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WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1860.

WHOLE NO. 108.

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to a full set, supplied in the best and most approved
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Terms: when the work is finished,
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SALOONS and BOWLING ALLEYS are at the com-
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The scenery is beautiful, and roads most excellent;
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White Sulphur Springs.
The patronage of the Carolinas is confidently re-
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lay he has made to fit up a Watering Place suited to
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The House and furniture are entirely new, and he in-
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An omnibus will always be found at the Station on
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UNDER THE CONDUCT OF COL. C. C.
FEW, late Superintendent of the
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The Staff of Instruction comprises Six Offi-
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Wilmington, N. C. March 8, 1860-79-4f

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NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

FEDERAL CORRUPTION AND PROFLIGACY!

The Buchanan-Breckinridge Administration—The Past and the Future.

We are indebted to the Nashville Patriot for the following compilation of evidence, in proof of the corruption and profligacy which characterize the present Buchanan-Breckinridge Administration. We invoke the candid and earnest attention of the voters of all parties to these startling and humiliating exposures. Let them read, and reflect, and then vote for John Bell and Edward Everett.

As our contemporary observes, the first question for the honest voter to decide, in the pending Presidential election, is, whether he will cast his suffrage for a continuance of the Union, and the perpetuity of our government as it now exists; and the next is, if he is for the Union, whether he will cast his suffrages in favor of its corrupt and profligate administration, or for an honest and economical management of public affairs. We assume that the desire of all patriots is to perpetuate the Union on the basis of the Constitution and the proper and prompt enforcement of the laws. We have heretofore shown that Mr. Breckinridge is, at least, to a certain extent, in the hands of those who have conspired together to break up the Union and revolutionize the government. But if there are any who suppose that he will be able to withstand that influence, we ask their attention to the manner in which that government may be administered, in the event of his election. The chief school in which Mr. Breckinridge has received his political education was presided over, first by Mr. Pierce, and then by Mr. Buchanan. During the Presidency of the former he served as an undergraduate in Congress; and after taking a premature degree in statesmanship, but making remarkable progress in Democracy, he was promoted to an adjunct professorship with the latter. He was made the first officer of the crown in the Buchanan Dynasty; and has been a part and parcel of his administration, from that day to this, and as such he must bear due proportion of the responsibility. Not only so, he is set up as the heir apparent to the succession, and is held up as the younger political brother, worthy to receive the entire estate accumulated during the past four years. That part of it in which the people are most directly interested is the corruption, the profligacy, the faithlessness and the extravagance which have characterized its inception and progress. And to this we invite their attention. We begin with

THE BUCHANAN-BRECKINRIDGE ELECTION.
This event was ushered in in a manner in perfect keeping with the subsequent administration. We subjoin certain facts connected with that election, as an initiatory step to the investigation we propose to make, which appear in the official records of the country, and cannot be gainsaid. Of course, there is a good deal yet behind the curtain, which will probably never see the light, but the reader, as well as ourselves, can form his own conclusions upon that subject. In January of last year, the corruptions in the Federal Administration having become so manifest, a committee was appointed by the House of Representatives in the Navy Department. Among many other things, the majority of that committee reported that one W. C. N. Swift had from 1854 been engaged furnishing live-oak to the Department, and was aided in the same by prominent Democratic partisan, named Geo. Plitt, for a money consideration. The report then proceeds:

"Pending the Presidential election of 1856, Plitt introduced Swift to Mr. Buchanan, and sought to place him in the very best position he possibly could with the President. Plitt, at the same time, was Treasurer of the Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania, and, as such, received from Swift the sum of \$16,000, of which Swift contributed \$10,000, and received the balance from his immediate friends, to be used in the pending election. Mr. Buchanan was informed before the election that Mr. Swift was an Old Line Whig who came over to his party, and he was subsequently informed of the amount contributed by Swift. Plitt testified that—
"In introducing Mr. Swift, I told Mr. Touzey that he was a gentleman whom I should be very glad to have him aid in any way he could, legitimately, of course; that he was my very warm friend, who had contributed very largely towards the election of 1856, and that he had a number of old-line Whig friends in Massachusetts who were equally liberal—some of them, at least—and I thought that such gentlemen should be patronized, of course!
"Plitt further testified that he regarded the contract with Swift—April, 1854—as a conditional contract, and supposing that agreement was still in force under the present administration as it was under the former one, I took great pains to make him acquainted with every one of my political friends."
Swift subsequently got contracts under the Buchanan-Breckinridge Administration during the years 1857-8, to the amount of \$399,640. Mr. Plitt was then clerk of the Circuit Court of the United States in Philadelphia. He again testified before the Covode Committee, during the last Congress, to having expended, as treasurer of the State Central Committee, upwards of \$70,000 in Pennsylvania, to carry the election for Buchanan. Of that amount \$18,500 was raised in the city of New York and paid over to him by Augustus Schell. Mr. Schell was afterwards appointed Collector of Customs at the port of New York!
Cornelius Wendell also testified before the last named committee, as follows:
Question. Did you not, for political purposes, within the last three or four years, use a much larger amount of money than you used on previous occasions—some hundred thousand dollars?
Answer. My impression is, that it was about one hundred and twenty-eight, or one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.
Q. How much of that money was used to elect Mr. Buchanan?
A. I think I expended, in contributions, printing, and in divers and in sundry ways, some \$37,000 or \$38,000.
Q. After Mr. Buchanan was elected, was he not familiar with the enormous expenditure that you had incurred in securing his election?
A. He knew that I had been very active and had expended considerable money.
Q. Did he not know the amount?
A. I do not remember whether the amount

was ever mentioned between us: I could not say.

Q. Do you think he duly appreciated your services in expending that amount of money?
A. Well sir, I never thought he did.
Q. Did he not latterly, rather fall off as regards his friendly feelings towards you?
A. I have thought for some eighteen months that he did.
Q. Was his influence not used in your favor, to keep the government patronage in your hands so as to reimburse you for this large amount of money that you had expended?
A. At first it was coming to me, and it continued on until December after his inauguration, when a portion of it was taken from me.
Q. By whose act?
A. By the President's.
Q. That was taken from you to divide with other friends of his?
A. Yes, sir.
It is scarcely necessary to add that Mr. Wendell was Public Printer. His accounts with the Government for that work, ran up as high as \$925,000 during one year, and his net profits to \$400,000 or more for a single twelve months. Other Federal officials of the Pierce administration were pressed into the service; and a percent was levied upon their salaries to raise additional funds to carry forward the canvass; while still others were actively engaged on committees and as missionaries among the people, some of them at the instance and through the direct intermediation of Mr. Buchanan himself, to the neglect of their duties and the public business. These facts are sufficiently shown by the following testimony of Isaac West, then Inspector in the Custom House at Philadelphia. We give the questions propounded to Mr. West, and his answers:
Q. How long did you remain in office there?
A. About five years.
Q. Were you there at the time of the election in 1856, when Mr. Buchanan was elected?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. What do you know about moneys being raised off the employees of the Custom House on that occasion?
A. There was a certain tax levied upon the persons connected with the Custom House.
Q. What amount on each person?
A. A certain percentage. On a person receiving \$1,000 a year, I think the tax for the Presidential election was from \$50 to \$33.
Q. Do you mean for the Presidential election alone, or both Presidential and Congressional elections?
A. I mean the Presidential election alone.
Q. What about the other elections?
A. The amount was not so great for the State elections.
Q. How much was that?
A. I do not recollect. It strikes me that it was from \$5 to \$7, something like that.
Q. The two then would amount to in the neighborhood of \$40?
A. Yes, sir, in that neighborhood.
Q. Upon what salaries of officers was that?
A. Those of \$1,100, or rather \$1,095 a year.
Q. Were the others assessed in proportion to their salaries?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. To whom was the money paid?
A. It was generally deposited. That portion which I collected in my department, I gave to the deputy collector, Mr. Harbison—I believe he was the treasurer, so far as the Custom House was concerned—and he paid it over to the Executive Committee, I believe.
Q. A political committee?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did all the employees pay?
A. I never knew one to refuse.
Q. What was the impression—that it was rather obligatory upon them to pay?
A. That seemed to be the impression; they all felt it their duty to pay that more promptly than some of their debts; that was the impression; but I do not know about whether they would have been removed if they had not paid; but it was considered obligatory, I believe.
Q. Do you know of any person receiving pay during the Presidential contest who did not render service in the Custom House?
A. That is a pretty nice question to answer. There were parties absent during that canvass for some months; but I could not, on my oath, say whether they received their salaries or not; they were absent some months.
Q. Who were those absent canvassing during that election?
A. Mr. Gideon G. Westcott was in the State Central Committee room for some months; from four to six months, probably, more or less.
Q. Name all that you recollect?
A. Mr. Whitaker was one; I forget his first name; John Shell and Daniel Fry; I think there were others. I believe those are all I can think of now.
Q. Can you state how long they were away?
A. I could not; some more, and some less; some were on duty occasionally; Mr. Westcott was absent all the time; the others were on duty occasionally; perhaps at the office half the time.
Q. Did you not see a letter authorizing Mr. Westcott to be absent, or in some way referring to that matter?
A. Mr. Westcott read me a letter from Mr. Buchanan, according to my recollection, saying that he had obtained leave of absence for him for a certain time, from the Secretary of the Treasury.
Q. When was that?
A. In 1856.
In addition to the above, it is shown by the testimony before that committee, that large numbers of forged and fraudulent naturalization papers were sent out in Pennsylvania to be illegally used in the election in favor of Mr. Buchanan. Wm. Karns testified that he had one hundred and fifty Irishmen at work on the Union Canal at Reading, and that he received upwards of two hundred naturalization papers from one Reuben F. Clark. Some of these papers were certified by a clerk or prothonotary in Philadelphia, who had been dead six years, and received instructions from Brown to fill them up so as to correspond with the date of the certificate. Others of them were forged outright. Brown was afterwards appointed to office under Mr. Buchanan! To the same general effect is the following from the testimony of Isaac West, then Inspector in Philadelphia:
Q. Have you any personal knowledge about the issuing of fraudulent naturalization papers?
A. I have no personal knowledge of that.
Q. Do you know of any persons who were engaged in distributing them?
A. I know parties, of course, who have been convicted there and sent to the penitentiary for distributing them, at least, that came out before the Court.
Q. Do you know of any parties not yet in the

penitentiary who were engaged in distributing them?

A. I would not know except from hearsay; I have no personal knowledge of their distributing them.
Q. Did not a certain individual tell you that he had distributed a large number of them, and was going to distribute more, or something of that kind?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Do you know whether they were distributed in the city of Philadelphia, or elsewhere?
A. By that individual, in the county—that is, Chester county.
Q. What was he? An American or German?
A. He was himself an American, and held a position on the railroad.
Q. On the Columbia railroad?
A. Yes, sir; under Mr. Baker, the present collector of the port of Philadelphia, who was superintendent of that road at that time.
Q. Did that man tell you these were fraudulent papers that he had been distributing, or did he say they were genuine?
A. He did not say they were genuine?
Q. Did he say they were fraudulent?
A. Yes, sir. * * *
Q. Have you not some knowledge about a number of these papers being distributed among the German population that had been in this country but a little while?
A. I heard that in the same way. I know nothing personally about it.
Q. Did not a man tell you that he had distributed a large number of them in that way?
A. Yes, sir, a man told me that.
Q. What title did he give those who had been in this country but a little while?
A. Well, you seem to have found out a great deal about these things; there was a German messenger in the office who had been away for some days, and when he came in I took him to account for being absent; 'Oh,' said he, 'I was doing good.' 'Doing good?' said I, 'what good have you been doing, Chris? have you been sick?' 'No,' he said, 'I was putting out these papers.' 'I had never seen three naturalization papers in my life, I suppose, unless I was at some election.' 'What are they?' I asked him; 'Oh,' said he, 'these are sick.' 'What do you mean by being sick?' I said. 'O! God,' said he, 'these fellows haven't been here more than six months; and he had some others that he said were good; I told him he had better look out for himself, or he would get into the penitentiary; he said, 'I don't give these to them; I leave them where they can get them, and they don't know where they come from.'"

Such is but a partial insight-into the means used in bringing the Buchanan-Breckinridge administration into power. What other expedients were used in Pennsylvania, or in other States where corruption and fraud and bribery have been reduced to a perfect system, we shall probably never be informed. If these developments shall prove sufficient to arouse the great popular masses to a just sense of the enormity of such means, we shall be content. The legitimate use of money in the preparation of facts and the distribution of correct information among the people, coupled with arguments on the true policy of conducting public affairs, and fair discussions of those principles and measures about which the American people may differ, cannot be deemed reprehensible. By this means the popular mind is educated and elevated, the public virtue cherished and the patriotic instincts of the citizen strengthened. But when the system of electioneering, as exhibited by the foregoing facts, is directed in the channels of fraud; when the Federal office-holders are detailed from the public service for the purpose of interfering with the elections of the people; when the candidate for the Chief Magistracy of this great Republic shall come down to personal intercessions in behalf of those agents who operate for his own elevation for "leave of absence" from their official duties, for that purpose; when fraud is not only countenanced but practiced upon persons who know next to nothing of our institutions; and when all these things are carefully rewarded by the highest functionaries in the land, we submit if it is not time for the PEOPLE to awake to the consequences that must, sooner or later, inevitably ensue! An administration established by such means will almost certainly be compelled to sustain itself by similar means. This necessity supervened upon the success of Buchanan, and we hardly think we use a too harsh or strained expression when we say that his inauguration opened, in the administration of the government,

THE CARNIVAL OF CORRUPTION AND PROFLIGACY.

We have no example in our history that we can place by the side of the present administration and call it like. We may contrast with it almost any one of its predecessors, and justly say, Satyr to Hyperion. While we believe there are many office-holders under commission from Mr. Buchanan, who are honest and patriotic, yet, as a general proposition, the Federal Administration is but the synonyme of corruption, wide-spread, rank and seething. We have seen by the sworn statements of Democratic witnesses above, with what diligent care the President distributed the rewards of his favor to the corrupt agents of his elevation. We have seen how Baker, the railroad superintendent, whose subordinate was engaged in distributing fraudulent and forged naturalization papers by trick and artifice, was promptly placed at the head of the custom house in Philadelphia; how that subordinate, who not only distributed those papers, but committed a fraud upon one of his party leaders, by using the frank of Senator Bigler in sending them, was put into a comfortable office; how Schell, the purveyor of the New York Hotel fund, was placed over the Custom House at New York, through whose hands a large proportion of the current revenues of the government flows; how the Federal office-holders of the preceding administration were assessed a certain per cent. on their salaries; and how Swift and Wendell reveled in printer's ink and live-oak cotrae a. Of course, to sustain these bleeders of the Federal Treasury, the Federal expenditures were necessarily increased, and they ran up accordingly to the most extravagant figures. As an apt illustration of this fact we quote from a speech made in Congress by a Democratic member from Virginia, Mr. M. R. H. Garnett, during the session before the last:
"But a few years ago, in 1851-'52, the expenditures, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt and awards under the then recent treaty with Mexico, were \$36,022,699; and in 1852-'53, the expenditures, exclusive of the same payments on account of the public debt, were \$48,544,262. Last year, in 1857-'58, they were \$71,492,898; and the estimates asked for the next fiscal year, exclusive of the payment of public debt, amount to \$71,254,633.

"Now, I beg the committee to remember that this country is as large at this moment as it was in 1851-'52, with the exception of the Gadsden purchase. I beg the committee to remember that, if the country now extends from ocean to ocean, if it stretches from Puget Sound to Key West and the Tortugas, if it now spreads from the Aroostook to San Diego, I beg them to remember that so it did in 1851-'52. If you have to protect and defend and maintain your Government throughout the whole of this vast region which we now occupy, we held the same region and had the same duties and functions to fulfill six years ago.

"Can any gentleman pretend that it is fair, that it is just, that it is legitimate, that the expenses of this Government, in time of profound peace, should have doubled in six years? Look through the list of items, and you will find that the expenditures have almost doubled in every item. Is not there some place to apply the knife? Can the gentleman from Philadelphia justify such conduct, even to the iron market of his own State?
"He says that the expenditures do not admit of much reduction. Is this probable, in view of the fact that they have doubled in six years? Let us look through the list, and even with my brief experience here, with what I admit to be very insufficient knowledge, I think I can point out some important retrenchments, more than enough to meet the estimated deficiency.
"First, there are the legislative expenditures. In six years they have grown from \$1,248,018 to \$3,583,524. Does the gentleman from Pennsylvania think that nothing can be lopped off there? Why continue our vast printing expenses? Why should the Government enter into the book publishing business, unless it be to maintain party presses here, and to furnish yourselves with documents and books for electioneering? Now look at the salaries of the surveyors of your public lands. They constitute rather a small item, but I wish to illustrate this subject in small items as well as large ones. In 1851-'52, they were \$72,528; last year, they were \$163,717. In the former year, the mint establishments cost \$140,000; now they cost \$643,487. Why is that? Is it because you have more gold and silver to coin? Not at all. It is because, under the old system growing up in this country, when you spend money in one district, you are called on to expend a like sum in another.
"Patronage and expenditure begot demands of more city patronage and more expenditures, until the whole country is dotted with public establishments, not for the benefit of public service, but for the advantage of the tax consumers in each locality.
"The collection of the revenue cost \$2,085,654 in 1852, and \$2,095,434 last year. The Secretary of the Treasury—and I will have something to say presently in answer to the gentleman from Pennsylvania in defence of that officer—has reported a bill to reduce those expenditures— * * * * * Your light house establishment has, in six years, increased in expense from \$507,466 to \$1,162,857. Why? Not in consequence of necessary lights. On many of the northern coasts the lights are so numerous that they are a source of danger to the navigators. Instead of guiding them through the shoals and rocks, they misled them to their destruction. I fear it was not the lights, but the patronage that was needed.
"The deficit in the marine hospital fund has nearly doubled since 1852, and I might show the same of almost every other head of expenditure.
"The navy yards are kept up for the benefit of the people employed, and the money spent. And so we have them dotted in every direction. I believe the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Seward] has one in embryo in the State of Georgia, even now.
"I come next to the items for increase and repairs. Remember that this does not include the building of the afloats ordered last session. There is a distinct estimate for them. This is for the ordinary repairs. It amounts to \$5,100,000. Five years ago it was only \$2,300,000; six years since only \$2,200,000.
"Take the next item, for barracks, \$770,000. There again the pruning knife can be employed. Those barracks are built, and expensively built, at points where they are only to be used for a year or two. We are continually changing our frontier forts, and instead of putting up houses like those of the settlers around them, we put up expensive gothic cottages for the officers, and durable barracks for the soldiers.
"Then take the quartermasters department. The estimates are larger than the expenditures of last year; yet now we have no Mormon war. I acknowledge the difficulty of reducing items like this; I know that it is, to some extent, striking in the dark. The Quartermaster General tells you, the Secretary of War tells you, the Committee of Ways and Means tell you, that they cannot control these expenditures; then I say that the only way to control them is the same way you would control any other extravagant person; that is, by stating them in money."
From the foregoing the people may learn that the public expenditures have vastly increased, and something of the objects to which it is applied, and of the system which they are supporting. But it is not all. If they are surprised at this they will be incensed at what is to follow.

A Cheat Story.

The following is from the San Francisco Alta California:

Several weeks ago a married lady residing in the Sandwich Islands, who had come to this city for her health, and was boarding at a house on California-street, awoke in the night and plainly saw a phantom of her husband, and in that supposition, called to her son, a boy of about twelve years of age, saying, "Henry, here's your father." She got up, and advanced towards the figure, and it disappeared. She pitched herself to see whether she was not asleep, but found herself to be fully awake. The vision disturbed her very much; notwithstanding the fact that she had left her husband in good health at Honolulu, a few weeks before, she feared greatly that the vision indicated his death. When she went down to breakfast in the morning, a gentleman boarding in the same house noticed the marks of weeping, and endeavored to get her into a good humor. She told him the cause of her uneasiness, and attempted to remove the unhappy impression from her mind, but failed. She insisted that her husband must be dead, and that she must return to Honolulu by the first boat, and so she did. A few days after her departure a vessel arrived from Honolulu with news that her husband had died. His death, however, did not take place on the day when she saw the vision, but a week before.