

# North Carolina Argus.

State Library

NEW SERIES - NO. 1

WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1861.

WHOLE NO. 123.

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BY  
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I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE BEST STOCK of Watches and Jewelry that ever was offered for sale in Wadesboro'. I have the real JAS. JOHNSON WATCHES in fine GOLD AND SILVER CASES. These Watches will keep time and give satisfaction. I will guarantee that fact. And if you want Spectacles, I can suit every eye. And if you want to write, I have Gold Pens and Silver Cases. And if you need Gold Watch Chains, come along. I have Gold Cuffs and Bosom Buttons, and Finger Rings. I have many articles too numerous to mention. This is no humbug. I will sell you fine Gold Jewelry, and make the price suit the times, and take notice. I do all kinds of repairing in the neatest and the most durable style at the shortest notice. All orders sent by mail or otherwise, will be promptly attended to, and cash always on delivery of work. 104-ly

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**MONUMENT TO DR. MITCHELL.**  
THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING, DURING THE past summer, heard many express a wish that a monument should be placed over the grave of Rev. Dr. Mitchell, upon the High Peak of the Black Mountain, and regret that it had not already been done, has determined to give his personal attention to the matter, and trusts that, by the aid of the thousands of pupils and friends of that venerable man, he may be enabled to erect it.  
The undersigned proposes to erect a plain, substantial structure, with the rock found on the spot, and to build it in such a manner that it may also be used as an observatory. He pledges himself to all contributors that no pains shall be spared upon his part to have the structure firm, and a fit monument to one whose moral, intellectual and physical character, was so fit a simile to the granite on which his body rests. The undersigned will give his personal attention to the work, and trusts that his knowledge of the country and its people, will enable him to have it constructed as cheaply as is possible to have it done by any one else.  
Means will be taken to preserve the names of those who contribute. The undersigned is determined that the monument shall be erected if any amount near sufficient is obtained.  
Kemp F. Battle, Esq., of Raleigh, will receive contributions, and Messrs. Litchford and Finch, reporters in the House and Senate of the Legislature will receive any contributions from members of those bodies. Letters addressed to me containing contributions will be promptly acknowledged.  
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Our Wharf and Warehouses being conveniently located for the reception of produce either by Railroad or River, enables us to make our charges light. Also, regular dealers in  
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November 18, 1860-97-ly

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Attorney at Law and Solicitor in Equity,  
EL DORADA, ARK. 1y

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FRESH GROUND MEAL, HOMINY, &c., &c.  
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NETS, FURS, MILITARY GOODS, CANES  
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We ask the attention of wholesale buyers to the above card. We are prepared to furnish goods in our line as low as ANY HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY.  
Orders for Hats by the case or dozen will receive prompt attention by addressing as above. 79-ly

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SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME,  
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**ATTORNEYS AT LAW.**  
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They will attend to the collection of all claims entrusted to them in Anson and the surrounding counties.  
T. S. Ashe attends the Courts of Richmond, Montgomery, Stanly, Cabarrus, Union and Anson.  
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BALTIMORE.  
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## NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

### THE CONVENTION.

**Fellow-citizens:**  
We deem it a duty we owe to you, as well as to ourselves, to address you in relation to the act which has just passed the General Assembly. It is an act calling upon you to elect delegates, and to express your sentiments as to the propriety of calling a Convention of the State, to consider the critical condition of our common country, in this the most alarming period of its entire history. There never was a time in its whole history, more pregnant with danger, and which so imperatively demands of every true patriot his most earnest and solemn deliberation.  
Our good old ship of State, has weathered many a terrible storm, when the breakers were roaring on one side, threatening to dash it in fragments, and the whirlpool has been yawning on the other side, ready to engulf it. But we had then a skillful Palæurus at the helm, and a stout, experienced and faithful crew, who could command the vessel and steer safely through the perils which environed it. But now there is a mutiny on board—some of the crew have seized the life-boats and launched into the perilous deep, there to encounter greater dangers than if they had remained, and, by desertion, have rendered more hazardous the safety of the ship and crew who remained. Egyptian darkness shrouds the heavens from our view—the tempest rages in its wildest fury—the good ship seems almost beyond human control, and brave men shrink back, appalled at the terrors which surround them. But still we hear the cheering voice of the noble helmsman, John J. Crittenden, and his noble accomplices, in sublime confidence, animating all around to renewed exertions, with these spirit-stirring words—“All is not lost—there is still hope. Don't give up the ship.” And, already, light begins to break in the distance—the storm has spent its greatest fury, and there never were brighter hopes of safety since it began to lower than now animate the hearts of our wisest and most experienced political navigators.  
Fellow-citizens, we need not explain the allegory. The whole country is looking with painful anxiety and apprehension to every citizen to do his whole duty in this most perilous crisis. The heart of every struggling patriot in this country, and in Europe, is alternately throbbing with fearful apprehension and hopeful anxiety for our preservation. The fame and glory of our ancestors, the happiness of ourselves and our children, and the hopes of posterity, urge us to manly action, and their future destiny hangs upon our efforts. The last fiery ordeal is now being applied, to test the capacity of man for self-government. Our patriotic fathers, and some of you, have passed safely through similar trials. Shall we now prove recreant? What will history record of us—what will posterity say of us—if we suffer this great temple of liberty to be destroyed, which our fathers erected with so much care and through so much blood and treasure? It is not a difficult thing to pull down. It is easy to destroy. The torch of the incendiary, or the rash act of folly, can, in one short hour, prostrate the most magnificent building which the art of man, after long years of labor, and millions of treasure, could construct. We may, by our negligence, suffer ourselves to be turned out, houseless and homeless, to the peltings of the pitiless storm, and like the Jews of old, should we undertake to rebuild, we might have to carry on the work with our arms in our hands, to guard us from assailing foes; and after long years of toil and expense, we may never finish the building; or even if finished, we may, at last, weep bitter tears to know, how far the “glory of the former temple” of our liberty “exceeded the glory of the latter.”  
The demon of Disunion, who is now urging us on to our ruin in the garb of an angel of light, in the form of a Southern Confederacy, may ere long remove the covering which conceals his hideous and bloody features, and like the Veiled Prophet of Khorassan, if we are deluded by his fair promises, may taunt us with bitter irony.  
“Here, ye wise sages, behold your light, your star, Ye would be dupes and victims, and ye are.”  
The times require the utmost caution, firmness, and devoted patriotism. We are urged to make a cowardly surrender of all our rights, by yielding them to our enemies. But we should never yield them, until the very last reasonable hope of an amicable and satisfactory adjustment has vanished. By a prudent course, we think we can secure all we desire. We confidently believe, that there is not only a reasonable, but quite probable prospect, that our Union can be preserved, upon grounds satisfactory and honorable to all parties, who wish to preserve it. There is much evidence, in the presses, the pulpits, the leading men, and among the honest masses of the North, of a returning sense of justice. They evince a willingness to give us sufficient guarantees for the protection of our rights in the States, and in all the Territories where our interests are ever likely to be concerned, and common sense and common humanity would dictate to every reasonable mind that they should have sufficient time and a fair opportunity to act in the matter.  
The honest masses are rapidly overcoming their prejudices, and reversing their erroneous opinions, upon more mature reflection, as to the nature and extent of our grievances. In fact, the great and controlling masses, who have been heretofore chiefly indifferent about these things at the North, seeing the evils that have arisen from the conduct of the fanatical minority, have become seriously alarmed, and have aroused themselves to determined action, and are now putting down those who have misled, or misrepresented the public sentiment. They should have a fair chance

to redeem themselves, and, if an opportunity is given them and they do not redeem themselves, thoroughly, and to our entire satisfaction, then, but not till then, will we be willing to join in the petition for a divorce that shall sunder forever the bonds that make us one people.  
Let them have an opportunity of knowing what are our complaints, and time to call State Conventions, as we are now doing, and we firmly believe we will be agreeably surprised at the favorable results which will follow.

There is a beautiful allegory, told by an Eastern sage, who described a young man, who was, as he supposed, lost and surrounded with dangers, and who was greatly alarmed, by discovering, through the mists and fogs, approaching towards him, what seemed to be a hideous monster. As it advanced still nearer, and he could see more plainly, his fears greatly abated to find that it was only a man, though he could not tell whether it was a friend or an enemy. But when it came still closer, and quite up to him, he was greatly delighted to know that it was his own brother seeking for him, and that he was near his home and friends. The moral is easily comprehended, and may illustrate our present condition. Our fears and prejudices, and want of a more thorough acquaintance with each other, frequently magnify into monsters and enemies those who, upon a better acquaintance and more intimate association, would be found to be our best friends, and our very brothers.

Our first duty, then, is to see in what things we differ, and what our quarrel is about, and then to apply the proper remedy. This, we presume, is the main purpose of the Legislature in voting for the act calling a Convention of the people. Many public meetings have been called throughout the State, (whether reflecting the public sentiment or not, we cannot tell,) which have generally demanded a Convention. The present bill leaves the whole matter to the people to decide for themselves, whether or not they want a Convention? You have two chances by the present bill—first, to say whether you want a Convention or not, and secondly, if the Convention assemble, whether you will ratify or reject their acts.

We prefer the present bill to an open Convention, because it might have misled the popular vote by mixing State issues with Federal issues, and thus have permitted the Disunionists, or immediate Separate State Secessionists, to have been elected against the wishes of the people. But this bill particularly specifies that the whole action of the Convention shall be submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection.

The present act requires at least thirty days after the rise of the Convention for the people to inform themselves and to consider of the action, before they can be called upon to ratify or reject what shall be done by their delegates.  
As to what the Convention can or will do, when they assemble, that is altogether problematical. We cannot conceive what a Convention can constitutionally do in relation to Federal matters, which the Legislature was not enabled to do more in accordance with the Constitution of the United States. The Convention has not as much power to initiate measures to change the Constitution of the United States, or to destroy it. By Art. 5th of the United States Constitution, “Two-thirds of both Houses of Congress may propose amendments to the Constitution,” or “Congress shall call a National Convention, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, for proposing amendments;” which amendments, if made by the National Convention, may be “ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof;” and may thus be made a part of the United States Constitution. But a State Convention, so far from having any power to alter or amend the United States Constitution, has not the right even to “propose” any amendments. All that they can constitutionally do, is to “ratify” amendments that have been proposed in one or the other ways appointed, viz: “by two-thirds of Congress,” or “three-fourths of the State Legislatures.”

The people seem to agree that something ought to be done in relation to our Federal affairs; but, as we humbly conceive, they are mistaken in supposing that a State Convention can, lawfully, apply any remedy for existing evils by altering the Constitution of the United States.  
What then, we again inquire, can the Convention do, if it assemble? It may be, that, coming fresh from the people, and constituting the very best wisdom and patriotism of the State, with instructions on this particular subject of our National grievances against the General Government, or offending State Governments, they may be able to state more definitely the causes of our complaint, and devise some means for their redress; or, being more free from political and partisan bias, they may more correctly and authoritatively than the Legislature, make such demands for a change, or new construction of the Constitution of the United States, as may cause Congress, or the State Legislatures through Congress, to have all the proper amendments made, as required in Art. 5th of the United States Constitution, or secure such a construction of the United States Constitution as would render any amendment unnecessary.

We do not believe in the heresy, that a State Convention has any constitutional power to secede from the General Government. This is the great reason given by the Disunionists of the Legislature and elsewhere, for calling the Convention. They say “it is for nothing else but to take North Carolina out of the Union;” we totally deny any such right—we deny it, both from the declaration of the instrument itself, and from the mode of its formation and adoption. It was formed by “the people” of the United States, and must be abolished or altered by the same power, either in the manner it proposes, or outside of it. The general Convention of the United States, which framed the Constitution, “recommended” to the “citizens of the United States” the Constitution as a “form of government,” and “the people of the United States,” through their State Conventions, proceeded, according to that “recommendation,” to “ordain and establish this Constitution” as a “form of Government” for the United States of America.” And the instrument itself declares, “that this Constitution,” and the laws made in pursuance thereof, shall be the “supreme law of the land;” and that “the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary, notwithstanding.” And every officer, “executive, legislative and judicial, State or National, shall be bound by oath to support this Constitution.” So that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and binds every body. It was made by “the people,” and, as Chief Justice Marshall said, in the case of *Cohen vs. Virginia*, “the people made and can unmake the Constitution, but it must be the whole body of the people and not a subdivision of them, because for less than the whole body to do so, would be usurpation.”  
Mr. Madison, in his letter to Mr. Trist, in 1832, spoke of our Government having a “limited sovereignty in each of the States.” And, in his letter to Mr. Cabal, 1831, he said that “our Constitution could be changed by the parties, but, that one party was not the parties,” and, therefore, could not change it. And he, in the same letter, denounced “nullification and secession as springing from the same poisonous root,” and having “no place in the resolutions of 1798 and 1799.” Also, in his letter to Mr. Everett, in 1830, he said, “that the Constitution was not formed by governments of the component States, nor by a majority of the people of the United States, as one community, but by the States, viz: by the people of each of the States, in their highest sovereign capacity, and by the same authority as that which formed the State Constitutions. That it has the same authority in each State as the State Constitution, and cannot be altered or amended at the will of the States, individually, as the Constitution of a State can;” that the “United States own some of the highest attributes of sovereignty, and divide them with the States; that it has the sovereign power to make war and peace, treaties, regulate commerce, collect revenue, and is just as much a government within its sphere as a State is within its sphere.” So, in his letter to Mr. Alex. Hamilton, at the adoption of the Constitution, he declared that it must be adopted “without any condition,” and “in toto and forever.” We might cite numerous other authorities on this subject, but deem these sufficient. Those who wish any further can find them in President Jackson's Message of 1833, and President Buchanan's last Annual Message. And, also, General Black's opinion about that time, with other such authority. We will not argue the question further as to the right of secession, and merely alluded to some of the reasons against it, to show why we think a State Convention has no constitutional right to secede.  
Secession, then, is a remedy outside of the Constitution, and is, therefore, nothing more or less than revolution. The question then, is, whether we have, now, a sufficient cause for revolution! In our opinion, the remedy of revolution can only be justified, as the last hopeless resort for intolerable oppression, and should not be applied, until after all reasonable and lawful means have been fairly tried and exhausted. We do not admit, that our grievances are intolerable; but even assuming that they were, we do not believe, that peaceable and constitutional remedies have yet been exhausted, or even properly and fairly tried. We have not agreed among ourselves as to what our grievances are. If they are so great that they cannot be borne, surely they can be plainly stated. In our opinion, we should apply, as by Art. 5th of the Constitution, by Congress, or by the Legislature, or even outside of that, by State Conventions, or by a Southern Convention, to Congress, or to the offending States, or to all the States, for such an amendment of the Constitution, or such a construction of it, as will give us a redress of our specific grievances. Then, if they were not redressed, after trying Congress and the States, we might justly revolutionize. If the North should persist in violating our rights, and would not act, after being respectfully called upon to do so, then we might, very properly, take the matter into our own hands, and brave all the horrors of civil war, and a shattered government, rather than submit to grievous wrongs that ought to be redressed. We would, in that case, have, as our forefathers had, our own self approving conscience, the approbation of heaven, and the sympathies of the civilized world in our behalf. But, to destroy a government which affords innumerable benefits, which we have sworn to “support, maintain and defend,” in a rash and petulant spirit, like a spoiled child, without one honest effort to seek redress in the proper manner, is both wicked and absurd, and exhibits, not only a gross want of fidelity to our constitutional obligations, but also, a want of good practical common sense. By such a course we not only hazard the consequences of a bloody civil war, but we also lose all the benefits of a general and powerful government—lose all the constitutional guarantees for slavery in the States and Territories—lose all the Territories, as well as the right to carry slaves there, which we now claim, and for which, we are chiefly for breaking up

the government—lose all the army, navy, and other public property, with the numberless benefits of an established government. And in place of all these, we would have to build up a navy to protect our commerce, support a large standing army on the European war footing—keep a military police along our whole frontier, to prevent our slaves from running off, or being stolen—open a wide field for infernal border wars arising between neighboring nations, separated by no natural divisions, but only by an invisible boundary—incur the costs of a separate government, or perhaps of several governments, the form and character of which is only conjectural. We would have to keep up all the officers of government at home, and of foreign ministers abroad—reduce ourselves from a first rate power, commanding the respect of the whole civilized world, to a second, or third rate power, or, perhaps, to a petty sovereignty, about equal to that of Mexico, or the South American Republics. We might thus struggle on in a government, unstable, and without power, weak and unsettled, not respected at home or abroad, and not able to protect its own citizens, until, crushed down with oppressive taxation, with life, liberty, and property insecure, we would, finally, seek relief from such evils, as the great and good Washington told us, in his Farewell Address, we would, under the protection of a military despotism: “These are some, but they are by no means all the evils that might follow in the train of secession. There are many others connected with it, as interruptions of commerce, travel, and intercourse by mail, &c., which would be very vexatious and harassing. But we will stop.

Fellow-citizens, in conclusion, you will pardon us for reminding you how very important it is, that, in selecting your delegates, you should be sure of your men. Beware of hypocritical professions of great love for the Union by those who are ready to destroy it immediately and forever. “Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.” Be not deceived. The times demand the utmost caution and watchfulness. The times call for cool heads, patriotic hearts and great souls. You should scan, closely, the antecedents of those who ask for your suffrages; see whether they are men of firmness, integrity, and fidelity. Let us implore you to recall the advice of the Father of his Country—“To look with suspicion,” upon those who advise its destruction, and to guard it with “jealous anxiety,” and to “indignantly frown upon any attempt” to “unfeebly the ties which link together the various parts.” Consider the last request of the pure Madison, also, “that the avowed disunionist” is “like Pandora with her box of evils, all open before you,” and “the secret enemy, like satan in the garden of Eden, tempting you to ruin.” Remember the patriotic sentiment of the heroic Jackson—“The Federal Union, it must be preserved.” We would also advise you to be on your guard against interested partisans from abroad—against sensation dispatches, and alarming reports, which will be sure to be circulated upon the eve of the election, to influence your votes. Let each man make up his mind at home, in the bosom of his family; and then follow the dictates of his own good sense and patriotism, and we are willing to abide the result of his vote.

**A Dream of America—Present and Future.**  
We take the following from the *Memphis Advocate*, the author, Samuel D. Baldwin, writing to the editor of that paper, says: “Pardon me fully, but the times are so ominous, that the verses I send you may not be uninteresting. In practical matters, I believe I am esteemed at least national. You know I published *Armageddon*, or *United States in Prophecy*, as well as the *Seventh Trumpet and Dominion*, and am preparing the *Millennial Empire*. Perhaps you know that not a day of my life, for thirty years, has passed without attention to the political prophecies of Scripture. Engaged in these studies, many years ago, I had a most remarkable dream—a most remarkable one—and which has thus far been fully verified; it decided me to write and publish all my works. It related in part to America—a portion of it I give in verso.

**THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.**  
I saw our Eagle's pinions wide, pause in the murky air;  
The plumes of his spreading tail divide; the head in weary despair.  
One half those plumes were white, like snow; the Eagle white as light;  
One half were wild with a mingled glow, or were partly black and white.  
Fierce contest raged; it thundered loud; the head in circles swirled;  
The air was dark as a stormy cloud; but the Union was preserved.  
For the touch of an angel broke the spell; the Eagle swiftly flew—  
The tangled plumes to their places fell—to a level full and true.  
I marked one feather black remain, and three with some alloy;  
But all grew white as they flew again, forgetting the past in joy.  
Then swifter, brighter, widening far, I saw the Eagle fly;  
Each plume gave light, like the morning star, and glory filled the sky.  
It passed a gloomy mountain's foot; I saw its wings no more;  
Till bright as the blaze of Eternal noon, they spread on every shore.  
Thus far events have verified this strange vision. May we not hope for its full realization.

One of the most noticeable results of the recent election in Virginia was the entire disregard of party ties as shown by the people of the State. They utterly refused to apply the test of party to a question that belonged to the preservation of the Union and its institutions. The Lynchburg Virginian says:  
“Halifax is the largest slaveholding county in the State, has always been Democratic, and gave Breckinridge over Bell a majority of 749 votes, and yet it has elected sound conservative men—Hon. Thos. S. Flournoy and James C. Bruce, Esq., old Whigs—to the Convention.”