

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Our paper of this week is almost entirely occupied with the "last words" of Governor Dudley. Having submitted a few comments last week on the spirit that characterizes that "very peculiar" production, we will now proceed to notice some of the subjects upon which he particularly descants. The first is, the Banks. We have scarcely read a newspaper of either party for the past twelve months which did not freely admit that there are too many banks in the country, and too much capital, real or fictitious, employed in this way. It has occurred to us that 950 Banks, with a projected capital of more than 400 millions of dollars, were enough in all conscience to satisfy every body, and tax every body; but it seems we have all been entirely mistaken, for Gov. Dudley has discovered that we want more Banking capital! He says: "We need more Banking capital" not only to develop the vast resources of our State, but to keep the notes of other States, and supply our entire circulation."

And further: "Those who contend that we have capital enough, I am persuaded, must have confounded capital with Bank issues, and were induced to do so because the Banks have suspended specie payments."

But, concludes the Governor: "If our Banks had more capital, I am satisfied they could the sooner resume specie payments and discounts."

A most singular conclusion truly—in what way arrived at, we cannot pretend to conjecture, since, for our life, we are unable to see how more capital, with a consequent comparatively increased amount of issues and liabilities, would give them any more power than they at present have to resume cash payments and discounts.

Having in the manner quoted above, come to the conclusion that we have not Banks enough, he next proceeds to advise as follows:

And until, some general arrangement can be made to put the State Banks on a higher ground, and capable of more solid and useful purposes, the establishment of a National Bank, I would respectfully recommend the increase of the capital of the Banks of the State, and Cape Fear, one million of dollars each, and that the State hand over to them equally as her subscription of stock; all the Cherokee bonds and notes belonging to the Board of the Literary Fund of North Carolina and lot-ral Improvements, convertible as collected, with such other lands as can be spared from other purposes.

But on this recommendation, there hangs a tail: here it is; he says it may be done:

"Provided the Banks will loan to the Wilmington and Raleigh, and Gaston Rail Road Companies, \$200,000 to 400,000 on the bonds of said Companies guaranteed by the State, on the property of which, comprises the State being already secured by mortgage, at a rate of interest not exceeding 6 per cent, per annum, for the period of ten years, unless these companies are enabled sooner to pay the same."

Now really all this is very liberal and disinterested. Already have six or seven hundred thousand dollars of the public money been thrown away on the Wilmington and Raleigh rail-roads, and now our Governor comes forward with a proposition to give the Banks in the State all our money to deal on, but solely upon condition that these Banks agree to give \$400,000 to the Wilmington Rail-road! This Governor of ours is not content with the \$600,000 already thrown away, but he would have an addition of 400,000 more, so as to make it a round million. But let us look at his reasoning in favor of this scheme. Of course it is not by any means particularly intended to develop the resources of Wilmington, or give activity to her lumber trade &c., but the whole was devised by the Governor "solely to develop the vast resources of our State." How an increase of Banks or Bank capital in North Carolina is to "develop our vast resources" we acknowledge ourselves too ignorant to perceive. But he says this new capital will do another thing. "It will keep off the notes of other States and supply our entire circulation." Now how this thing is to be done, we must again acknowledge ourselves too ignorant to comprehend. Almost the only currency we have in this part of North Carolina consists of the "notes of other States," chiefly those of South Carolina. Our people receive them in exchange for the produce which they carry out. The Bank notes do not come into the State of their own accord; our cotton, bacon, corn, wheat, whiskey, flour, &c., bring them here. This being the case, there are but two ways, as far as we can see, by which the Governor can "keep off" these notes; that is: either to stop our people from trading to South Carolina together; or make the people of South Carolina come over the line and borrow our Bank bills to pay for what they buy of us. Which of these he proposes to adopt, we cannot undertake to conjecture.

The Governor undoubtedly has some peculiar notions about Banks. He says:

"The higher the grounds upon which the State can place these Banks, by protection and strict supervision, the more she will inspire public confidence, fill the subscription, and enable them the sooner to resume specie payments, and extend their usefulness."

What does he mean by "protection"? Not a "Protective Tariff," we hope. Why fit sooth, the Ex Governor of ours is a second John Law, and some of his odd notions are worthy of Law, and the times in which he flourished.

The United States Bank.—Before we dismiss the consideration of the Governor's views about Banks, we will recur to what he says of a United States Bank. In the first part of his Message, we find the following:

"The Bank of the United States, which grew out of the necessities of the country, at two periods of great distress, (and which would seem almost to give credence to its existence,) and which answered every pur-

pose required to be raised to a higher level and made to become a permanent institution. These funds are derived by increasing appropriations, interest from loans, and Bank dividends. These laws are clearly defective, and should be altered. If it were intended to establish a loan office, the necessary provisions should be made, and competent officers appointed with adequate salaries. But it certainly never could be intended to convert the Executive into a loan office, occupying more of the attention and responsibility of the Governor than all his other duties combined, and diverting him from the higher and more enlarged trusts committed to his care.

It is considered radically wrong in the State to adopt any law by which individuals become debtors to it. Whatever space funds the State may have, should be invested in stocks or devoted to the improvement of the people and country. If no other alteration is made, it would be a matter of great relief to the Governor for a union of both Boards. Such an alteration would curtail one half of his services, reduce the number of the members, and save expense to the State. Loans should be forbidden, and authority extended to investments in the stocks of Rail-roads and Manufacturing Companies, by purchase or by subscription, as the Board may deem best for the interest of the State; and all sales, in future, of property belonging to the State to be made for cash only. Should their credit sales would seem to promise, and your tables filled with petitions for indulgence which would be exceedingly painful to refuse.

The standard weights, agreeably to an act of your last session, have been constructed; and they are nearly completed, and being delivered to the several counties. No standard for measures has yet been received from the Federal Government.

The proceedings of Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia, herewith submitted, in file C, to your consideration, at the request of their respective Governors, relative to the demands of Georgia and Virginia, on the States of Maine and New York for the apprehension and delivery of fugitives from justice, and their refusal, present matter to the Southern States of the most delicate and important nature. It is believed, under an influence of the most precious kind, that these States have acted in bad faith to the compact which secures the right of demand and surrender of fugitives from one State to another. The causes assigned are considered unsatisfactory.

In connection with this subject, the formation of a military company of negroes, most if not all supposed to be fugitive slaves, clothed in the British uniform, stationed on the Canada frontier, and permitted to insult and threaten the lives of Southern travellers, and the constant practice of our slaves deserting to and finding protection with the Northern and Eastern States, increase greatly the necessity of action on these subjects; in which all the Southern and Western States, to which such acts are injurious and offensive, should act together, coolly and deliberately, but firmly in the protection and maintenance of their rights.

Since the distribution of the arms, under the Act of 1836-37, to the several counties which were then in the arsenals at Fayetteville and this place, the quotas to which this State are entitled from the General Government have been received at Newbern and Fayetteville, except several pieces of ordnance, the carriages and appendages of which were burnt in the recent fire at Wilmington, while waiting shipment to Fayetteville. The law provides for arsenals at Fayetteville and this place, but none at Newbern, a point equally important and necessary for a depot and keeper. The cannon burnt at Wilmington and other arms, occasionally require repair for their preservation and usefulness; but there is no law for such purpose. The Executive is empowered to employ a guard at the arsenals whenever he should deem it necessary. This might be better accomplished by allowing uniform companies some exemptions and privileges from taxes, &c. who would undertake the duty in such a way as the Governor should prescribe. It would accomplish the double purpose of having those companies under better discipline, and the arms under better protection, which are matters of no small moment. Indeed, if the law were to extend to the uniform, volunteer companies throughout the State, privileges and immunities of even trifling importance, it would secure improved discipline in the militia, now too much neglected. Whenever the common school system gets into operation, it would be good policy to make military discipline form a part of their exercises; as we are all well acquainted, from many circumstances, not to forget the necessity of preparing in peace for any emergency; and a system that is best to commence with the youths of the State.

The Revised Statutes have been distributed agreeably to law, and the remaining volumes placed with Messrs. Turner and Hoghes, of this place and E. J. Hal's Esq. of Fayetteville, Booksellers, for sale on account of the State.

I have the honor of submitting herewith marked B. the remonstrance of the citizens of the District of Columbia by their delegates in convention to the People of the United States and to the Legislatures of the several States, against oppressive and grievous, suffered from the misrule of the new ruling majority in Congress. In file F, the proceedings of the several States of Kentucky, New York, Maine, New Jersey, Vermont, and Connecticut, relative to the public domain. In file F, from the State of Maine, Indiana and Ohio, on the subject of the disputed Territory of Peace will be found.

It affords me pleasure, gentlemen, to congratulate you on the completion of the Capitol, and the occupancy of more commodious and comfortable apartments for the transaction of business to all the branches of the Government. It is a noble building and honorable to the State, and will descend to posterity as a proud monument of the spirit of the age. The completion of this structure, two Rail Roads, the establishment of common schools, and the reclamation of Swamp Lands, will form a new and honorable era, in the history of our State, to which her citizens may point with pleasure and pride.

I assure you, gentlemen that it will give me unqualified pleasure to co-operate in any measure which may be deemed necessary for the happiness, welfare and security of our fellow citizens.

I have the honor to be
Your most obedient servant,
EDWARD B. DUDLEY,
Executive Office, November 16, 1846.

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It is with great diffidence I venture on any observations relating to our Court system; but I should not believe my duty discharged, if I remained silent. The resignations of Messrs. Saunders and Toomer have brought to my knowledge the feelings and wants of the State in the appointment of these highly valuable and indispensable officers.—The East, West, North and South claim the right and propriety of being supplied; and I have no doubt these considerations will be felt in the election of these officers in your body. If the range of the State were necessary to supply the higher order of talents, no change ought to be made; or, if the yielding to sectional considerations could meet the wants and wishes of the people, we might be content with the present arrangement; but I am persuaded neither the one or the other is effected. In every district, many men may be found abundantly qualified to discharge the duties of Judge.

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The Board of Internal Improvements agreeably to law, caused books to be opened, under the superintendence of active agents, to obtain the pro-quo ante subscriptions before the Fayetteville and Western Rail-road Company could receive the State's subscription and organize, and I regret to inform you, without success. This appeared to be the favorite scheme of the State, and I was anxious to see it executed. To the poverty of the country through which the greater part of the road would pass, and the depression of the monetary affairs of the country, may this failure be attributed.

Soon after the adjournment of the last session of your honorable body, Daniel W. Courts, Esq., resigned his appointment as Public Treasurer of the State; the vacancy occasioned by which was temporarily filled by the appointment, under advice of the Council, of Charles L. Hinton, Esq., who has since sedulously discharged the duties of the office.

In the course of the present year, the Hon. B. M. Saunders and the Hon. John D. Toomer, Judges of our Superior Courts of Law and Equity, have resigned. The vacancies thereby occasioned, have been supplied, under advice of the Council of State, by the appointment of Edward Hall, of Warrenton, and William H. Battle, of this City, whose commissions will expire at the close of your present session; and they both entered immediately on the duties of their respective stations.

It is with great diffidence I venture on any observations relating to our Court system; but I should not believe my duty discharged, if I remained silent. The resignations of Messrs. Saunders and Toomer have brought to my knowledge the feelings and wants of the State in the appointment of these highly valuable and indispensable officers.—The East, West, North and South claim the right and propriety of being supplied; and I have no doubt these considerations will be felt in the election of these officers in your body. If the range of the State were necessary to supply the higher order of talents, no change ought to be made; or, if the yielding to sectional considerations could meet the wants and wishes of the people, we might be content with the present arrangement; but I am persuaded neither the one or the other is effected. In every district, many men may be found abundantly qualified to discharge the duties of Judge.

When the claims of any section has heretofore been gratified, it has proved only for a short space of time—the incumbent generally changing his location for convenience or health, and again the District is left destitute of one of those valuable officers. To remedy this defect and quiet the conflicting interest of the different sections of our State, I would very respectfully recommend the location of the Judges in each district respectively. The law must, of course, be prospective, and the present opportunity can furnish two vacant districts. It appears to be due to the State to the wants and convenience of the people, and to the Judges themselves, to make this alteration. The rights might alternate as now, or the Judge be confined to the duties of his own district.—The latter appears to me best. A person from the mountains cannot ride in one of the sea-board districts in the jail with impunity. His risk of sickness and death is certainly alarming, and the result has been that the business of those districts is hurried over in a state of mind which must detract greatly from confidence and a satisfactory discharge of duty. The services of a most valuable officer has just been lost to the State by the fear of riding the first district this fall.

Allow me, gentlemen, to call your attention to the acts of 1836-37, creating the Boards of Internal Improvements, and of the Literary Fund of North Carolina. Of both these Boards the Governor is a member, and ex-officio president. Large sums of money are at their disposal, which they

the State is abundantly able to construct the necessary buildings, and it only requires the action of your body, to establish the principle and place, upon which they shall be erected; the appointment of a competent Superintendent to visit the various establishments of the kind, and collect the necessary information, both of Penitentiaries, and Lunatic and Orphan Asylums, and to commence the work as soon as the plan should be approved by the Governor, or a Board of Commissioners raised for that purpose, and an appropriation to meet the expenditures, placed subject to the Governor's warrant. In the mean while, the necessary code of Laws might be prepared under a commission, granted by your honorable body for that purpose.

Most of the countries have adopted the common school system, and a few have received the State's quota of money, to aid them in this most estimable object. The want of School Masters is the only complaint which has reached me, and will, in all probability, be the most formidable obstacle to further success, by applying the proper corrective, that and all other difficulties, I hope, may be overcome. To a several counties which retained the adoption of the system, no doubt acted on mistaken views, or wrong information, and their participation should, in justice, be provided for by law.

It is with the most unfeigned gratification, that I congratulate the General Assembly on this work of their own, which has placed in the reach of poor parents the opportunity of obtaining for their children, what will so eminently improve their moral and mental condition, to make them better and more valuable citizens, and inspire them with grateful feeling to their country, which will never be forgotten in the hour of danger.

It is with great pleasure I have to inform you that, in obedience to the direction of the last session of your honorable body, a survey of Nag's Head has been prepared. Under this resolution, directing a report to be made by some able and experienced Engineer, the Board of Internal Improvements appointed Major Walter Gwynn, who commenced operations in May last, and reported to the Board in June. This able and judicious report amply evinces the propriety and importance of your inviting the attention of Congress to the opening of an Inlet at that point, as a national work of the highest importance. These resolutions claiming the attention of our Representatives in Congress, were forwarded to them. The Representative from the first district, in which Nag's Head is situated, gave the subject his prompt and unremitting attention. A copy of the report and map of the survey were also forwarded to the Representative from that district; but it reached him at too late a period of the session to be acted on.

Would it not be well again to urge this work on Congress? I am decidedly of the opinion that the enterprise is among the most important of any in the United States—in a national point of view, in the

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