

of the contract, and the jury, in making up their verdict, shall take the same into consideration and determine the value of said contract in present currency, and render their verdict accordingly.

126. An act to legalize the official acts of Sheriffs.

Legalizes the acts of the *de facto* Sheriffs who were in office prior to March 1st, 1866, and their deputies.

127. An act for the collection of Revenue.

Persons appointed to take list of taxables at first court after 1st of January, should the court fail to appoint, three justices may appoint on or before 1st of April. Lists to be taken on the second Monday in April, to be returned to the clerks before the fourth Monday in May. Delinquents may make returns to court until the first Monday in October. Clerk to furnish comptroller abstract on or before the 1st Monday in July. Clerks shall deliver duplicates to sheriffs on or before the 1st of July. No new valuation until 1867.

128. An act to establish the rate of interest and repeal chapter 114 Revised Code.

Allows persons loaning money to charge eight per cent interest for contract; six per cent is, however, still the ordinary legal rate of interest.

129. An act to authorize the chairman of the County Court of Alamance county to sell real estate.

130. An act to reduce the bonds of Sheriffs and other officers.

Reduces to the same bonds as are required by Revised Code.

131. An act to amend the charter of the Williamston and Tarborough Rail Road Company, and for other purposes.

132. An act to extend relief to Robert Christy and others.

133. An act to amend sec. 64. chap. 60, of the Revised Code.

134. Revenue act.

Lays a tax of ten cents upon the \$100 valuation of land, valuation of 1860; \$1 on polls. The other features do not differ very much from the act in force before the war, except that a general income tax is adopted.

135. An act to re-enact chap. 60 Revised Code, entitled militia, and to amend the same.

136. An act to regulate the sale of spirituous liquors in the town of Salem, Forsythe county.

137. An act to enable the Banks of the State to close their business.

138. An act to establish a scale of depreciation of Confederate currency.

Captions of the Resolutions in our next.

From the National Intelligencer.

THE THIRD HOUSE OF CONGRESS—THE STAR-CHAMBER EXPOSED.

We cannot forbear recording our deliberate conviction that the object of instituting the Joint Committee of Fifteen, usually denominated the "Reconstruction Committee of Congress," was to work a revolution. We have repeatedly argued, in support of this opinion, from the acts and declarations of leaders, as we had public access to them. In the following communication, an additional and most important insight is afforded into the method whereby an artificial public opinion in the North should be manufactured, such as would render more plausible the preconceived reasons to be assigned for a series of measures fatal to the liberties of the whole people.

From the Hon. William A. Graham, Senator elect from North Carolina.

For the National Intelligencer.

The debate in the Senate, on yesterday, upon the order to print ten thousand copies of the report of the Joint Committee on "Reconstruction," detailing the evidence taken before that committee as to the condition of the political sentiment in the several States of the South, and their fitness for representation in Congress, in which allusion was made to the course pursued by the committee in reference to the State of North Carolina, and on application submitted by me that her members elect should be permitted to hear what might be alleged to her prejudice, and, if they deemed it proper, to cross-examine the witnesses against her, if any, and to adduce other testimony, renders it necessary that I ask of you the favor to publish the following correspondence. It was instituted solely for the attainment of truth, and thereby, as I trusted, to protect the character and rights of the State and people I was deputed in part to represent. The President of the Senate, at my request, had done me the honor to present my commission as a Senator elect. Though it was laid on the table in conformity to precedents in other cases, and I was not admitted to the exercise of the functions it contemplated, it still, in my conception, devolved on me the duty, in conjunction with my respected colleagues elected to both Houses, to observe the proceedings of the public authorities, and when occasion might seem to invite or justify it, to intervene for explanation, so far as it might be allowed, in defence of the interests and

honor of our State and the fair fame of her people. Seeing that an order to authorize the committee to send for persons and papers had passed the Senate, on motion of its chairman in that body—Mr. Fessenden, of Maine—a proceeding understood to imply that evidence is to be taken, and a searching and thorough investigation to be had—I applied for leave to be present at the examinations pertaining to the State of North Carolina, as will be seen in the letters following:

Hillsborough, N. C., January 17th, 1866.

Hon. Wm. P. Fessenden, Senate United States:

Sir: Observing that you are first-named in the Senate's branch of the committee upon the admission into Congress of members from the Southern States, and having forwarded to the President of the Senate, to be laid before that body, my commission as Senator from North Carolina; perceiving, also, that the committee has been authorized to take evidence in the matters submitted to it, by sending for persons and papers, I take the liberty of respectfully suggesting through you to the committee that it will be but justice, in the conduct of its proceedings in the premises, to permit the delegation elected from each State to be present at the reception of all evidence touching such State or any of its members, with the privilege of cross-examining witnesses and of introducing counter evidence, if they shall deem it proper.

And, for myself and my colleagues, I, with deference, request the exercise of this privilege in relation to all evidence having reference to the State of North Carolina or any of her members elect.

I am, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

W. A. GRAHAM.

My residence here is within twenty-four hours' journey of the Capital, and I will attend there at any time on notice from the committee.

Washington, January 29th, 1866.

DEAR SIR: It is not customary to allow a cross-examination of witnesses before a committee appointed to report on a subject involving individuals. The committee is supposed to be desirous to ascertain the truth, and capable of making all the examination necessary.

The committee is quite willing, however, to examine any witness that may be produced, having a knowledge of the subject matter, to any reasonable extent.

The credentials of gentlemen claiming to be Senators have not been referred to this committee, and there is no probability that they will be.

Yours, very respectfully,

W. P. FESSENDEN.

Hon. W. A. GRAHAM.

Hillsborough, N. C. Jan. 27, 1866.

DEAR SIR: I am much obliged by yours of the 24th inst. I had supposed the province of your committee to embrace that of a Committee of Elections and Privileges, before which I take the rule to be, without exception, that persons claiming to be members are permitted to hear what may be adduced against their claims, and to bring forward countervailing evidence. If this supposition be not correct, by reason of the fact stated by you, that the credentials of gentlemen claiming to be Senators have not been referred, the question will recur, whether the right of a State to representation is not entitled to an equal privilege of defence by those whom she has chosen for that office.

I know not what, if anything, may be alleged against the right in question on the part of the State of North Carolina. I am satisfied that nothing can be alleged that ought to prevail; but until the objections and proofs are known, it is not possible to canvass them, or to offer contradictory evidence. My sole purpose is to aid the committee, so far as the State is concerned, in the ascertainment of truth, and to guard against *ex parte* testimony from unknown or irresponsible sources. If, therefore, the committee will at any time furnish notice of the points on which evidence is desired, or of prejudicial testimony which it is necessary to meet, my colleagues and myself will gladly avail ourselves of its permission to offer such relevant proof as may be in our power.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

W. A. GRAHAM.

Hon. Wm. P. Fessenden, Senate United States.

To prevent misconception, I esteem it proper to remark that in giving these letters to the public, no reflection is intended on the motives of the committee, much less on those of its honorable chairman in the Senate, a gentleman with whom, through a personal acquaintance of many years, I have ever maintained the kindest and most respectful personal relations. But it is obvious that, from inadvertence, or a differ-

ent view of the subject on the part of the committee, or from misapprehension on my part, I have been disappointed in the expectation of being allowed to hear what was imputed to my State as demerit, and of counteracting it, if I could—a mistake from which some injustice has resulted. My inference, from the correspondence, certainly was that the committee, when they should reach the matters touching North Carolina, would notify us of the points on which evidence was desired, and would afford an opportunity to apply to adverse testimony the ordinary tests of truth, as well as of combating it, if in our judgment proper to be done, by witnesses called by ourselves.

I was, therefore, surprised, a few days since, to learn that the committee had made report of the evidence taken by them, and obtained an order for its publication—a proceeding which, in a legislative body, as in a court of chancery, I presume, implies that all the evidence has been taken that it is designed to receive. This inference is confirmed by the application for and adoption of the additional order to print 10,000 extra copies. It imports that the case, as to the facts, is fully made up, and that upon these it is to be submitted to the judgment of the two Houses of Congress, and the still higher arbitrament of public opinion. Now, I most respectfully protest, that if, upon anything contained in all this evidence, the people of the State of North Carolina shall be condemned, or kept in a state of condemnation, it will be a condemnation without a hearing, when she was entitled to be heard.

Of all the testimony received by the committee, there is but a single affidavit having any specific reference to her; and there is room for hope that, from the absence of other evidence, she was not considered involved in any great degree of demerit or criminality, and it was not deemed necessary to prosecute the investigation any further on that account. But it cannot escape observation, that in a State of a million of inhabitants, the only witness called to speak of her condition, the sentiments and ruling motives of her people, should be Lieut. Col. Dexter Clapp, from one of the Eastern States, an officer of the Freedmen's Bureau at Raleigh, who states that he is conversant with the people in some twenty counties out of eighty-seven—a sojourner filling an office for which there will be no necessity in a short time to come, unless upon the theory that the government of the State will not do justice to its negro population in their new condition of freedom. I do not design to impeach the integrity of this gentleman. He is spoken of in terms of high respect by persons of our common acquaintance. It has so happened that I have not met him. But surely his opinions, loosely expressed, as they are in his affidavit, [and nothing more fully illustrates the importance of cross-examination than the want of precision in the language of his statement,] formed by intercourse, as he admits, among less than one-fourth of the people of the State; his vague statement of a design to repudiate the rebel debt, [what is meant by this I do not comprehend;] his sweeping assertion that "Union men and freedmen stand a poor chance for justice in the State courts," (an aspersion upon the judicial officers of the State recently chosen by a Legislature elected under the restricted system of suffrage ordained by the proclamation of the President and Provisional Governor, as well as an injustice to the general sentiment of the people,) are all too indefinite and unsupported to serve as the foundation for any action or course of policy on the part of the Government towards the people of an entire State. Had I been so fortunate as to have had the attention of the committee, even after this affidavit was taken, I think I could at once have more than neutralized all the disparaging testimony of Col. Clapp, by requesting that there might be summoned another officer of the Freedmen's Bureau, some time on duty at Fayetteville, North Carolina, who had equal opportunities of observation, and I judge as much capacity for improving them. This is Major Lawrence, of Illinois, (I am told a brother of the chief justice of that State,) whose letter recently published on these topics I hope to append to these remarks, as well as the statement of Col. Clapp.

I had no design or wish to be examined as a witness myself. I should have considered myself rather as occupying the place of council or advocate of the State. And if the Committee had intimated a wish for such information, would have taken pleasure in furnishing them the address of gentlemen in every section of the State whose acquaintance, whose integrity, whose intelligence, whose loyalty and interests, and identification with the country, qualified

them to speak of the condition of affairs and the state of feeling and opinion towards the Government of the United States with full knowledge; men whose ambition has been chastened by the fires of adversity, whose afflictions and sacrifices would satiate a generous foe, whose desire is to re-establish the constitutional relations of all the States with the Federal Union, and, as preparatory to this, to disarm the spirit of revenge and the remorseless passions engendered in a great revolution, which by reason of its want of success, many are unable to distinguish from a petty rebellion.

And before Congress and the people, to which this evidence is submitted for their verdict and judgment, I respectfully claim that the State of which I am a citizen and a servant is not to be affected injuriously by any evidence received by this committee. She has in good faith submitted herself to all the requirements in that scheme of policy prescribed by the President from the Potomac to the Rio Grande; is obedient to every law of the Union; is with heavy sacrifices paying the arrearages of taxes of former years to the United States, as well as present levies, and not arrogantly, but confidently appeals to that sense of justice and those remembrances of ancient friendships which shall restore to her the full fruition of her rights as a State of the American Union.

W. A. GRAHAM.

Edwitt House, Washington, March 16, 1866.

Hillsborough Recorder.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.

Wednesday, March 28, 1866.

Subscribers in arrears for the Recorder are earnestly requested to make payment. All of our communications require payment in advance, and we are not less nearly than they. If money cannot be had, bring us provisions.

It is our desire to enlarge our paper to something like its former size; but to enable us to do so we must have a new supply of type, and that cannot be had without money. Our subscribers will please to take notice of this.

The 192d Session of Orange Presbytery will commence at New Hope Church on Wednesday the 11th day of April at 12 o'clock, M.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.

Preaching may be expected the 1st Sabbath in April at Cedar Grove.

SAMUEL PEARCE.

Attention is invited to the advertisement of Mr. J. A. Turrentine, in another column.

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Governor Worth has summoned the Council of State to meet in the city of Raleigh, on Saturday, the 14th day of April next. The following gentlemen constitute the Council:

Members, Wm. A. Wright, President, New Hanover; Jesse J. Yeates of Hertford, Wm. Eaton, Jr., of Warren, Daniel L. Russell, Sr., of Brunswick, H. A. Lemly of Forsythe, Calvin J. Cowles of Wilkes, R. F. Simonon of Iredell.

The Lady's Book for April has been received. It is unnecessary to repeat that the numerous engravings with which it is ornamented are executed in the first style of the art; and that the literary matter with which its pages are filled are not excelled by any similar publication in the country. The great popularity which it has maintained for a long series of years testifies its worth. The price is only three dollars per annum.

The Georgia House of Representatives passed the stay law bill over the Governor's veto by a vote of 120 to 7.

The Standard of yesterday says, so far as we have examined the peach tree in the gardens about the city, the peaches are all dead.

The Newbern Times says that the woods were on fire last week, across the Trent, opposite Newbern, and that great damage had been done to the turpentine boxes, and many houses and fences had been burned.

CONGRESS.

March 13.—In the Senate, the bill for the admission of Colorado was taken up. After debate the Senate refused to pass it to a third reading—yeas 14, nays 22. Colorado excludes negro suffrage.

The House, by a vote of 109 against 39, passed the Senate bill, with amendments, that all persons born in the United States, and not subject to any foreign power, excluding Indians not taxed, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States, and such citizens, without regard to any