

MESSAGE
OF
HIS EXCELLANCY Z. B. VANCE,
TO THE
General Assembly of North Carolina.

[CONTINUED]
You will perceive the great difficulty of rendering a simplified statement of the account, owing to a part being a specie and part a Confederate currency transaction. This, with the constant fluctuations in the value of money and exchange has rendered such a statement almost impossible. It is believed, however, that the accompanying statement of Maj. John Devereaux, marked A, presents as fair and simple an exposition as can be given. By this it will be seen that including ships, cotton and exchange, we have a balance in our favor in specie of \$129,957.30, and on the currency account a balance of \$1,852,507.50.

The following amounts have been expended for the benefit of the State, far part of which special appropriations would have otherwise been made, and which this department has the right to account for as profits, viz:

Clothing issued to State troops,	\$550,000 00
Paid into the Treasury,	392,102 92
Ordnance and Ordnance stores,	488,870 45
Clothing issued, Surgeon General's Department,	35,000 00
State Bonds, (sale of Advance),	460,000 00
Medicines furnished Surgeon General,	170,993 00
Supplies furnished Deaf and Dumb Asylum,	20,550 00
Stationery furnished Secretary of State,	28,681 20
Total	\$2,146,197 57

There is also in the hands of and due to Major Dowd of the Clothing Department, the sum of \$2,672,990 00, which if so ordered can be made available to the Treasury for the current fiscal year. My intention was to buy cotton, tobacco, &c., for exportation, so as to make the ships cargo inward by the cargo outward without any connection with the Treasury, but perhaps it would be better to divert it to this purpose to aid in avoiding an increase of the public debt, and depend upon the proceeds of the supplies on hand to furnish the means for exportation. This sum added to the above will when paid into the Treasury extinguish the original appropriation of \$2,221,000 leaving a balance of \$2,495,187, which with the articles on hand estimated at prices paid by Confederate Quartermaster General, which are far below the market price, will I conceive constitute the net profits realized.

It is proper to add that I have reason for believing the estimate for furs abroad to be far below the truth, and that there are large quantities of shoes, cards, cloth and blankets, iron, bacon, &c., bought and paid for yet abroad which do not come into this calculation. Under authority conferred by the last Legislature, I have re-appointed our former agent, Mr. John White, who has gone to Europe with instructions to wind up our business there and forward as soon as possible such statements as will enable us to make a final settlement with the public auditor. Until this is done we cannot show positively how the accounts stand, and these statements are furnished merely for your information.

For a statement of the condition of our finances and the indebtedness of the State, I refer you to the report of Mr. Worth, our very efficient Public Treasurer. Being well adapted by talents and experience to the conduct of financial affairs, I am generally content to abide by all his suggestions in that regard. I am sorry, however, that I cannot yield the same assent to his advice as to military affairs, and the method of conducting the war.

I can see great propriety in the retention by the State of a small military force in time of war, and very little in transferring absolutely all her physical power to other hands. The time has already come when, to say the least of it, the assertion of a right as pertaining to a sovereign State is worth much more if backed by some show of physical power to enforce it. Neither can I regard it as in any wise anomalous that the State should employ her militia in trying to arrest the numerous bands of deserters who infest the country, robbing, and murdering the citizens and in some instances compelling a strong force to be under arms to protect the sittings of the courts. The anomaly, if any there be in the case, might certainly be found in the Government permitting these outbreaks to set the civil authorities at defiance, pillage and murder at will, until loyal citizens flee for life, and not undertaking to prevent it, because such prevention would increase the State taxes! As a matter of course it is expected that the Confederate Government will ultimately assume all military outlays necessarily incurred by the States for that defence of themselves which it is unable to render. But even if it should not I submit we must be protected nevertheless; and the objection that in protecting ourselves we are also assisting to execute a law of Congress, will hardly hold good. Doubtless it would be a good thing if a people could carry on a war and preserve internal quiet without any expenditure of money at all. I say *doubtless*, because to my knowledge it has never been tried. But having before our eyes the very strongest evidence of the constant necessity of these troops, I can see no way but to incur the debt and do our utmost to protect the country and execute the laws.

Doubtless an arrangement might be made with the Confederate Government to assume the payment of the State forges now, especially of our regulars and the Home Guard, on duty at the front, as both are under Confederate officers and doing the service of Confederate troops.

I, however, concur in the Treasurer's recommendation that the taxes will have to be considerably increased for the next fiscal year. In addition to the slight increase in the military appropriations and some small sums hereafter mentioned for the securing of a proper supply of salt, I hope it will be necessary to enlarge the existing appropriations only in regard to the families of our indigent soldiers. It is admitted to be our imperative duty to provide for these persons, and the system now pursued by the counties in providing each for its own soldiers' families, I conceive to be unjust to themselves. A poor county, possessing few slaves, but a large white population, would be taxed with the support of three or four times the number of persons that a wealthy county, with a small white population, and double the ability to pay, would have to care for. I regard the support of these families as such a public tax as that of the soldier himself, and that the true principle is to levy it upon the State at large. It is sufficient, that in times like these, the counties have to support their own poor, not the families of soldiers. I therefore recommend an appropriation of two millions in currency, and the imposition of a tax in kind, say one twentieth bushel of corn, wheat and peas, gallon of syrup, &c., so arranged and systematized as you may deem best.

From a careful observation of the difficulties experienced by the county supply commissioners last year, and owing to the impressment and title laws of Congress, now rendered still greater by the bonding of a large portion of our farmers to sell all their surplus to the Confederate Government, I am convinced that this is the surest and best way to provide for the poor. Surely no humane and patriotic citizen can object to this plan. If it should meet your approbation, the sooner it is adopted the better, as the season is already far advanced. I deem it unnecessary to elaborate this suggestion, as you will doubtless be able to mature the plan of operating better than I can myself.

I desire to call your attention to the condition of the Militia and the Guard for Home Defence which requires some additional legislation. Both of these organizations were put on foot when the territory allotted to the different regiments and battalions contained men sufficient to fill them to the numbers required by law. Both have been stripped by conscription until scarcely anything remains of either regiment or battalion, but officers. When I now call out the Home Guard for State defence, I have to put many companies together in order to get one of convenient size, and the supernumerary officers constituting a large per cent of the whole force, are sent home, as they cannot be made to serve in the ranks. This causes the greatest inconvenience and injustice. The only remedy is reorganization and consolidation. I therefore recommend the abolition of the Home Guard organization as being out too many, and the passage of a law authorizing the combination of the skeleton companies of the Militia into new regiments, having the numbers necessary to take the field at once, and so that all may be compelled to do duty alike. I deem it unnecessary further to give the details of the proposed plan, as the Adjutant General will present them fully to your military committee in a form which has my approval.

I also recommend the extension of the age to the age to which men are required to serve in the militia to fifty-five years. Though there are not a great many men at that age capable of active field service there are yet many who could perform most material service in arresting deserters and repressing disorders at home, whose accession would greatly strengthen this important arm of the State.

The records of the country will bear me witness, gentlemen, that I have never sought to have extraordinary powers of any kind conferred upon me, being content to abide by our ancient customs even when unusual circumstances have rendered them obsolete. But I am firmly convinced by actual experience, that it is impossible to enforce discipline and obedience to orders in a militia organization throughout the State without summary powers in the Commander-in-Chief to drop the offender from the rolls for certain specified offences. With great hesitation, therefore, and moved by a sincere conviction of duty, I recommend the conferring of this power on the Executive to continue only during the war, and so restricted as you may deem necessary to guard against its improper exercise.

In this connection I will ask your consideration of a copy of the resolutions adopted by a meeting of the Governors of the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, held in Augusta, Ga., on the 17th ult., and request you to regard them as a part of this message. This meeting was invited by me, in the earnest hope that something might be agreed upon to aid in enforcing our armies and rendering uniform the action of the State in many important particulars, especially with regard to the exemption from conscription of State officers. After some days of free and harmonious interchange of opinions, the result was the resolutions referred to. That one referring to State forces doing duty beyond their own borders, had allusion only to special and extraordinary emergencies, when as often happens the proper defensive point may be beyond the State line and not within it.

Contrary to the impression sought to be made by some, the resolution relating to the impressment or conscription of slaves was by no means intended to include the arming of them, much less their final emancipation, which I take it would follow as a natural consequence. I supposed that as properly their temporary services were within reach of the government like all other property, to be employed as pioneers, erecting fortifications, cooks, teamsters, hospital servants, laborers in the several departments, and whenever, in short, the negro could take the place of an able-bodied white man who could carry a musket. Under no circumstances would I consent to see them armed, which I would regard as not only dangerous in the extreme, but as less degrading, only than their employment in this capacity by our enemies. The proposition to emancipate them by the Confederate Government (which in conscience should be done if they fought in our armies,) I regard as entirely out of the question. I imagine that such an idea as abolishing slavery by the General Government, advocated five years ago, would have made people stare, and cause some little excitement. This course would, it seems to me, surrender the entire question which has ever separated the North from the South; would stultify ourselves in the eyes of the world, and render our whole revolution nugatory—a mere objectless waste of humane life. I need not allude at all to the constitutional question involved, which I presume must be understood by this time. Our independence, I imagine, is chiefly desirable for the preservation of our political institutions, the principal of which is slavery; and it is only to be won by the blood of white freemen. The slave, however, should certainly be made to do his part as a non-combatant.

[To be continued.]

WELL DONE.—We are informed that Mrs. Mary Belk and her two daughters, living on Beaver Dam Creek in Union county, made five hundred and forty bushels of corn, besides wheat, peas, oats, potatoes, &c. Mrs. Belk is a widow and lost her two sons in the war. She is aged 60 years and her daughters about twenty and twenty-four years. Their crop show what may be done by industry and energy. All honor to these noble women.—*Char. Democrat.*

SALE OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS.—The \$50,000 N. C. coupon bonds advertised for sale, at Creech & Lithford's, by H. P. Battle, President of the Chatham Railroad, brought on Saturday last the following prices \$10,000 at 305 and interest. \$40,000 at 200 and interest.—*Ral. Conservative.*

SUPREME COURT.—The winter term will commence on the second Monday in December, the 12th. Causes will be called by circuits, as heretofore arranged, but no weeks given.—*Conservative.*

Brigadier General John H. Winder, in command of the prison post in Georgia, has been constituted Commissary General of prisoners of war, a new office in the Confederacy, and similar in duties to the office of the Federal Commissary General of prisoners.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Nov. 26.—Both Houses adjourned early to allow the committees to prepare the business of the session. In the House, a resolution was introduced, calling on the Governor to suppress the Cr. S. Distillery at Salisbury, N. C. The bill to repeal all State exemptions was adversely reported on and report concurred in. The bill to authorize an assistant county relief commissioner passed, and a resolution to permit Perrin Bushe to purchase clothing from the Quartermaster's Department was lost, yeas 43.

Nov. 28.—E. D. Hall, Esq., elected to fill the vacancy in the Senate for the county of New Hanover, was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. Pool's resolutions on the subject of peace were referred to a joint select committee, consisting of Messrs. Pool and Ellis on the part of the Senate, and Messrs. Caldwell, Brown of Mecklenburg, and Cowles on the part of the House. Several bills and resolutions were introduced, and several were read a second or third time. Mr. Warren introduced a resolution relative to the power of the Legislature to authorize the Governor to employ the militia beyond the limits of the State. A joint select committee was appointed on the subject of the public printing. The two Houses were in session but a short time, the committees not yet having had time to prepare work for the action of their respective bodies.

Nov. 29.—The Senate a bill for the suppression of the small pox was passed.

In the House bills to incorporate the Fayetteville N. C. Iron Works, and Wilson Academy also passed.

A resolution appropriating £50000 for the relief of N. C. prisoners of war was introduced. The bill to repeal all State exemptions was indefinitely postponed, yeas 67, nays 32.

Nov. 30.—In the Senate Mr. Bryson introduced resolutions for electing five commissioners to act in concert with other Commissioners for negotiating a peace, which were referred.

A bill was reported by the committee on public printing to allow the State printer just compensation, to be ascertained by the Auditor, with the aid of a practical printer.

Mr. Horton's resolutions for putting the members of the Assembly into Camp, &c., were rejected on their second reading.

Some discussion arose in the Senate on Mr. Odum's resolutions, protesting against the arming of slaves as soldiers, &c., and the substitute offered for the same by the committee. Mr. Root offered some resolutions as an amendment to the amendment proposed by the committee, and the whole matter was sent to the House proposing its reference to a joint select committee of seven, to which the House did not agree.

Both Houses agreed to go into an election for C. S. Senator to-norrow at 12 o'clock, and Hon. E. G. Leade, Hon. W. T. Dorich and Hon. Thos. S. Ashe were put in nomination.

A joint select committee of three on the part of the Senate and four on the part of the House, to be called the Committee on Confederate Relations was raised. The resolutions and matters pertaining to arming the slaves, &c., were referred to said committee.

Two more attempts were made to elect a Secretary of State, but the triangular contest was not brought to any conclusion. It will be seen that Mr. Williams and Mr. Bain's chances have apparently diminished, while Mr. Richardson's have increased.

In the House the matter of the contested election in Northampton county came up, but was laid on the table. A resolution was introduced to exempt one miller for every public mill. Also a resolution to abolish Provost Guards. Also concerning persons physically incapable of performing duties in the field. Also a resolution to enquire into the expediency of exempting the property of soldiers from taxation. Several bills were introduced, and some read the second and third times.

Dec. 1.—Both Houses were engaged during much of the day in voting for Public Treasurer, Secretary of State, and Confederate States Senator. Mr. Worth was elected Treasurer, but no result was attained in other ballotings.

The first ballot for Senator resulted as follows: Mr. Reade 64 votes, Mr. Dorich 40, Mr. Gilmer 15, Mr. Ashe 14, Mr. Smith 9, Mr. Morehead 8, Mr. Shepherd 7, and Mr. Carter 1. The whole number of votes 157, and 79 necessary to a choice.

In the Senate some routine business was transacted, and an adverse report made on the Governor's recommendation to impose money tax and collect tithes for soldiers' families.

In the House a bill was reported to suppress the C. S. distillery at Salisbury, and bills to relieve North Carolina prisoners of war and incorporate the N. C. Company of Chemists passed.

Dec. 2.—Both Houses were occupied during greater part of the day's session in balloting, unsuccessfully, for Confederate States Senator, and Secretary of State. Two ballots were had for Senator and three for Secretary.

The following is the result of the 2d and 3d ballotings for Senator:

Second ballot—Reade 67, Dorich 24, Gilmer 19, Ashe 16, Outlaw 10, Morehead 8, Shepherd 3, Smith 2, and Clingman 3.

Third ballot—Mr. Reade 66, Mr. Dorich 26, Mr. Gilmer 21, Mr. Ashe 20, Mr. Outlaw 6, Mr. Smith 3, Messrs. Shepherd, Morehead, Hale, and Clingman 2 each.

In the Senate a resolution was passed demanding the abolition of provost guards in North Carolina, and several bills introduced.

In the House a resolution was adopted making the election of Senator the special order for Wednesday, the fifteenth of December, next, at 12 o'clock. A vote of thanks to North Carolina officers and soldiers, and bills to incorporate the Fayetteville Enterprise Cotton Co., and legalize certain advances to the Insane Asylum passed.

The English press indignantly denounces the seizure of the Florida in a neutral port. The Times says the act was most flagrantly lawless and presumes the American Government and its citizens will hasten to repudiate it, and the New York Chamber of Commerce will not scruple or forfeit its character by rewarding or justifying the crime committed. The Morning Post thinks the Federal Government will disavow the act, but has misgivings about it. It thinks the outrage cannot be permitted to pass unnoticed by other powers, and that all maritime powers should enter their protest against it. The Herald believes an event such as this will force the European nations to interfere in American difficulties for their own security.

A correspondent of the New York Tribune writes from Rome, Geo., that owing to the great lack of railroad transportation, Gen. Corse was obliged to destroy nearly a million dollars worth of property on evacuating that place.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

49.] **WADESBORO', N. C.** [1864.]

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1864.

Subscription—\$3.00 a year, in advance. Six months—\$1.50.

ADVERTISING—\$2.50 per square of ten lines for first insertion and \$1.75 for each subsequent insertion. Extra charges over five lines \$2.00 per square.

RAGS! RAGS!
Will our readers save and send to us all the cotton and linen rags and scraps they can get together? Send them if there is only a pound—each pound helps us to make up a lot for the mill. The saving of rags may seem a small matter to some, but to those engaged in newspaper publishing it is of the utmost importance; and if it be too small a matter for some, let them turn the business over to their negroes. We would like to procure from one to two thousand pounds of rags between this and Christmas.

A Fugitive prisoner, who escaped from the guard near Florence, while in transit from Georgia, was arrested in the lower part of this county, on Saturday night by Capt. J. P. Ratcliff, and is now lodged in jail in this place, waiting to be sent to Florence.

The Daily Carolinian, heretofore published at Fayetteville, has been removed to Wilmington. We hope to see the Carolinian as regularly on our table from its new place of publication as when it was published at Fayetteville.

MASONIC.
At the 4th regular communication of Millington Lodge, No. 47, M. & A. M., the following officers were elected for the term next ensuing:

W. M.—S. W. Neff.
S. W.—John Boylston.
J. W.—A. Niven.
S. D.—E. F. Kendall.
J. D.—A. B. Cason.
Tyler—E. Hutchinson.
Stewards—J. P. Ratcliff and C. B. Lindsay.
Secretary—J. C. McLaughlin.
Treasurer—W. P. Kendall.
Chaplain—Rev. J. B. Richardson.

CONGRESSIONAL.
Nov. 28.—The Senate adopted the House joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Forrest and his command for recent victories.

In the House the subject of impressment was referred to a special committee of one from each State. Mr. Foote submitted a resolution affirming that the government of the people of the Confederate States have a deep interest in the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine, but if our recognition by the United States be longer delayed; it might become our true policy to consent to yield the great principle embodied in the Monroe doctrine.

Nov. 29.—The Senate passed the bill declaring four per cent. bonds and certificates receivable in payment of all taxes due and payable for the year 1864. The joint resolutions introduced by Mr. Heary, declaring the determination of Congress and the people of the Confederate States to prosecute the war all our independence is acknowledged, were taken up. Mr. Henry addressed the Senate at length, in support of the resolutions.

In the House, a bill was reported from the Judiciary Committee for the establishment of a Supreme Court.

Nov. 30.—In the Senate, Mr. Orr presented a written report from the Committee on Foreign Affairs relative to the seizure of the Florida in the harbor of Bahia accompanied by resolutions denouncing the outrage and declaring it to be the duty of Brazil to enforce the restitution of the Florida, and requesting the President to communicate to our commissioner abroad a full statement of the illegal seizure together with the opinions of this government of the outrage.

Mr. Orr also introduced a joint resolution authorizing the appointment of a commissioner to Brazil. No definite action was taken on the report or resolution.

Dec. 1.—Both Houses of Congress resumed secret session to-day, as soon as the hour of meeting in the Senate.

In the House the joint resolution relating to the exemption of State officers was debated and laid on the table.

Dec. 2.—Nothing of interest done in either House to-day.

BATTLE OF GRISWOLDVILLE.

Sergt. Weigle, of Co. A, Augusta Battalion, left Macon on Thursday week, and furnishes the "Constitutionalist" with the following particulars of the battle of Griswoldville.

He states that three Brigades of Militia, two Regiments of State Line Troops, the Athens and Augusta Battalions, all under the command of Gen. Phillips engaged the enemy on Tuesday, Nov. 22d. He first attacked them at Griswoldville about 12 o'clock. The enemy fell back one mile on the Central Railroad, towards Savannah, where they had erected three lines of fortifications.

Gen. Phillips pursued them to their breastworks, when he ordered a charge, driving the enemy from his first line of defenses. The enemy made several desperate efforts to recapture the works, but were repulsed each time with heavy loss. Gen. Phillips held his position during the night. The enemy had withdrawn next morning.

Our forces in charging the enemy's breastworks through an open field were exposed to a galling fire in which they lost heavily; between three hundred and fifty and four hundred killed and wounded. As an evidence of the storm of leaden hail they passed through the colors of the Augusta Battalion bear the marks of sixteen Federal bullets.

The Militia fought like veteran soldiers.

Roger A. Pryor, now a private in our cavalry, was captured on the 27th ult., near Petersburg, whilst exchanging papers. It is alleged that the enemy acted treacherously.