

"Fiducy of war, and of adventures new."

LATEST FROM SPAIN.

New-York, July 8.—The Portsmouth Journal of Saturday, received this morning, contains the following POSTSCRIPT.

The ship Esme, Captain Fulson, arrived below in 31 days from St. Ubes. It was reported in St. Ubes, on the day the Fame sailed, (May 30) that the French army had entered Madrid, and that the Portuguese troops ordered for the defence of Spain had revolted—refusing to join the Spanish cause.

FROM THE NEW YORK AMERICAN, JULY 11.

The ship New York, Maxwell, arrived this morning from Liverpool. We have our London papers to the evening of Saturday, 31st of May, inclusive, together with Lloyd's lists. The complexion of the news, says in that item which develops the treason of count D'Abisbal, is such as previous accounts had led us to expect.—The French army entered Madrid on the 23d of May; the duke d'Angouleme in person on the 24th. A regency, to be composed of the dukes De San Carlos and Del Infantado, and of our old acquaintance, the Marquis de Casa Yrrijó, was to administer the government in the name of Ferdinand, until, in the language of the French ultras, that monarch was restored to life and liberty. The duke del Infantado is reported however to have declined serving as one of the regents. The course of operations seems to have been thus: as the French army approached the Spanish capital, Abisbal, who had been charged by the constitutionalists with its defence, was tampered with by MONTIJO, whose letter, together with ABISBAL'S suspicious reply, is to be found below. Abisbal having then determined to evacuate Madrid, issued his proclamation, of the sixteenth, which we also insert, and which, taken by itself, does not prove much against him, and then retired. On the 21st, between the period when the Spanish regular force was withdrawn, and the entry of the French, the servile general Bessiers endeavoured to force his way to the capital; but was repulsed by the militia; it is said, with great loss. Of Abisbal's conduct no satisfactory explanation is given, even as to his fate; the accounts, according to the Times, are contradictory, that paper adds:—

"Some say he has been seized by his soldiers, and is to be tried by a court-martial. We believe it was never expected that he should defend Madrid: he is said to have marked out Estramadura as the place where military operations might commence with success. We also suspect, that without virtue enough to be a patriot, he had wanted courage to be a decisive traitor. If so he will have incurred the hatred and be exposed to the vengeance of both parties."

Other surmises are, that count Abisbal's defection, to which Morillo, Ballasteros, and even Mina are supposed to have been privy, was a concerted scheme, by means of which a door of accommodation would be more rapidly opened; and we shall not be surprised to find the conjecture, which we some time since hazarded confirmed, that the arrival of the French might lead to immediate negotiations.

In other parts of Spain nothing discouraging to the Spaniards had occurred. On the contrary, in a sortie from St. Sebastian, the Spanish troops obtained a decisive advantage; and as to the victory in his "Bobadil" despatch, general Donnadieu claims to have obtained over Mina's forces in Catalonia, we suspect a few more such would ruin the French general. As far as we can make out, Mina would seem to have baffled his pursuers, and to have thrown himself into Barcelona.

The French funds had declined, owing as it is supposed, to the intention which had been announced of negotiating a new loan of 25 million rents—in other words, of borrowing 500 million francs—a sum exceeding the whole debt of the United States and that all for the pleasure of imposing, or trying to impose, an absolute King, on the Spaniards.

The disturbances in Ireland continued unabated.

According to an article from the Times, there would seem to be a determination on the part of the Holy Allies, to interfere even with the freedom of Switzerland; by compelling her to restrict the liberty of the press, and to banish from her bosom the unfortunates of other nations, to whom she has afforded an asylum. Thus daring and insolent, have those col-leagued tyrants become.

BALTIMORE, JULY 14.

Our columns to-day are crowded, to the exclusion of almost every thing else, with late and important intelligence from Europe, particularly that from the seat of war. The accounts are only two days later than those heretofore published. The entrance of the French into Madrid is no more than what has been calculated upon; but the treasonable defection of the Spanish general ABISBAL, from the cause he had sworn to maintain, has everywhere caused the deepest concern among the friends of Spanish freedom. And when we take into the account, the apparent apathy of the Spanish people, we think there is too much reason to fear that this war will end like that of the Neapolitans—in unconditional submission. Some, however, are of opinion, that the Spanish cause is about to take a triumphant course. As the reader has all before him he will judge for himself. It is a subject on which speculation is lost.

part of our state; and no matter in what part of our state a citizen dwells, it is equally his duty to see it remedied. To vote for our representative, is an exercise of a sovereign right; and our future existence, as a free and happy people, depends upon the free and equal exercise of it. This is the greatest source of our power and of our freedom. Let this be corrupted, or let us be deprived of it, and our legislature will become a body of corruption and of oppression. It will pass oppressive laws; it will appoint its own judges, and its own executive to carry them into execution; and you will be the victims.

The moral character of a people depends upon wholesome legislation; and it will be in vain to expect a republic to exist, when its citizens have lost their moral character and moral energy. Let us, then, watch our legislative rights with a lynx-eyed vigilance, and meet the invasion of them at the threshold. Our revolutionary fathers met the first approach of foreign oppression ere it had landed, and our boasted republics are the consequence. May your posterity prosper by our vigilance, as we have by theirs. If our present system of representation is unjust, in any part of our state, it ought to be remedied; but more particularly, if it gives to a large section an undue advantage. Interest will have its influence with even the representative of a free people; and history teaches us, that, as governments grow old, interest becomes more corrupting.

What is the situation of our state? East of Raleigh, there are thirty-four counties (excluding Wake), which send into your legislature one hundred and two members, having a free white population of 154,014. West of that place, there are twenty-seven counties, which send eighty-one members, having a free white population of 253,235. If the eighty-one western members represent free white persons, in the same ratio that the 102 eastern members do, then there will be left 131,024 free white persons west of Raleigh unrepresented.

And where is the excuse for this unequal representation? The east claims a right to more representatives, in consequence of their having more negroes, and having more wealth. Did wealth purchase your freedom, or did slaves fight the battles of your revolution?

Freemen! freemen wrested it from the hand of despotism; and the patriotic feelings of seventy-six must shudder, to hear the petty lordling of a few slaves, claim the same weight in a representative government, in consequence of the number of unfortunate fellow beings he tyrannizes over and governs with the lash, as an equal number of freemen should have.

And is not wealth satisfied with its own enjoyments; but must it have political and constitutional power? Say not so in the land of freemen!

It may be urged, that though these eastern counties, having a free white population of but little more than one third of the whole state, do send a large majority of members to the legislature to appoint our rules; to impose taxes upon us; and make laws to govern us; yet they have generally acted with liberality and justice. If this assertion be true, the frequent applications of the citizens of Rowan for a division of that county, which in the legislature has always been made an eastern and western question, will not do as an evidence of its truth. And the argument that the minority have a right to govern the majority, as long as they do it well, might suit the "divine right of kings," or the "holy alliance," but Americans would argue from the mouths of their cannon before they would be convinced of its truth.

Suppose the eastern counties should not tax any thing but free white persons, and tax them high enough to meet the demands of government; what would be the tax on the east in proportion to that of the west? Yet they would have their negroes and their wealth to pay it with. They have the power to do so: they have the majority of the legislature.

But it may be said, they, perhaps, will never do so great an act of injustice; to which your committee can only reply, the minority should never have the power to do it.

JOSEPH GIBSON,  
Chairman of the Corresponding  
Committee of Guilford.

The two great merchants.—Dr. Richardson, in his "Travels," says that the pacha or governor of Egypt is the only merchant in the country. He furnishes the shoemaker with leather and pays him so much a day for his labor; the shoes are deposited in a general store, and sold to the public for the benefit of the pacha, who pockets all the profits.—It is the same with cloth. He provides the weaver with yarn; pays him about 6 cents per day for his labor; the cloth is then sold out by the agents of the pacha.

The king of Siam, in India beyond the Ganges, is said to be only merchant in his kingdom. No subject dares offer to purchase any thing until the king has made his bargain. His agents then sell out the articles at retail, and the king receives a handsome profit.

But your committee are aware, that there are some, who believe that special and limited powers alone cannot be delegated to the members of the general convention; but that, when appointed, they will have unlimited control over the whole of your constitution. Your committee believe, that communities can delegate powers in the same way that individuals can delegate them; and that one individual, by delegating to another power to do a certain act, thereby delegates to that other unlimited powers to do any act that he himself might do, is doctrine, too absurd to impose on the sound understanding of this country, and consequently needs no refutation from this committee.

Your committee are sincerely attached to our present constitution; yet they are constrained to acknowledge it has defects, and they believe that the present time is as propitious for its amendment as could be wished. Other states have thought the time propitious. Political parties no longer distract our country; no party sectional feelings disturb the quietude of our own state, except those which arise out of the subject of this address; and we have sufficiently tested our constitution to discover its defects.

That it has defects, should not at all surprise us, when we look at the journal of the congress that formed, and the time it was formed. To tell you what was the situation of our state, in December 1776, and the violence of parties here at that time, would be useless. History tells us of the convulsions of those times, which burst our political bands; and our fathers have told us the melancholy tale of citizens sheathing their daggers in each others breasts. From the journals of the congress which sat at Halifax and formed our constitution, it appears that not more than three or four days, out of a long session, were devoted to this object; and that, too, when they were not engaged in other business growing out of the situation of the times. To judge from the journal, it appears to have been considered as an object of second importance, and only intended for a temporary government to protect us through the revolutionary struggle.

Your committee will forbear to express any opinion as to the propriety of calling a convention, or as to altering or amending any part of our constitution. These are sovereign rights, which they will exercise as citizens, when called upon to do so; and it becomes every citizen, on this subject, to act and to think for himself; and your committee should think they had acted the part of the tyrant, if by any conduct of theirs they should have an undue influence over the decision of the humblest of their fellow citizens.

Your committee will point out the features of our constitution which, by many, are considered objectionable.

By our constitution, the appointment of the governor is vested in the legislature. This is the highest office of our state. This officer presides over our lives, our liberty, and our property. Notwithstanding the great interest every citizen must have in the appointment of this high executive officer; yet his appointment is entirely independent of them; nor can they have any control over it, but what little influence they can have through their representatives. Should we vest in others, powers to appoint an officer, in whom we are all so deeply interested? or would we not better secure our liberties and our independence, to make that appointment by ourselves alone?

The appointments of our judges, is likewise vested in our legislature. These are appointments in which all must feel great interest; as they are organs through whom the laws of the land are administered to us. Should we trust to others, to choose for us that degree of unyielding integrity and sterling understanding, which should characterize that body, or should we rather choose for ourselves?

These are two of the features of the constitution, that are considered objectionable: but your committee beg leave to be a little more explicit on another part of our constitution, which seems to demand the attention of every citizen who regards his freedom or his rights.

As in a country like ours, we bow to no superiors but the laws of the land, we should view our legislative rights with an eye of jealousy that never winks.

The American character is on its march to greatness; and if it shall keep its legislative sources pure and uncontaminated by political ambition or phrenzied democracy, it will arrive at a pitch of moral and political grandeur, that the rest of the world may envy, but can never equal.

Your legislature, as it is now composed, is the creature of that part of your constitution which gives to each one of your counties a senator and two commoners, and to each one of the borough towns one member.

That one county should have as much weight in your legislature as another, without regard to its wealth, territory or population, is as absurd, as that one individual residing in one part of this state should have as much political power as four or five others residing in a different part; or that the same individual should, by changing the place of his residence from a large populous county to a small unpopulous one, thereby increase the weight he has in your legislature five or six fold.

As about as it may be with our notions of equal rights and privileges, yet it is the fact under our present mode of representation. The county of Guilford has a free white population of 12,692. Washington county has a free white population of 2,243. If this last county is entitled to three members in our legislature, upon principles of equality, Guilford is equally entitled to eighteen members. Should one citizen of Washington have as much weight in your legislature as six citizens of Guilford? Does he pay into the public treasury of the state, six times the money that one of you pays? or does Washington furnish her six soldiers, for every six that Guilford furnishes, when her territory, and her property, and her citizens are to be protected?

Your committee beg leave to submit a few statements, which show the injustice of our present representation.

The free white population of Washington, Jones, Green, Chowan and Columbus, five counties, is 12,597. The free white population of Guilford is 12,692, being 95 more than the population of the above five counties; yet she has but three members, while they have fifteen.

To the first named five counties, add Brunswick and Tyrrel; the free white population of these seven counties is 18,541. Rowan has 20,449, which is 1,948 more than the preceding seven counties; yet she sends but three members, while they, with a much smaller population send twenty-one.

To the above seven counties, add five others, viz. Hyde, Martin, Lenoir, Gates and Ashe; these contain a free white population of 35,526. Rowan and Orange contain 37,263, which is 741 more than the before mentioned twelve counties; yet these two send only six members, while a smaller population in those twelve counties send thirty-six members.

To the free population of the above twelve counties, add the free population of the following twenty-one counties, viz. Carteret, Beaufort, Bladen, Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Franklin, Hertford, Haywood, Moore, Northampton, Nash, New-Hanover, Onslow, Pitt, Pasquotank, Perquimons, Warren, Wayne, Person and Richmond; these thirty-three counties contain a free white population of 138,911, being less than one-third of the free white population of the whole state, (which is 419,200;) yet they send into your legislature ninety-nine members, being over a majority of the whole legislature.

The population of the first twelve counties enumerated is 35,525; compare this with the population of the following twelve counties, Burke, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Randolph, Orange, Rutherford, Iowan, Surry, Stokes, and Wake, which have a free population of 154,045. These counties send an equal number of members to your legislature, while there is a difference in their free white population in favour of the latter twelve counties of 118,320, who are in effect unrepresented. Here are 36,325 in those twelve small counties, who send to your legislature thirty-six members, while there is 118,320 of our fellow citizens, in those twelve large counties, that are, in effect, unrepresented.

These twelve large counties, we have seen, have a free white population of 154,343; being 14,612 more than one third of the whole free white population of the state; yet they send only thirty-six members into your legislature, while a great deal less than two thirds of their other fellow citizens send one hundred and fifty-seven members.

The counties of Ashe, Columbus, Haywood, Tyrrel, Hyde, Carteret, and Currituck, paid into the public treasury of the state in 1822 about 2,556 dollars 31 cents; add to this 160 dollars paid to their sheriffs in making their settlements; so that these counties cost the rest of the citizens of this state last year 1246 dollars 10 cents to pay their own members; to pay men we never voted for, to make laws for us, whose interests they do not know, and for which, perhaps, they do not care. Yet ours is called a representative government founded upon equal rights and privileges!

The expenditures of the departments of state were 28,144 dollars, 25 1/2 cents; and each county's part thereof is 470 dollars 8 cents, which multiplied by 7, the number of the last mentioned counties, gives 3290 dollars, 35 cents; which added to the above sum of 1246 dollars, 10 cents, makes 4536 dollars, 66 cents; the clear annual expense which these counties are to the public treasury, over and above what is paid in by them!

Again: The whole of the disbursements at the treasury for the last year is 126,701 dollars, 69 1/2 cents, which sum divided by 63 gives as each county's proportional part thereof 2,043 dollars, 57 cents and for the above seven counties 14,304 dollars, 99 cents; we have seen they paid into the public treasury, for the last year, only 2,536 dollars, 31 cents, which leaves a balance of 11,748 dollars, 68 cents. Who is to pay this balance for them?

The above statements show, that inequality of representation exists in every

\* Rowan has been divided since the census was taken, and since the Comptroller made his report.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

CONVENTION.

To the Friends of Guilford County.  
FELLOW CITIZENS! During the last Legislature, a meeting of a large and respectable portion of the members was held in Raleigh, for the purpose of devising some plan to ascertain the sense of a majority of the freemen of this state upon the propriety of calling a convention to amend the constitution of this state; and as the object and views of that meeting are not well understood by many of our fellow citizens, this committee beg leave to submit the following observations to the consideration of the citizens of this county.

It is an undeniable fact, that the constitution of our state affords the supreme rules by which we are governed; it was the creature of a majority of the freemen of this state; it is now their property; and we acknowledge no power that can alter or amend it, but the will of a majority of our freemen.

That some amendments in our constitution are necessary, has long been the opinion of many of our most intelligent citizens; but whether those amendments should be made, was a question for a majority of our freemen alone to decide. It is the anxious wish of many that the opinion of that majority should be ascertained; which can be done only by the freemen of our state acting simultaneously, and expressing their opinions. And who can glory in our republic, or deserve the name of an American, that will deny to a majority of our freemen the privilege of speaking their sentiments concerning their sovereign rights?

To effect this object, repeated applications have been made to your legislature to pass some resolutions, recommending to the freemen of your state to express their wish whether they would have their constitution altered or not. These resolutions would have commanded our attention throughout the state, and we should all have voted together for or against a convention.

As often as those resolutions have been introduced, so often has your legislature rejected them. It has refused to permit you to say whether you wished your constitution amended or not; it has restrained you, as far as it could, from exercising any right over that which belongs exclusively to yourselves, and over which no other power could exercise any right.

It was in consequence of these repeated refusals, that those members of the last legislature, who were willing that the freemen of this state should at least have an opportunity of expressing their sentiments on the subject, co-operated to ascertain what those sentiments were: and to effect this, a general corresponding committee, and a corresponding committee for each county, were appointed.

The objects of these corresponding committees are, to bring the subject before the people; to cast every light on it that may be in their power, that the people may form as correct opinions on the subject as possible; to adopt such measures as they may think proper in furtherance of the subject; and to ascertain as far as possible the public sentiment; and by corresponding with the general committee, the counties will be brought to act together, and by these means the sentiments of the majority can be pretty well ascertained.

The friends of a convention, were well aware that many of our respectable citizens, while they acknowledge the oppressive defects in several parts of our constitution, were yet opposed to calling a convention for its amendment, believing that that convention would have unlimited powers over the whole constitution, and might, perhaps, endanger those parts that all must acknowledge are excellent. As this objection has great reason in it, and as it had its full weight with many of even the warmest friends of the convention, the meeting at Raleigh last winter, wisely recommended to the freemen of this state, at their next election, to appoint delegates to meet at Raleigh on the second Monday in November next. The object of this meeting will be, to devise some way more completely to ascertain the public sentiment, and to effect the amendment of the defective parts of the constitution without endangering the whole.

Those delegates will, therefore, point out such parts of your constitution as they believe require amendment; and it will be submitted to you hereafter, to say whether you will appoint delegates to meet in general convention, with power, specially delegated to them to alter or amend those parts of your constitution which shall have been previously pointed out as defective, and with no other powers.

It is recommended that the different counties in this state shall send one delegate for every 5,000 of our federal population; and your county, possessing a federal population of 13,696, will consequently be entitled to two delegates; and your committee recommend to the freemen of this county, to meet on the last Friday in September next, at the usual place of holding elections, and select from among yourselves the two delegates for this county.