the people. May I not here appeal in confidence to those Senators who feel themselves trammelled by their constituents, and ask if this does not show conclusively that this measure was not regarded by them as leading to an involvement of the state? If this bill should pass, it will become the most popular measure ever presented to the people. I trust the Senate will sustain it, and rally around it, as they would the flag of their country's safety.

Sir, if I were ambitious to live in the recollection of posterity—to connect my name indissolubly with the State, and to create a fame which should endure as long as her history should survive, I would ask no higher claim than to record my name in favor of the passage of this bill.

I would here do injustice to my own feelings, were I not to return my warmest thanks to the Senate, for the kind and indulgent manner in which I have been heard on this occasion.

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