

Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, THURSDAY JAN. 8.

THE OXFORD ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Some of the papers of the State are lecturing the Legislature for not making an appropriation to this charitable institution. We confess ourselves disappointed that it did not make some arrangement to meet the affecting demand, but believe that the matter is embarrassed with more difficulties than many are aware of. The first question to be decided is, "have the legislators a right to make the appropriation?" We say this is the first question, for no one doubts the claim of such an enterprise upon the public for support, and no one of head and heart will object to any legal measures to give certainly, regularly and permanently to that support. Some will say it would be a hazardous precedent to give State aid to such an institution. This we think a mistaken view. The Asylum is distinct in character from all merely denominational enterprises, for it is unsectarian, and must continue so, as long as it is under the control of the Marions; and being an unsectarian charity, cannot lead to any expectations or suggest any claims on the part of any particular class or sect in the State.

Another difficulty is that it would involve partial legislation and unfairness to the colored population—they being taxed to sustain white orphans, while their orphans are uncared for. There is force in this position and it is not easy to answer it.

Another phase of the difficulty is that the Marions will not surrender the right to manage the institution, and that the State would tax itself without representation. In answer to this we aver that the right to appropriate funds to an object does not presuppose the absolute control of that object. Partial influence in an enterprise justifies or demands partial contribution for the support of the enterprise. The State has a right also to bargain with any corporation—the Marions Trustees of the Asylum as well as others—for certain privileges in an enterprise on condition of certain benefits to be enjoyed in return.

DEFENDING BACK PAY.

Hon. A. M. Waddell, of this State, is out in a well written letter defending the back pay grab. We are sorry for Waddell. He may sing never so sweetly, and yet the public that attaches to this act of infamy plunder will remain. The people regard it in the light of a great outrage—a crime almost amounting to a felony; and really, in a moral point of view, it is utterly indefensible.

If this back salary act had been adopted at the beginning of the congress which it was to benefit, it would not have looked so bad, still it would have been a great wrong; but the members seemed scarcely to have thought of it until the day before the final adjournment, when, as if impressed with the idea that they might never have another chance at the public Treasury, they rallied all their strength and boldly and shamelessly laid hands upon the people's money, without precedent and without legal or moral right. It is true there have been passed, heretofore, bills to increase the pay of congressional and other legislative members; but none like this. This was passed the last day of that congress, and after many of the members had drawn and received for their entire pay. Look too at the amount of increase: \$5,000 to each member. No other provision in this country was any thing like so extravagant or prodigal. No other body ever showed such shameless disregard of public opinion—such indecency and selfishness in the use of the public funds.

The defenders of this infamous act of public plunder, are wont to wring in such names as George Washington, James Monroe, James Madison, Nathaniel Macon, and others, who, they say, are guilty of the same crime with which the back pay grabbers of the last congress stand charged; but they don't tell us whether these great and good patriots—these fathers of the country, passed the bills to increase their salaries at the beginning or at the end of the congresses to which they belonged. This is important information and they ought not to fail to give it. They should, furthermore, tell us how much they increased their pay, and all the other necessary information connected with it.

The government was in a formative state at the time such men as Washington and Madison voted for, or accepted, increased pay; and they did not vote themselves pay by the thousands either. How was it with the back pay grabbers of the last congress? They did not increase their pay \$500 merely, but \$5,000, and everything connected with the act shows it to have been a most deliberate and criminal purpose on the part of members to obtain money which they did not honestly believe they had a right to. The bill passed by a very small majority, and nearly all those who had any sense of shame or decency refused to take the money thus corruptly voted them, and many that did take it, were forced by their consciences to return it. The great masses of the people who are generally correct in their discriminations between right and wrong—

most without exception condemn the act as one akin to public theft. Do not all these things show it to be indefensible? The man who undertakes to defend it, will but sink lower in the public estimate. He may have the courage of the bull that attempted to butt the engine of the track, but he will justly be chargeable with possessing his judgment also.

THE CONSOLIDATION BILL.

After carefully reading the act, recently passed by the General Assembly, to amend the charter of the N. C. Rail Road Company, so as to enable it to purchase and complete the Western N. C. Rail Road, and consolidate with the Atlantic and N. C. Rail Road, we are not surprised at the subjoined resolutions adopted by the Directors of the first named company at a recent meeting:

This consolidation measure, as we understand it, will secure the completion of the Western N. C. Rail Road and result in the end to the great advantage of the N. C. Rail Road. It is proposed by the N. C. Rail Road to purchase the Western N. C. Rail Road, and to consolidate it with the N. C. and the Atlantic and N. C. Rail Roads, producing a consolidated line of railway, from the Seaboard to connect with the Georgia and Tennessee Roads.

We are unable to see any objection to this scheme, although there is, a number of good men opposed to it, while there is a greater number of equally good men who favor it. Since it is likely to insure the completion of the Western N. C. Road, we feel confident that the people of this section will favor it. Indeed, it is a matter of much importance to them. We are unable to see that any of these lines will be placed in a worse condition by the consummation of the scheme. On the other hand, we believe it will result in good to have them all consolidated, if the officers who may be selected to operate the line are not foolishly trammelled by the statutory act of consolidation as we conceive they would be by the one before us. We hope, therefore, that the Legislature will reconsider its recent action, and remove from the bill unjust and fatal restrictions.

With the Western N. C. Rail Road completed, there is a fine prospect of getting the Yadkin Rail Road put through; for it will certainly be to the interest of the company to have a direct outlet to Wilmington and Charleston, from this point.

Here are the resolutions referred to above.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Railroad Company, are earnestly desirous of a speedy completion of the Western North Carolina Railroad extensions, and consolidated line through the State of North Carolina, and respectfully submit, that in their opinion the recent Act passed by the Legislature, amending the charter of the North Carolina Railroad Company renders such completion impracticable. We, therefore, earnestly appeal to the Governor to call the State Commission together, and ask their co-operation before the Legislature for a charter, with such powers as will enable this company to carry through successfully this great work.

RESOLVED, That William A. Smith, T. M. Holt, N. H. D. Wilson, R. Barringer, and H. L. Holmes, be appointed a committee to lay this resolution, before the proper authorities, and to take such further action, in relation thereto, as they may deem necessary.

We have no doubt these resolutions will, as they deserve, receive due consideration from the Legislature.

If the stockholders of the N. C. Rail Road are willing to give their stocks as security for the completion of the Western Road, we should not object. So far as the State's interest in the Western Road is concerned, that is gone long since; and as we said above, its condition can not be worsened. We want the Road completed, and we think this consolidation scheme the best chance we have for it. We are in favor of every safe guard being thrown round the measure by proper legislation, in order to protect the public interest; but there is such a thing as going into extremes. Better kill the bill than have it clogged by impracticable and unwise provisions.

We are informed that within the past ten days the Carolina Military Institute in this city has received ten or twelve new students, and it is confidently expected that the number of Cadets will reach one hundred by the 15th of this month. Ministers' sons are received into the Institution free of tuition.—Charlotte Democrat.

We are glad to learn that this old institution is reasserting its claim to public favor.

We do not know the Superintendent, Col. J. P. Thomas, but are assured that he is a ripe scholar and in every way well qualified for the position he occupies. And the connection of Gen. D. H. Hill with the Institute is an ought to be a sufficient guarantee to parents and guardians that it is well worthy of their confidence and favorable consideration.

We shall be glad to hear of the continued growth and prosperity of this institution.

Senor Castelar, President of the Spanish Republic, was defeated on some measure in the Cortes, and thereupon resigned.

Five men were killed on a vessel near Wilmington, a few days ago by inhaling coal gas.

"For the Watchman."

EDITORS WATCHMAN.—I have been shown an article in the Piedmont Press, (signed A. S.) purporting to give a description of "Salisbury jail," and the way in which the prisoners are fed and treated there, but I find that the writer says nothing about the jail. (I wish he had), but he bangs away on corn-bread, bacon and cowpeas, (well we admit that in our bill of fare), but in doing justice to our "county authorities." I must say that the writer prevaricated a "little," and ask you to allow our statement a small space in your invaluable columns.—Our diet consists of bread, pork and beef, and occasionally, "beef soup," potatoes, peas, cabbage and "sour cream," molasses, and Coffee, and at each meal we get the greatest quantity. (I do not consider this first class board,) such as you get at the "Boyd House," where the "Colonel" gives you every delicacy that heart can desire, but as "Waggoner's Hotel," is considered, only a third class house, the proprietor, charges only 40c per day. I for one, do not propose, to growl about the fare so long as things remain as they are at present, provided the jailer give us a Christian treat, and do not raise the price of his board.

But at the same time, I do not recommend the house to any one, seeking board and lodging, but if you can do no better, "call in," and you will find that their is always room for one more, and if you do not get enough to eat I shall always think that you were pretty well starved before you came here. "Our jailer," says, when we do not get enough to eat, report to him, and it must come.—Anything that is not worth asking for, certainly ought not to be worth having.

A. PRISONER.

Jail.—Dec. 19th 1873.

From the Lutheran Visitor.—Written for "Our Church Paper," but refused admission. COPIED IN THIS PAPER BY REQUEST.

Reply to an Editorial, etc., in "Our Church Paper," of Oct. 17, in reference to the printing of the Minutes of the N. C. Synod.

MESSRS. EDITORS: If our Church Paper had not a large circulation outside of the N. C. Synod, we should not have written a word in reply to the editorial referred to in the caption of this article; for we know that there are many persons in the Synod, who are not of the N. C. Synod, that have read the Minutes of 1873. But as many persons in other Synods may be wrongly impressed by those articles, and especially by the editorial referred to above, we conceive it to be a duty we owe to ourselves and to our friends, to correct some erroneous statements that may mislead others in regard to the point at issue.

The author of said editorial, who, by-the-way, is the M. Pleasant editor of our Church Paper, states that he "did not move the resolution," which was passed by the Western Conference concerning the Secretary of the N. C. Synod, and in a letter to us he stated that he "had nothing to do with the resolution."

He might not have had anything to do with it directly, but unless we are very much mistaken, he had much to do with it indirectly; for it was doubtless through his talk and influence over the other members of the Western Conference that the resolution was "moved" and "passed." Had it not been for his talk, we do not believe that any such action would have been taken by the Western Conference.

When we stated in our letters to Messrs. Blum, and to Rev. Henkel, that the printing of the Minutes would "be let to the lowest bidder," we were not aware that a request had been made by one or more ministers, on the floor of Synod, just before the final adjournment, without a single objection, that the Minutes of Synod be printed by Mr. Bruner, of Salisbury. This request having been made just before adjournment, when the remaining business of Synod was rapidly being disposed of, as is usual at such times, and as we had several items of business already before us to note down which claimed our attention, we did not hear the request, but have been assured by two of the ministers that it was actually made without opposition.

We hope the members of the Western Conference will consider their action in reference to the Secretary of Synod, calmly and deliberately. If they do so, they must surely see that they acted hastily in censuring a Conference. We certainly acted conscientiously, and in the fear of God, and with a view of subserving the best interests of the church, when we had the Minutes printed in Salisbury. There are weightier matters to be considered than the alleged loss of \$83 to Synod, and they may be apparent to all some day.

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that the Western Conference "contributed proportionally and actually by far more money than the rest of Synod"—meaning, of course, the Eastern Conference—"and certainly has a right to say that its contributions should not be wasted in order to please a few unreasonable individuals." Now let us turn to the Report on Finance and see for ourselves. The Eastern Conference brought to Synod in 1873, \$230.27. The Western Conference brought in the same Synod, \$200.30, making a difference in favor of the Eastern Conference of \$14.07. Then according to the author's own logic, the Eastern Conference has as much, or a little more right to complain; but instead of complaining it approves of the distribution made for the printing of the Minutes. The first error of this editorial may now be seen: that those "few unreasonable individuals" comprise a large and respectable portion of the N. C. Synod.

In the number dated Oct. 31st, of "Our Church Paper," the author attempted to correct the error in the editorial in regard to the amounts contributed to Synod by the two Conferences. We shall only say, by way of reply, that if the author generally makes no greater speed in correcting his errors than he did in that case, it will be a long time before he removes all his discrepancies, and before he can fully show to the world that he is infallible.

We would, in all candor, ask the author, when did the Secretary admit "that he could have saved more than thirty dollars to Synod if he had not listened to those few unreasonable individuals?" He can infer it only, because the Secretary never said that he had.

In regard to last year's Minutes, the Secretary of last year said, he was not so well pleased himself with Messrs. Blum's edition of the Minutes, because they used such an inferior quality of paper, &c. It has been supposed that Mr. Bruner would have printed the Minutes of 1873 on such paper for \$75 or \$80.

A minister of the Western Conference said, he thought we did exactly right to employ Mr. Bruner, after having made a contract with him beforehand to that effect.

Mr. Bruner informed us that printing material and prices were about as high now as they have been for five or six years.

It was also stated in that editorial that a member of the Lutheran Church offered to print the Minutes of 1873 for thirty-three dollars, "and that he made no special terms to get the job." He offered no less than thirty-three dollars was made to us. WHAT AN UNFOUNDED STATEMENT! REV. HENKEL'S offer was \$45, in case the Minutes did not exceed 30 pages; and he made as much effort to get the job as either of the other printers did, if not more.

If we had given Mr. Bruner the privilege of a page or two in the Minutes, on which to advertise his office and periodical, a privilege Rev. Henkel doubtless would have taken, having done so in the printing of other Minutes, either authorized or not we cannot say, then Mr. Bruner would have, very likely, printed them much cheaper too.

There is another statement in "Our Church Paper," of Oct. 31st, which likewise requires some notice at our hands. In that statement the author says the manuscript of the Minutes held out only 28 pages, as if there was no printing at all on the covers. We doubt very much whether any printer would be willing to do as much printing as appears on the covers of the Minutes of 1873, for of charge. Messrs. Blum stated in their letter that they would charge as much, per page, for the covers as the balance; and Rev. Henkel, in his letter, did not state that he would print the covers for the covers. Then, our Minutes of 1873 contain 32 pages instead of 28, and at Rev. Henkel's offer, 32 x \$1.50 = \$48 and \$2 for postage, would make the amount \$50 instead of \$44.

The author in concluding his editorial states, "so far as we are editorially concerned, we want no more of this kind of thing, but we want to see every number of his paper, referring to it again."

We have known of dissatisfaction springing out of the printing of the Minutes before this year, but never before to our knowledge has a Secretary of Synod been censured by a Conference. We certainly acted conscientiously, and in the fear of God, and with a view of subserving the best interests of the church, when we had the Minutes printed in Salisbury. There are weightier matters to be considered than the alleged loss of \$83 to Synod, and they may be apparent to all some day.

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