

have ever known that bitter moment! Few reach it and ever turn back. But yet there are few. Did John DeForest?

Deeper and deeper down—more of pining, more of reckless conduct for the strong man—helpless grief for the neglected wife at home—alas now no longer strong—out in the world. And then came the terrible hour, for which all other hours of this sad history had been but a preparation—when the last bond between them was severed!

To be concluded.

NEW LAW.—PREPAYMENT ON ALL TRANSIENT PRINTED MATTER CONSULATORY.—The National Intelligencer publishes the following regulations, which the Postmaster General has made to carry out the provisions of the act just passed requiring prepayment of postage on all transient printed matter.

1. Books, not weighing over four pounds, may be sent in the mail, prepaid by postage stamps, at one cent an ounce any distance in the United States under three thousand miles, and at two cents an ounce over three thousand miles, provided they are put up without a cover or wrapper, or in a cover or wrapper open at the ends or sides, so that their character may be determined without removing the wrapper.

2. Unsealed circulars, advertisements, business cards, transient newspapers, and every other article of transient printed matter, (except books,) not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent postage each, to be prepaid by postage stamps. Where more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. This applies to lottery and other kindred sheets assuming the form and name of newspapers; and the miscellaneous matter in such sheets must also be charged with one rate. A business card on an unsealed envelope of a circular, subjects the entire packet to letter postage. Any transient matter, like a circular or handbill, enclosed in or with a periodical or newspaper sent to a subscriber, or to any other person, subjects the whole package to letter postage; and whenever subject to letter postage, from being sealed, or from any cause whatever, all printed matter, without exception, must be prepaid, or excluded from the mail. It is the duty of the postmaster at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage, and to detect fraud. At offices where postage stamps cannot be procured, postmasters are authorized to receive money in prepayment of postage on transient matter; but they should be careful to keep a supply of stamps on hand.

The Rochester Union, giving an account of a boy named George Shale falling over the Great Geneva Falls, in Rochester, says: "It appears that the boys went down the slope towards the mill, perhaps to see how far they might venture; one of them, named George Shale, ventured too far, slipped upon the crust, in an instant went over the great precipice, falling over one hundred feet, to the verge of the water, boiling up from the eddy under the Great Fall. All who heard the dead, but he was so far from being dead that his cries attracted the attention of skaters on the river, some forty rods distant, and they went to his relief. He was found standing partly upright in the snow, about six feet from the edge of the water. One of his legs was badly shattered and some of his ribs were broken. The precise extent of his injuries could not be at once ascertained. He fell feet foremost and was terribly jarred, though striking in the soft snow may have in some measure lessened the shock."

POLYAMY IN UTAH.—A correspondent of the San Francisco Herald, writing from Fillmore City, Utah, under date of September 15th, furnishes a list of the members of the last Legislature, and the number of wives held by each. From this it appears that thirteen members of the Council have one hundred and seventy-one wives, and twenty-six members of the House have one hundred and fifty-seven wives. Five officers of the House have twenty-two wives, and Governor Brigham Young sixty-eight. The whole number of females thus represented by the Legislature, officers of the same, and his Excellency is 420. The same correspondent gives an idea of personal appearance, &c. of the men who are the husbands of such a host of women. The whole crowd contained only one handsome man, and he is reported as the husband of one wife. "These," adds this correspondent, "are sober truths, and in what they will end is for the dark and doleful future."

PISTOL-BALL SHERIFF.—The Mobile Tribune relates the following Revolutionary anecdote: "Among the most active and daring of Marion's men, were Robert Simons and William Withers. They had been sent together on some confidential expedition, and while resting at noon for refreshments, Withers, a practical shot, was examining his pistols to see if they were in good order, while Simons sat near him, either reading or in a reverie. "Bob," said Withers, "if you had not that bump on the bridge of your nose, you would be a likely young fellow." "Do you think so?" said Simons, listlessly. "Yes," said Withers, "I think I can shoot off that ugly bump on your nose. Shall I shoot?" "Shoot!" said Simons, and crack went the pistol. The ball could not have been better aimed, it struck the projecting bridge, demolished it forever, and henceforth Simons was the ugliest man in the army."

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS GONE.—Last year fifty Revolutionary soldiers died, among them Ural Knapp, the last of Washington's Guard. The number of Revolutionary soldiers on the pension rolls on the 1st of July, 1856, was 514. A few years more will sweep away the remainder of those gallant patriots.

An American at Gibraltar writes that he bought "two pounds of grapes, two pounds of apples, two of peaches, two of lemons, and a basket to carry them, and all for a quarter of a dollar."

A Schenectady editor, describing the effects of a squall upon a canal boat, says: "When the gale was at its height, the uniformed crew leaped to labor, and the captain and another cask of whiskey rolled overboard."

From the New York Herald.

THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH.—FROM WALL STREET TO LONDON IN LESS THAN NO TIME!

As the ocean telegraph line is now almost a fixed fact, a few details as to its working arrangements may not come amiss. There are still many people so unthinking as to inquire what is the practical use of a telegraph across the Atlantic; and others of a practical turn of mind, ask how much will it cost us for messages? In the first place, the revolution in the newspaper world will be something astounding. When Parliament is in session we shall be able to print in the Herald of the next day as much of the proceedings of the British Senators as may be interesting to the American public. Parliament usually gets up about two o'clock in the morning, but as the difference in time is about five hours in our favor, we shall receive the doings of the sages of Westminster at about ten or eleven o'clock in the evening, New York time—that being several hours before adjournment, and quite as early as we generally receive the proceedings of Congress. The transactions in stocks, the closing price in consols, the state of the cotton market, will be sent from London and Liverpool every day at three o'clock in the afternoon, will be received here before noon, forming the basis of Wall street operations for that day—in other words, the doings of the London Exchange will be known in Wall street before 'Change hours here, and will be published in the papers of the next evening before they are laid before the British public. Transactions on the Paris Bourse will be sent in the same manner. The advantages of this to our mercantile community can hardly be overrated, while the reading public will be kept *au courant* to all European affairs.

What will a message cost? is a very important question. The British government, guaranteeing the company patronage to the amount of seventy thousand dollars per annum, has fixed the maximum rate at four shillings sterling per word, or one dollar of federal money. This will be divided between the stations as follows:—From London to Cork, sixpence sterling; across the ocean, two shillings and sixpence; from Newfoundland to New York, one shilling. The difference in these rates and those of our inland lines may be readily perceived by the following calculation: We published a day or two ago an abstract of the new treaty between the United States and Great Britain in relation to Central American affairs. This abstract occupied a column of small type of the Herald, and was telegraphed from Washington to us at an expense of seventy-five dollars. Now, if after the ocean telegraph is in working order, one of our London correspondents should happen to send an equally important document, and should send us an abstract of equal length, we should astonish Downing street at an expense of two thousand dollars—and it would be worth the money. And while our government hesitates about paying seventy thousand per year to the line, here is a chance for a single dispatch to the Herald, for which we should pay two thousand.

The thousand little messages, practical or romantic, bullying or begging, pathetic, amusing, savage or affectionate, announcing the death of a friend, or the birth of a child, or poverty, which are continually flying from one end of the country to the other, making the batteries leap in unison with the pulsations of thousands of hearts, will be sent at the same rate. A dispatch which costs forty cents from Boston to New York will cost ten dollars from London to New York.

Our readers are already aware that the route has been surveyed at the expense of the United States, and that all the reports agree as to the practicability of laying the cable upon the great ocean plateau. The new cable is two-thirds smaller than that which was lost last summer, and it will undoubtedly work much better. Lieutenant Berryman, who sounded the whole route, states that the lightest instruments were found to reach the bottom with the greatest certainty, and as to the safety of the wire, the bottom of the sea is believed to be as quiet and peaceful as an infant's slumbers. The route is Maury's great circle line, and is far north of the locality where all the ice accidents have taken place, and the greatest depth is a little over two thousand fathoms. The British government will survey and sound the whole route in April next. In July two vessels will leave the English coast with the cable—a mile of which weighs a ton. After reaching a point equidistant from both termini, the cables will be joined together and sunk. The vessels will then part company, the one proceeding to the Irish coast and the other to the American, paying out the cable as they go along. The whole work of laying the wire can be done in a week or two at the outside.

We have thus briefly jotted down a few facts in relation to this, the greatest undertaking of the century. We have but little doubt as to the result. In less than a year from the present writing we expect to sit in the Herald office and telegraph instructions to our London correspondents, receiving answers from them on the same day. And we also expect to chronicle before many years the fact that all the nations of the earth speak to each other through the electric wires. As a further improvement upon the system of submarine telegraphs, all the lines on land will shortly be subterranean, thus making the bottom of the sea and the bowels of the earth mediums for the transmission of intelligence from sun to sun and from pole to pole.

INTERNATIONAL FEELING.—Treaties are the work of diplomatists. Men regard them as the product of those who, like the ordinary makers of bargains, are endeavoring to get the best of each other. But there are little acts of courtesy which go further to cement nations than all the agreements ever entered into by the cool and subtle agents who are employed to represent Governments in their ordinary official intercourse. The tender of the barque Resolute by our Republic to the British Government should stand out from the page of history as a deed worthy the progress of the age. The reception of the Americans who were aboard the vessel at Southampton shows that the act was appreciated, and that the English people, from the Queen to the laborer, are ready to respond to the good feeling thus displayed. Let it always be so in future. We are one people—one in language, law, and literature. Why should we not be eternal friends?

Philadelphia Evening Journal.



HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.
Wednesday, January 14, 1857.

We tender our thanks to those of our subscribers who have come forward and paid up their arrears. But many have not made it convenient to call upon us; and as we cannot call upon them, we shall, of necessity, have to employ as our agents the constables in the several neighborhoods, to whom we must pay commissions, and we hope our demands will be met with so much promptness that no other expense will be incurred. A very little reflection will show to all who are in arrears that the Printer must have money, and especially does he need it at this season of the year; we hope, therefore, that payments will not be unnecessarily delayed.

On Thursday last, the following gentlemen were elected by joint ballot of the two Houses, Trustees of the University of North Carolina: Thomas Settle, Jr., of Rockingham; Dr. R. Dillard, of Chowan; William W. Holden, of Wake; R. A. Hamilton, of Granville; Dr. J. F. E. Hardy, of Buncombe.

The Hon. Edward Staley left here (Washington) on Saturday morning last, on his way to San Francisco, California. We are pleased to say that Mr. Staley never enjoyed better health than he does at the present time; and that he expects to be able to settle up his affairs in California, in the course of twelve months, when he will return, and make this his future home.

COTEEMPORARY CHANGES.

THE PATRIOT AND FLAG.—The proprietors of the Greensborough Patriot and Lexington Flag, have united their establishments under the title of THE PATRIOT AND FLAG, which will be issued from Greensborough under the joint proprietorship of Messrs. M. S. Sherwood and James A. Long, who will both officiate as editors. As they have already acquired considerable reputation as ready writers, able editors, genuine Americans, and clever fellows, and as their publication begins with an extensive circulation, they have an encouraging prospect before them which we hope will not be disappointed.

THE SALISBURY HERALD.—E. B. Drake, late of the Ashborough Bulletin, has become joint proprietor with Mr. Samuel W. Jones in the Salisbury Herald. The Herald has hitherto maintained a good reputation, and will no doubt continue to be a valuable medium of intelligence to its numerous patrons.

THE NORTH CAROLINA BELLETTIN.—will continue to be published at Ashborough, under the management of Messrs. J. M. A. Drake and Wm. M. Parker. This is done at the solicitation of many of the citizens of Randolph, who desire that their county shall not be without a newspaper.

THE WILMINGTON COURIER.—Thomas Lorin, Editor and proprietor of the Wilmington Courier, has received into his establishment Benjamin W. Sanders, Esq., as an associate editor. Although we have differed very materially in some matters of opinion with the editor of the Commercial, we have esteemed him as a talented editor and a liberal gentleman. With his new associate we have had no acquaintance, but hope he may be able to add additional reputation to the Commercial.

THE NEWBERRY EXPRESS.—The editor of the Newberry Express proposes soon to commence its publication daily, as well as weekly. The price to be \$6 per annum.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.—For December, contains, 1. A Recent Confession of an Opium Eater. 2. Indian Empire. 3. The Athelings; or The Three Gifts—Part VII. 4. Respectability—A Dialogue. 5. Dred. 6. The English Ecclesiastical Courts. 7. The Food of London. 8. The Political Lull, and what will break it. 9. Index.

Published by Leonard Scott & Co., New York. Price \$3 per annum, for any one of the Reviews, or Blackwood; for any two of the works, \$5; for Blackwood and the four Reviews, \$10. See the advertisement in another column.

"Thrilling Stories."—The practice which some of our contemporaries have adopted (whether they are paid for it or not we do not know) of publishing a chapter from a thrilling story, and referring the reader to a Northern publication for the conclusion, is well taken off in the following article:

THE UNFORTUNATE COOK, OR THE HAUNTED DOGHOUSE, A Thrilling Story, in 400 Chapters.
CHAPTER 1.—The kitchen fire burned brightly. The physiognomy of Dinah, the cook of the distinguished P. Q. Maribus, Esq., glowed with the exertion consequent upon attending the culinary preparation of her master's matrimonial meal.

CHAPTER 2.—The fire still continues to burn.

CHAPTER 3.—Dinah's physiog still glows as above set forth.

CHAPTER 4.—The cook suddenly assumes an attitude of surprise, astonishment, perplexity, and fear! What can it be, oh, Dinah of the ebony face, which frights thee from thy accustomed propriety, and makes us anxious as to the fate of the breakfast if thy revered and distinguished master? We shall learn anon.

The above is all of this intensely interesting story which can be published in this paper. It may be found, however, in the Weekly Joker, which publishes every day a thousand things equally as good. Be sure to ask for the Joker of the 40th of January, and you will find a continuation of the story from where it leaves off here. John Jones writes for it. Peter Smith writes for it; everybody writes for it. All the great writers, dead or living, write for it, and the only use now for Southern newspapers is to "sell their own readers, and help to facilitate the sale of Northern humbug."

OPINIONS CHANGE.—The Secretary of the Treasury says in his report that a "pure metallic currency may be set down as impracticable, under our Constitution and laws, to say nothing of the sentiments of the people."

We infer from this, either that the Democracy have finally dropped their "hard money" humbug, or that Mr. Guthrie has turned "British Whig" and been "bought by a Bank."

Payetteville Observer.

North Carolina Legislature.

Friday, January 9.

In the Senate, Mr. Wilder, from the committee on Banks and Currency, reported the bill to incorporate the Salisbury Bank, recommending its rejection; and also the bill in reference to the Greensborough Bank, with amendments.

Mr. Clark introduced a bill to repeal the act locating the judges of the Superior Court. Referred.

The bill to make railroad companies responsible for the killing of cattle, stock, &c., by locomotives, was read the second time. Mr. Wiggins advocated its passage. The Wilmington road, he said, paid nothing, the Gaston road paid one-half. Mr. Wilder explained. He said, when the accident is unavoidable, the road pays half value; when it can be shown that it was the result of carelessness or recklessness on the part of the engineer, then the road pays full value, and deducts from the wages of the engineer. Mr. Eaton opposed the bill; after which, on motion of Mr. Wiggins, it was laid on the table.

Mr. Coleman introduced a bill so to amend the form of the oath for witnesses, that Universalists and others shall be permitted to take it.

In the Commons, Mr. Baxter introduced a bill imposing a tax of one per cent. on Bank profits and dividends, provided the tax does not reduce the profits to less than six per cent.; Mr. Elliott, a bill to extend the time of entering titles to vacant lands; and also a bill to alter the time of meeting of the General Assembly, proposing to meet on the fourth Monday in December; which bills were appropriately referred.

Mr. Green introduced a resolution authorizing the State Geologist, under the direction of the Governor, to transmit a collection of the minerals of this State to the patent office Washington City.

Saturday, January 2.

In the Senate, the bill admitting wives to testify against their husbands in certain cases, in courts of law, passed the third reading.

The bill requiring persons who sue railroads, to give notice, &c., was read the second time and rejected. The bill for the benefit of creditors of deceased persons, whose estates are insolvent, was also rejected.

Several bills of a private or local character were acted on.

In the Commons, the resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Stubbs, relative to the daily session, after being discussed and amended, was rejected.

The bill repealing certain sections of the Revised Code authorizing the appointment of a State Geologist, was read the second time and passed—yeas 52, nays 27.

The bill to increase the salary of the Secretary of State was read the second time, and after considerable discussion, was rejected—yeas 32, nays 70.

The bill for the better securing of costs in cases of ejectment, was read the second time, and the rules being suspended, the bill was read the third time, and after considerable discussion it was passed by a vote of 73 to 23.

A bill to allow banks to issue notes of the value of three and four dollars, was read the second time.

Mr. Hill of Halifax, said this bill put all banks in the State upon an equal footing. It allowed all to do that which was now confined to a few.

Mr. Stubbs opposed the principle of the bill, as undoing all that had been done by former Legislatures to banish small notes and introduce a metallic currency—a plan which had succeeded in Virginia. The bill was then laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Settle, the bill to provide for the... was read the second and third times, and passed.

Monday, January 5.

In the Senate, the bill to amend the charter of the Bank of Wilmington passed its third reading.

A resolution from the House, proposing to adjourn sine die on the 26th instant, after a short discussion, was adopted—yeas 27, nays 18.

At 12 o'clock the bill to re-charter the Bank of the State was taken up as the special order, and the discussion upon it was continued to the end of the day's session.

In the Commons, Mr. Waldill introduced a resolution directing the Judiciary committee to inquire into the expediency of increasing the jurisdiction of justices of the peace to the amount of \$200.

Mr. Bledsoe introduced a bill to provide a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the public debt.

The bill to diminish costs in law suits, after debate, passed the second reading. Among other provisions, the bill allows the plaintiffs and defendants to be examined in open court on oath.

A resolution was passed, and sent to the Senate, proposing to adjourn sine die on the 26th instant.

A bill to repeal the 6th section 36th chapter of the Revised Code, making it penal to pass one and two dollar notes, was read the second time and passed—yeas 65, nays 37.

Tuesday, January 6.

In the Senate, the bill to repeal the 25th, 6th, and 7th sections of the 36th chapter of the Revised Code, entitled Currency, was read the second time. This amendment permits the circulation of small notes. After considerable discussion the bill passed the second reading by a vote of 33 to 13.

In the Commons, Mr. Baxter, from the committee on the bill to charter the People's Bank, reported it back with amendments, which were ordered to be printed.

Several bills were presented and appropriately referred.

The bill to authorize banks to issue notes of the value of one, two, three and four dollars, was taken up. A motion to indefinitely postpone it was rejected by a vote of 33 to 31. Considerable discussion occurred on the bill; and an amendment was adopted requiring small notes presented at the banks to be paid in silver—American coin. This amendment was adopted by yeas 62, nays 45.

Wednesday, January 7.

In the Senate, Mr. Boyd, from the committee on Finance, reported back the bill to exempt from taxation and fix the rate of interest on the coupon bonds of the North Carolina railroad. Mr. Cameron advocated its passage, and at his motion the rules were suspended and it passed its third reading.

A long and exciting debate occurred on the proposition to go into an election of five Trustees of the University.

On motion of Mr. Person, the bill authorizing the public treasurer to subscribe for stock in the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad Company, was taken up, read, and Mr. Person moved to amend the amendment, by giving that road five years longer, to pay the bonds now held against it by North Carolina, the interest to be paid annually. This motion prevailed, and the bill passed its second reading; and, on motion, read this time and passed.

The unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill to repeal the law against issuing small notes, was to be taken up. Several amendments were proposed and taken up. Considerable debate took place. Mr. Baxter offered three amendments: First, that the amount of small notes issued should not exceed 10 per cent. on the capital stock; second, that every bank bill under \$5, should be redeemable in gold and silver, at the principal bank, and all its branches, without regard to any limitation expressed on the face of the bill; third, that the General Assembly may, at any time, reserve the privilege hereby granted to the bank of issuing notes under \$5. The first was adopted by yeas 105, nays 11; the second by yeas 65, nays 27; and the third without a division.

Mr. Elliott amended by inserting a repeal of the clauses prohibiting the Public Treasurer from issuing notes of banks less than \$5, which was adopted.

Further debate ensued; after which the bill passed its second reading—yeas 61, nays 53—Messrs. Lyon and Strayhorn, of Orange, and Montgomery and Patterson, of Alamance, voting in the negative.

Thursday, January 8.

The Senate, immediately after the reading of the minutes, directed a message to be sent to the House, proposing to go immediately into an election of five Trustees of the University.

The special order of the day was taken up, being a bill to incorporate the Greensborough and Danville Railroad Company. The first question being on an amendment proposed by the committee, that amendment was adopted—yeas 45, nays 1. The passage of the bill was also advocated by Messrs. Boyd, Gorrell, W. H. Thomas, J. W. Thomas, and W. A. Myers; and opposed by Messrs. Eaton, Houston, Hill, and Cameron. The question was then put on the passage of the bill, and lost—yeas 14, nays 32.

In the Commons, a large number of reports were made, and bills presented. A bill concerning Harnett county claimed considerable debate, but was rejected—yeas 46, nays 59.

Friday, January 9.

In the Senate, reports from several committees were made, among which was the report of the Finance committee, recommending an increase of taxation, with a bill for the purpose; which was ordered to be printed and made the special order for Wednesday next.

The bill to incorporate the Milton Junction railroad, was taken up as the special order, and several amendments made. The question was then put, and the bill lost—yeas 13, nays 31.

Mr. W. H. Thomas introduced a bill to establish free banking in this State.

The bill to re-charter the State Bank was taken up, amended, and passed the second reading—yeas 34, nays 7.

In the Commons, several bills were presented. The unfinished business of yesterday, being the bill concerning the bonds of the North Carolina Railroad Company, was taken up, and a debate of considerable length occurred, but no question was taken.

Congress.

Wednesday, January 2.

The Senate had a brief session, a portion of it on executive business; and after the reception of memorials, reports, and resolutions, adjourned to Monday.

In the House, Mr. Walker, of Alabama, introduced a bill to amend the act regulating the pay of deputy postmasters. The House went into committee of the whole on private bills, and reported fifteen without objection; which were subsequently passed, and the House adjourned to Monday.

Monday, January 5.

In the Senate, a report was made by Mr. Butler, from the committee on the Judiciary, adverse to the legality of the election of Mr. Harlan, Senator from Iowa, to a seat in that body, and declaring the seat vacant. Mr. Toombs presented a minority report, affirming the validity of Mr. Harlan's election.

The special order of the day was the bill providing for the settlement of the claims of the officers of the Revolutionary army. The bill provides for half pay, from 1783 to 1826, to the officers, if living, or to their widows, children, or grand children. Colateral heirs not provided for. Mr. Seaward delivered an elaborate argument in support of the bill. Mr. Pugh made a few remarks in opposition to it.

In the House, communications were received from the War and State Departments. A resolution was adopted, requesting the President to inform the House by what authority a government architect is employed and paid for designing and directing all public buildings, and also for planning said buildings under the supervision of military engineers. Motions were made to suspend the rules to take up the Pacific railroad, and other bills, but none of them prevailed.

Tuesday, January 6.

In the Senate, the acting President, Mr. Bright, being absent, Mr. Mason, of Virginia, was elected President pro tem. The disputed Iowa election case involving the rights of Mr. Harlan to a seat in the Senate, was debated at considerable length. Without coming to a decision, the Senate held an executive session, and then adjourned.

In the House, the Tariff bill of the committee of Ways and Means, and the substitute reported by Mr. Letcher, which were the order of the day, were referred to the committee of the Whole. Mr. Boyd, of South Carolina, gave notice of a proposition to reduce all duties on imports to the standard of twenty per cent. The subject of the reference and printing of the President's message being the unfinished business, was again taken up. Able speeches were delivered by Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, and Mr. Davis, of Maryland; and Mr. Chandler, of Pennsylvania, briefly reviewed some of the arguments.

Wednesday, January 7.

In the Senate, the Iowa election case was further debated; after which an executive session was held, and then the Senate adjourned to Friday.

In the House, after the reception of executive documents, the debate was resumed on the President's message, and occupied the remainder of the session. The House then adjourned over to Friday, in honor of the victory of New Orleans.

RETURN OF CAPTAIN HARSTEIN AND THE AMERICAN OFFICERS OF THE RESOLUTE.—The advices from England state that the British government, with an admirable appreciation of the national compliment involved in the return of the Arctic exploring ship Resolute, and a determination to mark their high estimation of the deed, have resolved to send Captain Harstein, and the American officers and crew who took out the Resolute, home in a government steamer. The first class steam frigate Retribution had been assigned for the performance of this office, and would leave England on her grateful mission to this country soon after Christmas. The appearance of an English frigate on our coast upon such an errand will be warmly greeted, and tend to strengthen the feeling of good will between the two nations which late events have so favorably inaugurated.

INAUGURATION OF GOV. BRAGG.

On Thursday, the 1st, in the Commons Hall, in the presence of the members of both House of the General Assembly, and a large concourse of persons of both sexes, Gov. Bragg took and subscribed the oaths of office for his second term. A few moments before twelve o'clock, M., the members of the Senate, headed by their Speaker and Clerks, entered the Commons chamber. Mr. Speaker Shepherd and the members of the Commons rose to receive them, Mr. Speaker Avery, of the Senate, taking a seat to the right of Mr. Shepherd. Soon after Gov. Bragg, attended by the committee of the two Houses, and by the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court, entered the Hall, the members rising to receive them. Mr. Speaker Avery then, in due form, proclaimed Thomas Bragg the Governor elect for two years from and after the 1st of January, 1857, and the oaths of Office were administered by Chief Justice Nash, after which Gov. Bragg delivered in an impressive manner the following very appropriate address:—

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Commons:

Two years ago it was my fortune to appear before you and give the pledges of fidelity required by law before entering upon the discharge of the duties of Chief Executive officer of the State. The time for which I had then been elected has expired.

It may hardly be becoming in me now to speak of my past official course. My fellow-citizens of all political parties will judge of that, and, from my knowledge of them, I confidently believe they will do it, not only considerably but kindly.

Errors, no doubt, have been committed by me. I claim no exemption from the weakness incident in a greater or less degree to us all, and trust that I am sensible, to some extent at least, of my own imperfections in particular. All I ask of them is, to believe that I have been actuated by honest purposes, and have, on all occasions, endeavored to maintain the honor and dignity of the State, and to advance her welfare and prosperity, so far as I had power to do it, within the scope of my official authority.

A majority of my fellow citizens have re-elected me Governor of the State. Indebted to them as I was before, for the generous confidence reposed in me, when comparatively a stranger to most of them, I can find no language now adequate to express my deep sense of the obligation under which they have placed me, and my gratitude for their decided support, after they had an opportunity, to some extent, of passing upon my official conduct.

It is under these circumstances that I appear before you to-day to renew the pledge of official fidelity heretofore given; and if I enter upon the discharge of my official duties for a second term, not with entire confidence, I shall do so with alacrity, feeling assured that my official acts, whatever they may be, will be fairly and impartially passed upon by all, and that my errors, if any, will at least meet with the kind indulgence of those whose good opinion and support I have heretofore been so fortunate as to secure.

We enter to-day upon another year—whether it is to be one of weal or woe for our country and our State, is known to Him who rules and directs the destinies of nations.

Though the prospect before us is not one of calm unbroken brightness, and fragments of the storm-clouds which but lately overhung the land still float in our political horizon, yet they have ceased for the time to threaten us with danger or excite our immediate apprehensions. These indications may be delusive, but I have persuaded myself that there is a calmer, a better and more tolerant spirit abroad in the country. Our people have profited by the breathing time they have had since the late struggle through which they have had passed. Educated in self-government, they have, on several occasions, been able to withstand excitements which would have proved fatal to other institutions than theirs, and have triumphed over dangers which seemed almost insurmountable.

To those unacquainted with the character of our people, these excitements appeared like upheavings from the great deep of society. Time has proved that they were but as the tempest-tost ocean waves, agitating the surface, while below all was tranquil and unmoved.

While taking this hopeful view of affairs, I am not unaware of the fact that many regard the present apparent calm as deceitful—a mere lull in the storm, which is destined at no distant day to burst upon us with renewed violence.

However this may be, it is now the duty of every good citizen to endeavor to allay the excitement, abating at the same time none of our rights, but firmly and unflinchingly sustaining them, as the surest means of their preservation and of perpetuating that Union and those institutions, under which we have, in a short time, grown to be one of the great powers of the earth.

Simple and unostentatious as are the ceremonies to-day, we have here represented the three departments of our State government—the Executive, the Legislative, and those who composed our Supreme Judicial tribunal. We have, all of us, distinct but important duties to discharge.

The most important, however, are those devolved upon you as the exclusive law-making power of the State.

In the progress of events, these duties have become more varied and important than formerly, and therefore requiring more time for their dispatch. As the resources of the State are brought to notice and become better known, these duties are likely to increase rather than diminish, and the scope of our legislation to be widened and extended.

I am aware, gentlemen, that several of the most important subjects upon which you have been called to act during the present session are yet undiscussed, but it is not my purpose now to speak of these or others, having so lately had an opportunity of communicating with you in another way. I trust I may be pardoned, however, for expressing the hope that although your session may become somewhat protracted, you will not suffer yourselves, on that account, to be hurried into hasty and imperfect legislation, always producing serious evils, and to undo which is oftentimes impossible.

For myself, when my official term shall have ended and I return to the walks of private life, I can hope for no higher gratification than to see North-Carolina distinguished by all the qualities which constitute a great State, and taking the position at home and