Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY THURSDA NOVEMBER 26.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

After the first of January next the law requires every thing that goes through the mail to be prepaid: We will be required to prepay the postage on all papers sent from this office, and we hereby notify all persons who wish the WATCHMAN continued to them, that they must not only send forward their subscribtions in advance, but the *Postage* also. The postage on the *Watchman* when paid in advance will be about ten cents a year.

We hope our friends will promptly renew their subscriptions and send on the ten cents extra for postage, as we do not wish to cut off any one, but we shall be compelled to do so, if these terms are not complied with.

The postage will not be any more than heretofore, only it is required to be paid where the paper is mailed, and in advance.

A SHORT SESSION.

There are a few things the members of the Legislature have it in their power to perform that would be likely to meet the general approbation of the people. For instance, the passage of a law for the protection of sheep against the ravages of worthless dogs; the enactment of a usury law, fixing the legal rate of interest at six per cent., and no more; the adoption of a bill by a two-thirds vote authorizing the election of delegates to a Convention, and then a speedy adjournment, and return to their constituents. There are some other important matters that need attention, such as the Railroad, debt, and other questions, but they may be left to a Convention which can more effectually dispose of them. All that it is possible for the Legislature to do of value to the people and that will be likely to stand before the Courts, may be perfected before the holidays. A long expensive session will be universally condemned, whether a Convention is called or not, the session ought not to last over four weeks. There is no use wasting the people's money in discussing the Convention. It can be disposed of in one night's caucus. Without material changes in the Constitution, the Legislature is a useless expense. Let us therefore have a short session.

THE NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM.

We find in a long and able letter written by Senator Gordon, of Georgia, on Finance, this pointed and truthful paragraph.

"If any civilized country where the use of the bollat was allowed has ever been cursed with a more unjust, partial, and discriminating financial system than our national bank system, or one more perfectly adapted to enrich the non-producer by robbing the producer, I do not think history gives any account of it."

It is as corrupt as it is possible for any system to be. It is the child of Radicalism and is as oppressive and unjust as that party is base and unscrupulous. Like all Radical projects it is a class measure, gotten up and perpetuated in the interest of a class. The money sharks, stock-jobbers, brokers, and non-producers reap the benefits of the infamous system. Let the slogan of the Democratic party be hard money, free trade, and ad valorum taxation on all property, whether money, bonds, or real estate. Let the present banking system, the present Revenue system, the present system of espionage, and the present judicial system of interfering with State affairs all be abolished. They are all oppressive, tyrannical, unjust, and as corrupt as hell. Away with them.

Spies and Detectives.

We take occasion not only to warn the farmers, but all other persons, of the traps that are laid for them by the numerous spies and detectives who infest this country. They will approach as strangers, and make poor mouths about being tired and unwell. They would be under many obligations if you would *sell* them a pint or so of whiskey to carry along with them. They insist upon paying for it, would be an imposition to take it otherwise. If you take pay, you are indicted for retailing contrary to law, taken before the Federal Court, and the penalty is a fine of one thousand dollars, and six months imprisonment. They resort to every means to induce you to violate the law, and then you are in the Shylock's hands. Remember the way these fellows make their money is by a system of fraud and deceit; and they are especially busy at this time, for they believe their days like the leaves of Sybil, are about numbered, and in a few more years, they will have to work for an honest living.—Charlotte *Observer*.

The fellow is simply a sneak thief who makes his money by the above method, and deserves the fate of the Western horse thief whenever, and wherever discovered. Better men have been hanged for horse thieves, than those who are now engaged in swindling the people as spies and informers. But, what is to be thought of a government that encourages such a villainous system of espionage and employs such base tools for the purpose? The people have borne much under Radical rule. Let them still be patient and vigilant a little while longer. Keep an eye on the thieves and vote right. A better day is coming.

A USURY LAW.

We think that all interests would be benefited by the enactment of a reasonable and just usury law, or a law that will fix the rate of interest at a reasonable per cent. We understand that it is proposed to pass such a law during the present session of the Legislature. If so, we hope it will receive the careful attention of the members, and that it will not run into extremes in any particular. We feel satisfied that there is no force in the argument that such a law will drive away capital and make times worse. The reverse is more likely to be the case. Those who have capital will be apt to apply it to other purposes than to usury, when the rate of interest is reduced. They will invest in real estate, in manufactories, in something that will pay them more than six per cent. interest on their money. But so long as there is no restraint, and they can lend their money out at from ten to 30 per cent. interest, as a matter of course they will not buy land or build factories. It would, in our opinion, have been better for the people if the old usury law had been let alone, and the rate of interest remained at six per cent, and no more, under heavy penalties to lenders. Our experience since the war has been such as to enable us to judge of the merits of the laws which were passed in the interest of the Money Changers, Stockjobbers and Brokers. For several years passed these gentry could lend money at nearly any rate they chose with impunity. Yet that tidal wave of capital that was to come upon us, never came, except to do us injury. He who got of it, or borrowed, mortgaged property to the lender, and for the favor thus bestowed upon him he found out in the end that he had sacrificed his homestead, his horse, his stock of goods, or some other valuable property; for how many are able or have been able to redeem property mortgaged for money borrowed at ten, fifteen or twenty per cent. interest? No one can do it except the speculator, and he oftener fails than succeeds. If the present high rate of interest is maintained, a few capitalists will soon own the entire landed estate of the country. It is non sense to talk about prosperity so long as the farms of the country are kept under mortgage, or so long as the farmers, who are the very life of the land, are compelled to pay enormous rates of interest on money when they need it, as is often the case, to make their crops. The interest eats up every thing, and is generally all that the borrower can pay out of his crop, while the main debt still hangs over him, drawing heavy interest, and eating up the profits of his labor day by day. Just so it is with every branch of industry. The men of moderate means, the laboring classes, are great sufferers when money can be had at usurious rates of interest only. And these are they who should be protected as far as possible.

The effect of the present usurious system has been to embarrass nearly every man in the State; to place a mortgage on nearly eight-tenths of the landed and other property of the people; to curb the enterprising spirit of our young and progressive citizens; to produce business stagnation; to demoralize all classes, and destroy confidence one in another. Should a system that has thus proved so utterly destructive of all the essentials to prosperity be tolerated any longer? Not even the money lender, who lives among us, can be benefited by a system that must eventually paralyse every energy and destroy all prosperity of his section. He must sooner or later feel the shock. The country is suffering for a low rate of interest, and we think the Legislature will effect much good by securing it.

THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST A CONVENTION

Are absolutely so weak and worthless as to require merely to be named to show their absurdity and utter want of force.

We are told that the call of a Convention would be inexpedient. Why? Quoth the timid, the Rads who became disgusted with their party and voted with the Conservatives last August will return like the dog to his vomit and the sow to her wallowing in the mire, and vote against Convention and thereby ruin the Conservative party.

Now, is there any force in this argument? We think not. In the first place, Pool received only about 1700 votes more than Judge Merrimon, and it is reasonable to suppose that the vote had increased more than that number in two years by young men coming of age; and furthermore, that the Conservative vote last August was pretty full, since the Civil Rights issue had a tendency to bring out the strength of the party. This being the case, we are not indebted to Radicals for our triumph last August. There was quite a small gain on our side, while there was a considerable falling off from the Radical vote of 1872. This falling off is attributable to the fact that the more decent Radicals stayed away from the polls and did not vote at all, and this class is mostly in favor of a Convention; and also to the inability of the Rads to vote negroes so often as heretofore, owing to the new suffrage law. So that there is nothing to lose by Radical opposition.

But it is said that the move is inexpedient for another reason: That the people have shown that they are opposed to a Convention because they voted down the proposition in 1871. Now, the truth is, the largest Conservative vote polled since the war but one up to that time was given for a Convention in 1871, and that, too, when the manner of calling it was not only believed to be unconstitutional, but was opposed by large numbers of Conservatives for that reason; when the subject was surrounded with grave and most embarrassing features; when the people were threatened with Federal interference and told that the Convention would not be permitted to assemble: Still, notwithstanding these and other opposing obstacles were thrown in the way, the freemen of North Carolina, the tax-payers, the citizens of Anglo Saxon blood, rose in their might and gave the largest vote it was possible for them to do, embarrassed, intimidated, and disfranchised as many of our best people were at that time. What did this grand uprising of the people show? Why, it showed that all true North Carolinians were anxious to have a Convention for the purpose of doing away with the bayonet-imposed Yankee Constitution, and for restoring the old one made by their own favorite sons. So anxious were they to rid themselves of the Canby Constitution and to restore the old one properly Amended that they were in a measure heedless as to the manner of effecting the objects. They listened with little respect to the arguments against the constitutionality of the project, and defied the threats of further reconstruction and the Federal power.

After this how absurd is it for any one to say that the people are opposed to a Convention.

But it is said that the failure of a Convention in 1871 was the cause of Merrimon's defeat in 1872. Never was there a greater mistake. Merrimon got several thousand more votes than the Convention a year before, and it would have been quite strange if he had not; for the fear of Federal bayonets had begun to wear off, and besides good citizens, many of whom had resolved after the war never to vote again, had begun to realize the necessity of again taking a part in the affairs of government, and were turning out. The true cause of Merrimon's defeat was the attempt of the party to swallow Greeley; otherwise, Merrimon would have been elected by ten or fifteen thousand majority. While this fact is as evident as any thing can be, it is a little remarkable that the same papers that were so vehement in their advocacy of the Greeley move are now opposed to a Convention.

Some of the anti-Convention men, it would seem, have really fallen in love with the miserable Yankee-devised, bayonet-inforced Constitution; for they tell us all we need is honest, true Conservatives to administer the Constitution and the laws, thereby intimating that the Constitution is good enough if only Conservatives can hold office under it. The man must be but one remove from a simpleton who holds such a position or he must think all others fools and can't see through such flimsy sophistry. Every officeholder takes a solemn oath to obey the Constitution and the laws and to use all the power he has or may possess to enforce them. If they are bad and oppressive the more sensible will the people feel their effects if they are rigidly enforced, as they will be if we have honest men to do it. This plea is an admission of the bad character of the Constitution, and the plan suggested to avoid its burdens originates in selfishness or ignorance.

Again, we are told that the move is premature; that the people have not been consulted as to whether they desire a Convention; that the subject was not discussed in the last canvass, and that it should be postponed for two years when it can be carried through, &c.

How the move can be regarded as premature, we confess we are unable to see. If there is any policy of the Conservative party in this State more clearly avowed and more universally agreed upon than another, it is that a Convention should be called at the very first opportunity offered, just as soon as a two-thirds Conservative vote in the Legislature is secured. That vote we now have, and we may never have it again, and the party is pledged, under obligations to the people, to call a Convention. It has the necessary power in the Legislature to fulfill its promises. The opportunity may have come unexpectedly, still it is bound to embrace it and make good its promises. The question did not need to be discussed in the last campaign. It was sufficiently well understood as a part of the settled programme of the party long since agreed upon. The people have already spoken on the subject—spoken in tones of thunder at a time when every effort was made to stifle their voice. Their action in 1871 can not be mistaken. As far as it was possible for them to do they set the seal of their condemnation upon the present constitution. Nearly four years of experience have more fully tended to demonstrate the wisdom of their action since the constitution has been proved more bunglesome and oppressive than it was then thought to be. Every day has shown new defects, and established its utter unsuitableness to the wants of the people of North Carolina. Why then postpone the call of a Convention necessary to effect the desired changes? The answer is that it is inexpedient. How so? Well, they say, if a Convention is called, the people will vote against it, and the Rads will beat us in 1876. The Presidential election takes place in 1876, and we should not cumber ourselves with the Convention move, lest it result in the State's going for the Radical nominee for President. But wait two years and we will elect a Democratic President and carry the Convention also.

Now such talk is the merest twaddle. There is no possible way for the calling of a Convention to result in injury to the party: If a bill is passed by a two-thirds vote, authorizing the election of delegates to a Convention, all the people have to do is to elect good men, and they will be as likely to do that as they were in the last campaign. A large majority will no doubt be Conservatives. These delegates will meet and do the work assigned them, which may be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection: And it matters not which they do, it is bound to have a good effect in favor of the Conservative cause.

If the move is one of such bad policy, why postpone it two years only? If it is likely to prove damaging at all, we should not attempt to carry it through the Presidential campaign of 1876, for our candidate will probably be as much as we can get through. So it will never do to start with a load so unpopular as some would have us believe the Convention is, and the postponement now is simply indefinite, probably for fifty years.

The *cry* of the opponents of a Convention is "inexpediency!" "bad policy!" "premature!" "The people are opposed to it!" Yet we have failed to discover any force in any of these exclamations. On the contrary, we believe that now above all others is the time to have a Convention, and that failure to have it will prove most damaging to the party and the public weal.

WE CAN SETTLE IT.—Since the late Fair season, our press brethren, especially the young unmarried localizers at the various points where the Fairs were held, have been fussing over the question as to who were the reigning belles at the Fairs, &c. The following slipped from the Washington *Echo*, is a specimen:

"Friend Stamps, of the *Enquirer-Southerner*, wants to know who was the belle of the State Fair, and asks, "Wasn't she a Tarboro lady?" No sir. The prettiest, sweetest, and divelliest ladies the world ever saw lives in our town. Washington has representatives at the State Fair; therefore the belle was a Washington lady."

To settle the difficulty, and that we may all have peace, we propose, as a Benedict of seven years standing, with a "Betsy" of our own at home, to tell what we know of the "fairest of the fair" at the various Fairs We visited all of them, and paid especial attention to the fair-sex, and we have no hesitancy in saying that we witnessed more beauty on the Salisbury Fair Grounds than all the rest combined. If we were a single man in search of a wife, we would take the next train for Salisbury, and after throwing out a strong line of pickets on the Yadkin road, open a determined seige to win or die in the attempt.—Raleigh *News*.

We have a higher regard for Mr. Wooden than ever before. We are now satisfied, beyond all sort of question, that he is a man of taste and good judgement. He has confirmed what everybody else has said, and he has told the truth to a certainty. Salisbury undoubtedly has more pretty women according to the population than any other city known to the most widely acquainted.

Ex-President Johnson advocates repudiation of the entire bonded debt, State and Federal, on the ground that the bond holders had already received more in interest that they had paid for the bonds.

Theodore Taylor—a non-resident: You are hereby notified that the following Summons has been issued against you viz:

Davison County:—In the Superior Court.

W. C. Taylor, & W. G. Taylor, Administrators of Butler Taylor, *Against* Henry Taylor, Theodore Taylor, Kinchen Stokes & wife Polly Stokes, James Taylor & Junius Taylor—the last two under 21 years of age and without general or testamentary guardians, Deft.

Plffs. Summons Petition to sell land for assets.

State North Carolina,

TO THE SHERIFF OF DAVIDSON COUNTY—GREETING:

You are hereby Commanded to Summon Henry Taylor, Theodore Taylor, Kinchen Stokes & wife Polly Stokes, James Taylor & Junius Taylor, the defendants—above named, if he be found in your county, to be and appear before the CLERK OF OUR SUPERIOR COURT, for Davidson County, at the Court House in Lexington within twenty days from the service of the summons, exclusive of the day of service, and answer the petition which will be deposited in the office of the Superior Court of said county, within ten days and let the said defendants take notice that if they fail to answer the said petition within the time prescribed by law, the plaintiffs will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the petition.

Hereof fail not and of this summons make due return

Given under my hand and seal of said Court, this 12 day of Nov., 1874.

[Seal] C. F. LOWE.
Clerk of the Superior Court of Davidson County, and Judge of Probate.

Nov. 19, 1874.—6 w. Printers fee $10.50

EXECUTOR'S SALE!

LAND AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

Having qualified as Executor of the last Will and Testament of Jacob Krider, deceased. I will sell at public sale, on *Friday the 11th day of December*, 1874, at the late residence of the deceased, about

300 ACRES OF VALUABLE LAND.

situated in Scotch-Irish Township, Rowan county, adjoining the home tract of said dec'd., and the lands of J. G. Fleming, A. J Fleming, and others. It will be divided or sold altogether as may be desired. The public road runs through it. It is well situated in reference to Mills and Churches, and well adapted to grain or cotton. Has on it a small dwelling house, stable and cribs

At the same time and place, I will sell the personal property, consisting of horses, cattle, corn, flour, a 2 horse Carriage, Farming Tools, Household and Kitchen Furniture, & other articles not mentioned.

TERMS OF SALE: Personal property, CASH. The Land ½ cash, the remainder on a credit of six and twelve months. Title reserved until the purchase money is paid.

J. G. FLEMING, *Executor*.

FULTZ WHEAT.

For sale at J. M. Knox & Co's. Average yields per acre 18 bushels; one acre 35 bushels. Took the premium last fall, call soon.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

☞ All persons having claims against the estate of Jacob Krider, dec'd., are hereby notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of December, 1875; and all persons indebted to the estate are requested to settle promptly.

J. G. FLEMING, Executor.

November 5, 1874.—six weeks.