

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—It is known to some persons that, at the late session of the South Carolina Conference, in Charleston, I voted against expunging the General Rule on Slavery. Having, in my judgment, sufficient reasons for so voting, I believed then and believe now that I did right. In deference to the Conference I gave, immediately after the vote was taken, a request to do so at another hour not seeming to be agreeable, my reasons for voting as I did. My explanation being extemporaneous, if not impromptu, I thought nothing at the time of its being published by the reporter. When asked by him if I wished it published, and also told by him that he had not written it, I replied that if I had time I would write the explanation or, and hand it to him for the next morning's paper. Other business left me no time to do it. The reporter said to me next morning that he supposed it was not worth while to publish it, and that he had been advised, as a matter of expediency, not to do so. I replied that I was not careful about the matter either way. There the matter should have rested. The existence of a rumor in certain sections, (possibly in others of which I am not advised), that I am "unsound on the subject of slavery," "opposed to slavery," "an Abolitionist," and so on—if the chapter could be made longer, without the aid of a clever fool, a little bristling, &c.—is my reason for penning this notice. Well, what have I to say?

I shall not undertake to prove at present that I am not an Abolitionist. Logic, justice, and reasonable men will excuse me from this task in the present state and shape of the case. I am ready to reply to any attempt to prove the affirmative. A disposition to disabuse the minds of acquaintances and strangers—especially my brethren and friends—a desire to remove any hindrance to access and success in the ministry of the gospel, induces me to cheerfully and sincerely deny the rumor that I am an Abolitionist. I challenge South or sister, white, black, or yellow, North or South, to prove the contrary. As to the position which my vote assigns me, I deny that an impartial construction would admit it as evidence against me. At any rate, my reasons for voting as I did forbid such a construction. I am not in the habit of doing a thing and asking others to give me a reason why I did so. The reasons for voting as I did, I may give when convenient. As before stated, I am unwilling for my brethren and friends to be in error about me on this subject; yet, if any one has been "carried away" by the rumor before hearing what I have to say, he can be carried back at his own time and expense, and locate himself according to his own choice. In the mean while, if I must "boast," I ask for the name of the man who, according to opportunity, has done more for the welfare of the slaves, and, by consequence, for their masters, than I have done for thirteen years—one who has done it more cheerfully, with less worldly compensation, and all without a syllable of abolition sentiment in word, action, or otherwise.

It has been a satisfaction to me to believe that, by a conscientious course of christian and ministerial life, not faultless I know, the confidence of my brethren of the Conference has not been withheld from me. Though there is nobody or class of men whose confidence I value as highly as I do theirs; yet the doing what I believed to be right, rather than the securing their favor, has been the motive for acting in every case where principle was involved. Had I acted otherwise, and thereby gained their confidence, I should also have gained the knowledge that I did not deserve it. S. H. BROWN.

CONGRESS.—The distant public may rest assured that the balance of the current session of Congress is destined to be the most industrious one known to the history of the country. While something may be due to the very universal condemnation of their act in resolving upon the recent recess, uttered by the press in all quarters of the country, in superadding extra efforts of labor on the part of the members, it is also very true that since they first came together on the first Monday of last month, they have labored with far closer application to business—consuming more time than ever before so early in the session. Thus they have worked in this session, and are destined to work far more systematically during the remainder of it, than ever before.—Washington Star.

We will inform the public of their doings when they do any thing worth recording.

The brig Echo, which vessel was forfeited to the United States for engaging in the slave trade, was sold at Charleston on the 17th inst., by the United States Marshal, for \$2300, cash.

THE LEGISLATURE.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1859. In both branches of the Legislature there was no quorum. In the House Mr. Morehead took his seat as Chairman from Wake, in place of E. G. Haywood. At a quarter to twelve both Houses proceeded with the inauguration of Governor Ellis. [See speech elsewhere in our columns.]

MONDAY, JAN. 2, 1859. SENATE.—The bill to prevent fraudulent bidding at judicial sales, passed its third reading, and was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to amend the charter of the Atlantic and North Carolina, and Western North Carolina railroads, so as to give to the individual stockholders a majority on the boards of directors, the special order, was then taken up, and a long debate ensued, and before its conclusion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Norwood introduced a bill to incorporate the University Railroad Company to build a road from Chapel Hill to the North Carolina Railroad.

The bill for the relief of Emily Hooper, of Liberia, passed its third reading.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4. SENATE.—Mr. Thomas introduced a bill to amend the charter of the Charlotte, Blue Ridge and Catawba Railroad Company.

The bill introduced yesterday was further discussed, and its further consideration indefinitely postponed. The Confid bill passed its second reading—yes 25, nays 14.

The bill relating to insolvent debtors was laid on the table. The bill relative to jury trials in county courts was defeated by a vote of 35 to 3.

HOUSE.—Mr. Ransom introduced a bill to incorporate the Bank of North Carolina, to be chartered by the State Bank. Mr. Chambers introduced a bill to allow the Fayetteville and Albemarle plank road to make a public ferry across Pee Dee.

Mr. Caldwell's State Improvement and Relief bill was reported favorably from the committee on corporations, and was made the special order for some day next week.

Point passed. A bill to incorporate the town of High Point passed its second reading, also a bill to establish the North Carolina Military Institute; and a bill to incorporate the Oak City Savings bank.

THURSDAY, JAN. 6. SENATE.—The following bills were reported favorably: A bill to increase the sinking fund; to amend the charter of the Wilmington and Weldon railroad company; to authorize notaries to administer oaths in regular cases; to establish the Fayetteville and Albemarle plank road. And the following unfavorably: The bill to amend the entry laws of the State; to amend the charter of the Revised Code, entitled marriage; the resolution relative to prison charges; the bill to amend the 119th section, 34th chapter Revised Code.

Edwards introduced, to prevent banking on Sunday; to authorize the Petersburg Railroad Company to build a railroad from Garysburg to Weldon.

The vote by which the amendments to the Wilmington Charlotte and Rutherford bill was adopted, requiring the State treasurer to have money to meet the interest on the bonds to be issued for said company, and to employ them, was somewhat unexpected, but its further consideration was postponed to Monday next.

The election of twelve Trustees of the University was not proceeded with, something like a hundred persons being in nomination, and from the report of the committee they succeeded in electing only two—Gerritt Ellis and M. W. Ransom, Esq.

Bills passed second reading: to prescribe the duties of executors and administrators; requiring Justices of the Peace to note the time of executing on their processes; to make husbands responsible for the debts of their deceased wives.

The engrossed bill to punish horse stealing with whipping, branding and hanging was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 42 to 10.

HOUSE.—A large portion of the time of the House was taken up voting for and nominating Trustees for the University. About fifty persons were in nomination. Results same as announced in the Senate.

Very little business was done. The bill to establish the county of Lillington was rejected by Yeas 51, Nays 50.

The following among other bills passed their third reading: a bill to incorporate the Goddard Mutual Insurance Company; a bill to incorporate the Newbern Gas Light Company; a bill to amend the charter of Bank of Cape Fear. A bill to charter the Fairfield Canal Company.

Mr. Norwood introduced a bill to punish Usury; Mr. Leffers, a bill concerning patril.

FRIDAY, JAN. 7. SENATE.—Bills introduced: To give the election of Trustees to the board of Trustees of the University; to secure bridges from damage by vessels and flats; to increase the salary of Comptroller to enable him to employ a clerk.

The bill to establish a new county by the name of Atholpny, being the special order, passed its second reading by a vote of 24 to 20.

HOUSE.—The time of the House for the greater part occupied, to-day, by a discussion upon the bill to establish the Bank of Salisbury. Messrs. Caldwell of Guilford and Fleming of Rowan were the chief speakers. The bill was passed by a small majority.

Mr. Caldwell of Guilford introduced a bill to repeal that chapter of the Rev. Code entitled Ordinaries and Inns. Mr. Pritchard, a bill allowing free negroes in debt to choose those to whom they should be sold. A bill was also introduced to declare the Yalkin River a navigable stream from the North Carolina Railroad.

The special order—a bill to create a freehold homestead—was passed over on motion of Mr. Outlaw.

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NORTH CAROLINA BANKS.—The Fayetteville Observer has compiled from official documents a condensed statement of the condition of all the banks in the State, as shown by their latest returns to the Governor; and for the sake of comparison, the editors have copied from their paper of January 12, 1857, a similar condensed statement which was made of their condition at that time. According to these statements, the Observer says, "The aggregate capital has increased \$88,154,824. The aggregate surplus has increased \$27,561,120. Due to banks out of increase \$182,250. Due to banks in the State, decreased \$39,076. The circulation has decreased \$411,271. The deposits have increased \$177,787. The notes and domestic bills discounted have decreased \$225,726. Foreign Exchange (including business done by banks out of the State and bills of exchange running to maturity), has increased \$176,983. Due by North Carolina banks to each other, decreased \$79,076. Specie has increased \$23,546. Real Estate increased \$29,462. State and United States bonds, &c., have decreased \$41,254. Of the discounts, the aggregate due to the State is \$148,219. Due to stockholders has increased \$293,443. These two last items, however, increased by report from our banks which made no return on those points two years ago."

After giving the above satisfactory exhibit of the condition of the banks, the Observer remarks: "As a whole, these figures show that the banks are stronger than they were two years ago, chiefly in the large diminution of notes in circulation, and in the increase of deposits. The decrease of discounts and the increase of deposits show a diminished demand for money, and either a want of sources for investment or a disinclination to invest."

It will be observed that the aggregate circulation is not equal to the aggregate deposits by 1,081,500 dollars. That is, though the banks are allowed by their charters to issue two dollars for every one dollar of capital, they have actually only 80 cents of dollar for every dollar of capital. The right to issue two for one, therefore, which is so much dwelt upon by the enemies of banks, is really a nullity. The banks cannot exercise the right with safety, and are too careful of their credit to approach the limit of the law. Only four of the banks have a large circulation as capital.

The aggregate of specie and foreign exchange (which is better than specie,) is more than the aggregate circulation.

KILLED IN A FOX CHASE.—A young man named Rhodes was recently killed on Hamony Creek, in this county, last Monday week, under rather singular circumstances. He and some companions were engaged in a fox chase, and had run the animal into a hole in a bluff of rock. Unable to force it out otherwise, they built a fire at the entrance, with the view, in hunter's language, of "smoking it out." From the hole the animal came out, and the edge of rock above was seen to crack and give way, in order to save themselves from the descending rocks, the whole party, consisting of three or four men, sprang from their perilous positions on the ledge to the ground below, some 25 or 30 feet. Mr. Rhodes unfortunately, did not spring quick enough, or far enough, for a huge rock fell on his head, crushing him, and he died instantly. Others of the party were considerably bruised, but not seriously injured. Mr. Rhodes, we learn, was a worthy young man, and his melancholy death created much sympathy. What a fearful illustration of the oft quoted truth, that "in the midst of life we are in death." Asheville News, Jan. 6.

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MARRIED.—Near Union church, on the 23d December, by N. M. Hubbard, Esq., JACKSON HUBBARD, to Miss SARAH JANE, youngest daughter of Robert Gaddy, Esq., all of Anson.

At Woodland, Darwell district, S. C., on the 26th ult., by the Rev. Dr. Hauckel, ANNA AUGUSTA, eldest daughter of William Gilmore Stams, Esq., to Mr. EDWARD ROACH, of Charleston.

DIED.—In Union county, on the morning of 23d December, Miss SARAH LOUISA CURETON; she is the twenty-third year of her age.

MARKETS.—CHERAW, Jan. 10.—Cotton.—Sales for the week 544 bales, at 67 1/4c; market animated. Flour \$5 1/2c. Corn 80c. Bacon—Shoulders 9 1/2c; hams 14 1/2c; sides 11 1/2c. Lard 14c. Rice 50c. Beans—Dried 10 1/2c. Sugar 20c. Salt per sack \$1.25.

FAYETTEVILLE, Jan. 10.—Cotton.—Fair to good 10 1/2c. Flour \$4 75c to \$5.00. Wheat 95c. Corn 90c. Bacon 11c. Lard 13 1/2c. Beans—Dried 10 1/2c. Sugar 20c. Salt per sack \$1.25.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 10.—Cotton.—The market was very quiet to-day, the transactions having been limited to 351 bales, at extremes ranging from 12 1/2c to 13c. Prices unchanged.

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