

General Assembly.

From the Raleigh Register.  
The Session is now so far advanced, that a conjecture may be formed, with some degree of certainty, as to the probable period of its adjournment. Saturday, the 14th is the earliest day we have heard mentioned, though we doubt whether the large mass of business, yet on the tables of the two Houses, can be disposed of before the Tuesday or Wednesday following. There have been, so far, 45 Acts of a private nature, passed, about a dozen Resolutions of various kinds, and only five Public Acts!—The Resolutions, introduced some days since, on the subject of calling a Convention, for the purpose of amending the Constitution in certain specified particulars, bid fair to occupy for a few days the attention of the House of Commons. They were taken up on Wednesday, in Committee of the whole, Mr. HAYWOOD in the chair. Mr. FISHER opened the debate in support of the Resolutions, but did not go much into detail, reserving the right of reply to such arguments as might be advanced in opposition. He remarked with regard to their having been presented at this time, that it was the most appropriate moment for considering them, a Census having just been completed, by which the claims of the West were placed on stronger ground in consequence of the great increase of population in that section of the State. He was followed by Mr. PEARSON, in favor of calling a Convention, but opposed to the details of the Resolutions, on the ground that the ratio of population and taxation is not extended to both Houses. He went at length into the merits of the Convention Question, and, in conclusion, proposed to amend the Resolutions by striking out that part which specifies the objects for which the Convention is to be called, and substituting in its place, a provision, which releases that body from any restriction, and directs that the Constitution, when framed, shall be submitted to the people for ratification. During Mr. P.'s remarks,

Comet which will complete its revolution around the sun next June, is to pass, as it retires, very near our planet:—that is our earth will be in that part of her orbit, which is near the orbit of the Comet, just at that precise time when the Comet will pass—a circumstance which, Astronomers say, has not occurred before, perhaps since the flood. It is upon this fact that German Astronomers calculate that the world will then undergo some great and tremendous revolution. They calculate, that the mutual attraction of those two bodies may possibly bring them into contact, in which case an immediate explosion must ensue.

Who can tell but that this may be the great agent employed by the Deity to brush away the Heavens and destroy the Earth; or, in the sublime language of inspiration—to cause "the Heavens to pass away with a great noise, the elements to melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the things therein to be burned up?" This event we all know is to come: and it is to come "as a snare upon all them that dwell upon the face of the whole earth, and as a thief in the night. But whether these terribly sublime movements, and this awfully grand display of Heaven's superior power, will take place on the 20th of June ensuing, (the day of the nearest approach of this Comet to our earth) is not for the writer of this to determine.

A Lectorer in the North, with his orbits and diagrams, is endeavoring to demonstrate that this Comet and our earth will be less than 20,000 miles apart on that day—quite near enough, one would think, to create a pressure upon our atmosphere (unless a higher agency shall interfere) sufficient to cause "the sea and the waves thereof to roar."

The French and American Astronomers believe the Comet will pass our earth without any material or injurious effects to us. But it is not long before that time, and those then living will have a fair opportunity to test the truth of all the astronomical calculations that have been made and are now being made upon the subject.

Should the German Astronomers have made the correct calculations, then on the 20th of June ensuing, Old Time will bathe his waded feet in the ocean of eternity, and this "world and the fashion thereof will pass away!" But whether right or wrong in their calculations, it is nevertheless true that this event will come.—Yes! it is written—it is written with the finger of unerring truth, and standeth fast forever, "Time shall be no more." This world and the fashion of it is now passing away.—It rapidly approximates its end, and will soon cease to be.

My object in making this communication will have been answered, should those who are in the habit of making calculations, favor the public with their views upon this subject. And more particularly shall I be gratified if those who may read this brief notice will lay to heart the affecting truth, that this world is destined to give place to another—that it will soon be superseded, by the "new Heavens and the new Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." M.

Norfolk, Jan. 7th. 1832.

From the American Sentinel.  
A LETTER FROM WM. H. CRAWFORD.  
Wood Lawn, 5th Dec. 1831.

DEAR SIR: Your friendly letter on the subject of the Bank of the United States has been received by due course of mail. The opinion which I formed of the constitutionality and expediency of the Bank of the United States when I was a member of the Senate, was the result of a careful examination of the constitution of the United States, made without any preconceived opinions. That opinion is recorded in two speeches which I made in the Senate in the year 1811. Since that time I have had no occasion of reviewing the question. My opinion remains unaltered. I was Secretary of the Treasury more than eight years, and during that time I had ample evidence of the great utility of the Bank of the United States, in managing the fiscal concerns of the Union. I am persuaded that no man, whatever his preconceived opinions may be, can preside over the Treasury one year, without being deeply impressed with the expediency of the Bank of the United States, in conducting the finances of the Union. The provision in the constitution which gives Congress the power to pass all laws which may be necessary and proper to carry into effect the enumerated powers, gives Congress the right to pass the Bank bill, unless a law most proper to carry into effect the power to collect and distribute revenue, should be excluded by that provision.—The opponents of the constitutionality of the Bank, place great stress upon the word necessary, contained in the grant of power, and insist that no law can be necessary but such, that without which

the power could not be carried into effect. Now this construction appears to me to be indefensible. It does seem to me, that the words "necessary and proper" can not exclude a law that is most proper to carry the power into effect. Yet the unconstitutionality of the bank can be pronounced only upon that construction. It does appear to me that the framers of the constitution never could have intended to exclude the passage of a law most proper to carry a power into effect, because it might be carried imperfectly into effect by another law. My construction of the grant of power to pass all laws which may be necessary to carry the enumerated powers into effect, includes the power to pass all laws which are necessary and proper to carry the enumerated powers into effect in the most perfect and complete manner, and not in an incomplete and imperfect manner.

I have not seen a complete development of the President's plan of a Bank. It is possible that by this plan the transmission of the revenue may be effected, but the safety of the public deposits cannot be effected by the President's plan. The advantage of this security to the public is incalculable. It ought not to be relinquished, unless it can be satisfactorily proved that the Bank of the United States is unconstitutional.

This I think cannot be satisfactorily shown. My speeches are recorded and can be re-published if necessary. They contain the result of the best investigation I was able to give the subject. I am persuaded I could not improve upon it now, if I had the means of investigating the subject, which I have not.

I am, Sir, your friend, &c.  
WM. H. CRAWFORD  
CHARLES JARED INGERSOLL, Esq.

STEPHEN GIRARD.  
The Philadelphia (Poulson's) Advertiser contains the following authentic abstract from the will of the late Stephen Girard. The editor remarks—"There is not perhaps an instance recorded in the history of the world, of one human being devoting such an immense amount of wealth for the benefit of his fellow men, as the venerable deceased has given to the city of his adoption for the laudable purpose of its improvement, and for the melioration of the condition of its inhabitants."

STEPHEN GIRARD'S WILL.  
Gives to the Pennsylvania Hospital, subject to the payment of an annuity of \$200 to a female slave, whom he sets free \$30,000.

To the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb 20,000

To the Orphan Asylum 10,000.

To the Comptrollers of the Public Schools 10,000.

To the City Corporation, to be invested, and interest to be applied, annually in the purchase of Wood for the Poor 10,000.

To the Society of Ship Masters, 10,000.

To the Free Mason's Lodge, 20,000.

For a school to be erected in the township of Passyunk, for poor white children, 6,000.

Sundry Legacies to individuals amounting to 120,000.

Several annuities amounting to about 4,000.

To the City of New Orleans 1000 acres of improved Land in the Territory of Mississippi, and one third of 207,000 acres of unimproved Land in the same territory.

To the City of Philadelphia the remaining two thirds of the said unimproved Lands. [This land is said to be now worth 500,000 dollars.]

To the City of Philadelphia, Stock in the Schuylkill Navigation Company 110,000. [Worth in the market considerably more than this sum.]

For a College for poor white male children, and its proper endowments, the sum of 2,000,000.

To the City of Philadelphia; for certain City Improvements, to be invested, and the interest to be annually applied 500,000.

All his remaining Estate, real and personal (no part of the real estate to be sold) is to be applied as follows,—in further aid of the said College—improvements of the City and in relief of the Taxes.—This Estate is very large, but not yet valued.

To the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be applied to Internal Improvements by Canal, provided the Legislature shall, within one year from Stephen Girard's decease, pass laws authorising the City of Philadelphia to make the intended improvements—otherwise to the United States for the same object, 300,000.

The New York Evening Journal gives the following as the private bequests of Mr. Girard.

To Mrs. John Hemphill, a niece, \$50,000, and to her husband 10,000. To Mrs. Clarke, (formerly Lallemande) 10,000; to another niece, the same amount. To the daughter of Mrs. Lallemand, who resided with Mr. G. 20,000. To those of his sea captains, who shall return their ships in safety, 1,500 each. To a brother residing in France, 2000. The clerks in his bank are also presented with handsome gratuities; and a large amount bestowed on various charitable institutions. We learn that Mr. G. by various commercial operations since the war, has lost property to the value of one and a half million of dollars. His estimate of the aggregate of his estate, we are told, is \$6,000,000.

Elizabeth-City:  
Saturday, January 14, 1832.

The 8th of January, the anniversary of the victory at New Orleans, falling this year on Sunday, that event was celebrated in this town on Monday the 9th inst. in a becoming manner. The volunteer corps of Cavalry and Infantry met in the morning about 11 o'clock and paraded through the streets, the latter firing salutes at three different parts of the town; after which, they assembled at the National Hotel about 2 o'clock, and partook of a sumptuous and excellent dinner, prepared for the occasion by Mr. Wm. Rogerson. At night the streets and several buildings were illuminated, and the day passed off with music, mirth and glee.

We have commenced on the last page of this paper, the Address of the National Republican Convention to the people of the U. States, and shall conclude it next week. We recommend it to our readers without comment.

We are requested by the writer to use the following letter to stir up the citizens of our village to be prepared in case of fire. It is needless for us to inform them of our situation—that our houses, with a few exceptions, are built of combustible materials—that our engine is a very inefficient one—and as to water, we might as well have none; for in the first place we have too few wells, and owing to the decayed state of the pumps in those we have, the water cannot be raised in sufficient quantities. Our citizens are knowing to these facts. They know that if a fire was to get fairly under way, with the wind blowing fresh, our town would be in a few hours a heap of ruins, and many of its inhabitants houseless and perhaps penniless. While the citizens of many of the towns in our State, from neglect and carelessness, in not being prepared, have suffered severely, we have thus far, thanks to a kind Providence, been exempt from the destroying element. We have indeed been singularly fortunate.—How long we shall remain so, none can tell. At any rate, it will be wisdom in us to use all due caution, and make every necessary provision; or, depend upon it, we shall repent when too late. We hope our new Police will attend to this subject.

Extract of a letter to the Editor from a citizen of this town dated

RALEIGH, Saturday morning 7 o'clock, Jan. 7. 1832.

Dear Sir,—I regret to inform you that a fire broke out in this town this morning about 4 o'clock and consumed from 20 to 30 stores and houses with the buildings appurtenant. The flames are arrested but nearly a whole square is in ruins.—A good supply of water with an engine and thirty men would have extinguished the fire with comparatively little damage, but unfortunately there was but one small engine in town and that utterly useless, nor could water be obtained in sufficient quantity. The fire was arrested by removing the buildings adjacent. Do my dear sir use this to stir up our citizens not only to obtain an engine but to make provision for an unfailing supply of water.

The Convention Bill was rejected yesterday.

ELIZA CITY, 11th Jan. 1832.

Sir—If the following remarks made on our Navy, &c. will find a place in your paper, perhaps you will by the insertion do a service to our common country. If this is acceptable, perhaps you may have another called No. 2.

H. H.

NAVAL.—No. 1.

Extract from a book of remarks, &c. &c. OFF LECHONN, Sunday 21st June, 1829.

About the 8th of this month the Dutch squadron consisting of a frigate, a sloop

of war, a gun brig and transport ship arrived at this place and anchored just outside of us. The same squadron sailed from Port Mahon this spring. This morning a steam boat came in from sea—this is the first that I have seen since I left the U. S. The climate in this place is much colder than any that I have been in in the summer season. The mercury in the thermometer about twelve or fourteen days ago, stood at 59 degrees at six o'clock in the morning, and its general averages during all this month, (at the same hour,) is from 60 to 66 degrees. Lest I should be tedious I will to the point, and tell you the proceedings of a Sabbath, as it is spent on board one of them, (a U. S. vessel of war.)

At daylight, and frequently an hour before, the bustle is heard to begin on the main as well as on the deck—the men turning out, lashing up their hammocks and travelling with them on the spar deck to have them stowed in the netting. Then the Quarter Master of the watch makes his appearance on the main deck and begins to bowl out Music! Music!—turn out White, the drummer—Heby, the bugler—Backley and Nelson, the fliers—all, all turn out—hurry up on deck, bear a hand, bear a hand, it is very nearly daylight. Having got on deck, frequently half an hour before daylight makes the faintest appearance, they are ordered to roll off. Then commences the music of the noisy drum and shrilling fife, which continues rattling away for the space of five or ten minutes. So soon as this is over, the bugler strikes up a hatshier note and makes the welkin ring with the old fashioned tune of "Over the hills and far away," or some other old tune worn out in the using perhaps centuries ago.

To be continued.

Fifth Census.—The following is a condensed statement of the recapitulation taken by the editors of the Intelligencer:

Total number of free whites, 10,526,058  
Total number of slaves, 2,010,629  
Total number of free colored, 319,466

Total aggregate of the U. S., 12,856,153

If the ratio of Representation should be fixed at 30,000, the increase in the number of members of the House of Representatives, will be only seven. The Eastern and Middle States will retain about the same strength that they at present possess; the Southern will lose somewhat, and the Western and Southwestern will acquire all, or nearly all the additional numbers.—[Ral. Reg.]

Internal Improvement.—It is pleasing to observe the interest which is beginning to manifest itself in the community, on this all important subject. The stirring spirit of the age has reached North Carolina, and her citizens are beginning to move under its awakening influence. In addition to the public meetings heretofore noticed, one was held at Hillsborough on the 24th instant, at which Dr. James Webb presided and Mr. John U. Kirkland acted as Secretary. A memorial to the Legislature, drawn by Dr. James S. Smith, Mr. Walker Anderson and P. H. Winston, Esq. the committee appointed for the purpose, was adopted. This able production, which was presented in the House of Commons on Monday, by Mr. Mebane, and ordered to be printed, points out the particular circumstances which depress the agricultural interests of the State; the plan which it is thought would be most effectual in remedying those evils; and the means which may be applied to the accomplishment of this most desirable object. It recommends a central rail road, from Beaufort, passing through Newbern, Raleigh and Salisbury, to the foot of the mountains; which it estimates may be constructed for less than two millions of dollars. It is recommended that the one half of this sum be subscribed by the State, and the other half by individuals.—[Ral. Star.]

The Legislature of the State of Georgia has adjourned, after a tempestuous session. The most important act of the session is one providing for the survey and occupancy of the land belonging to and occupied by the Cherokees. The Recorder, a journal of high standing in the State, boldly arraigns this act as "unjust, if not impolitic," "injurious to the character of the State, and dangerous to the harmony of the Union," and what seems to be considered an almost equally important objection, as "calculated to embarrass the President of the United States."—The Recorder further states that "the more prudent and respectable portion of the citizens of Georgia with but few exceptions, are decidedly opposed to a forcible survey and occupancy."—[Nat. Int.]