undertake to point out the many and most important functions which they fulfill in the economy of nature, and which the investigations of scientific men are every day bringing to the attention of the world, but will content myself with referring to them as a and to the fact of their rapid and wasteful destruction. Depleted as they are, our forests are to-day, perhaps, worth than the lands they stand upon; whilst the value of those especially which shadow the highlands round about the sources of our rivers is simply incalculable considered with reference to rainfalls, destructive floods, &c. The proof of this is plain to any one who has observed the condition of those valleys whose hillsides have been entirely stripped of timber and converted into that shame of Southern agriculture-old fields; and yet, in the face of the increasing value of timber and the decreasing value of the lands from which it is ruthlessly counties already feel the evil keenly, and not many years hence, if some remedy be not applied, the outery will be general. I confess I do not see my way clear to that remedy. I am aware of the difficulty and the danger of interfering with the owners' legal right to do what he pleases with his own. It he sees proper to cut down all his timber, dry up the springs which feed our streams, and precipitate his soil into their channels, changing their currents and deluging all the low lands below him, and impoverishing himself and his children, I can't see how he is to be hindered. But the people of other nations are finding means by bonuses. exemption from taxation and other device to restore the forests and denuded lands; and many of our counties are adopting laws, with regard to inclosing the lands the effect of which is to reduce the expenditure of timber for farming purposes to the minimum. As guardians of the interests of an agricultural people, I commend this whole subject to your serious attention. I am requested by the board of agriculture to quite as valuable for road construction say that they concur in the recommen- as hired labor. dations of the commissioner.

extreme, you will perceive, that the quality of the Fertilizers sold in the State has steadily improved, and the marked value of the improvement years. This is caused obviously by the fact that, knowing their wares were to be subjected to a rigid scientific test, the dealers were careful to make them come up to the mark, and many others have quit the mark altogether.

PENAL AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS. I am happy to say that the affairs of the Penitentiary and the two Asylums have been well managed by their respective boards, and are in a satisfactory condition. The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylum makes perhaps a more satisfactory exhibit than it has ever done since former years, the Board of this Instituamount with which they have erected an elegant and much needed addition to the have still to their credit in the Treasury \$7.489.57.

Though results have not been quite so satisfactory with the Insane Asylum, yet standing, the number of its inmates have increased and some extraordinary and costly improvements have been made, expenses have been kept down, and it has lived within its appropriations. I recommend that the Board be authorized to build on the grounds a separate residence for the Superintendent, and that his pay be fixed in cash as are the salaries of all the other principal officers of the various institutions of the State. I also recommend the repeal of section 29, chap. 6, of Battle's Revisal, under which the State pays for the transportation of patients to and from the Asylum to whom the Clerks of the Superior Courts will give a certificate that they have not property sufficient to pay their own expenses. Under that act the State is often imposed upon shamefully. It is the nature of public charities to invite such abuses, custom legitimizes them, and they become a base for still greater abuses. The only safe way is to use the

knife promptly on their first appearance. It is known that much of the laws as they now stand on the statute book in relation to each of the Asylums and the Penitentiary were abrogated by the decisions of the Supreme Court in the litigation concerning their management about 1872, and some legislation has been had since in consequence thereof. The laws now have to be read with the decisions of the court to arrive at their meaning. Implication has also to be resorted to in order to supply the deficiencies. This makes it extremely in-

and will give much relief to many dis- pass the summit, and the track can be tressing cases which cannot find room completed to Asheville easily by midin the asylum at Raleigh.

For reasons well known to all who

the commissioners. It now remains for including the sick, the women and all ings, which I respectfully recommend any cause, is \$121.50 per hand.

be done. The care of our insane is a heavy and growing burden, but humansource of wealth, health and fertility, ity and the constitution are alike imperative that it shall be done at State exduty, but face it manfully, using due more intrinsically, properly managed, care to prevent extravagance, and waste tions as heretofore agreed upon. in the manner of doing it.

THE PENITENTIARY. The penitentiary system of dealing with our criminals is comparatively new in this State, and as it is now by far the most postly of all our institutions, and is almost daily becoming more so, everything pertaining to it is deserving of your earnest attention. The main idea of such a system is to punish offenders with hard labor, either to reform or deter them and others from the commission of crime. The economic problem is to make this labor support the instiswept, the destruction goes on. Many tution. The plan adopted at present is much more than doing this if the work being done by the convicts was paid for in cash. The number of convicts now on hand and their distribution is shown by the report of the very competent and energetic board of directors and superintendent, sent herewith. The able force kept in the enclosure has been constantly employed upon the walls and buildings, and by placing a cash valuation upon the work done, it will be seen that they have earned handsome wages over and beyond their keep. The returns from those engaged on the various railroads show greater wages, valuing their work by engineers' estimates. These estimates are very liberal toward the company for whom the work is done.

> the companies should be charged. VALUE OF CONVICT LABOR. From this we may draw some valua-

> yet it will be seen that the convicts have

earned more than fear times the mini-

mum fixed by the Legislature at which

1. That convict labor is almost if not

ble conclusions:

gun by the State, and to which labor | youd the ridge. its establishment. With a large increase county or community will obtain a charof pupils there has been a decrease of 16 ter for building a railroad or a turnpike, foreclose the mortgage and sell the per cent in the total of expenses. As or draining a swamp or dyking a river, road. These have at length been comyou will see by the Superintendent's re- and will undertake to support the hands promised, on terms which it is thought port, with a reduced appropriation from they should be given the convict labor. will enable the road to live and meet its tion have saved \$15,056.12 out of the er or less extent, remote from railroad mulated interest being funded, and time Yadkin from Salisbury to Patterson, main building at a cost of \$7,576.55, and where well-to-do farmers I am sure pons to be cancelled. When it came on the whole it has done well. Notwith- structed as feeders to our railroads, and stock run down, its employees unpaid,

people be accomplished.

DYEES FOR THE ROANOKE. As a further illustration of this idea. beg leave to call your attention to the ive region, the Roanoke country below Weldon. At one time the Egypt of our State and a source of great wealth to our people, those splendid and inexhaustible lands are fast becoming a wilderness by reason of the destruction of the levees which confined the Roanoke within its banks. In the demoralized state of labor there and the reduced condition of the planters, it has been found impossible to replace them, and the whole region will be lost to the State for generations if something is not done to reclaim it. If the counties or citizens interested will undertake to support the convicts and their guard, I recommend that sufficient force be furnished them to rebuild those levees and thus rescue that important portion of our State from ruin, and enable the citizens thereof to recover their prosperity, and increase greatly the public wealth. It is entirely practicable as I am informed.

RAILROADS. The public works have been pushed

counsel before performing a plain duty. time, as was confidently expected victs; but found it practically impossi-I recommend that the various acts regu- when your predecessors adjourned. No ble to do the work, owing to the omislating these institutions be re-enacted, energy or determination has been want- sion of the act to provide the necessary striking out those features declared void ing, but insuperable obstacles were means for its execution, there being auby the court, and the whole simplified found in the nature of the country and thority for neither a survey to be made, and connected so as to be easily under- the insufficiency of funds. Naked labor overseers to be employed, nor impleum has been fully commensurate with Western mountains, unaided by all the spect will enable the work to be done the appropriation. The report of the modern appliances and material new promutly. Commissioners will give all the partie- used in such operations, and which cost ulars. No work ever undertaken for the more money than the company could State has been done better, or more command. Owing to the geological pecheaply, and when finished all its surroundings considered, it will in the which the track is cut, vast slides of opinion of many, be the most desirable earth and rock, some of them as great institution of its kind in the United as fifteen acres of surface, have been States, I trust a sufficient appropriation | continually falling into the track as fast will be made to finish the wing now so as it could be removed. But the work is now almost done, lay-light is nearly through the great thinnel. In a few at an early period of the summer of 1880, weeks from this day the engine will

summer. Owing to the condition of the treasuare acquainted with the state of the ry, I did not purchase the whole amount treasury, but little has been done toward of iron which I was authorized by law providing an asylum for the colored .- to buy, though greatly tempted to do so

to Favetteville and to Wilmington. The

about \$ per head.

It is reaching out in the direction perroad, except the Western North Caroliand plaster deposits of Washington formity could be secured. county, Virginia, the cheap importation of which would probably do more to induced to say that, in my opinion, it is kept with that company under a con- expired, and the State's title is absolute. pletion of the penitentiary buildings, spected by my board until last Septem- go to swell the taxes of their neighbors.

has been already assigned, there are a The Atlantic & North Carolina Railnumber of local railroads and turnpikes road has been environed with difficulgreatly desired in many parts of the ties ever since my accession to office. Scate, and valuable swamp lands to be some of which were called to the attendrained, at which convicts might be em- tion of the last Legislature: a suit beployed with great profit to the State, the gun in the State courts to impeach the counties or communities supporting the | validity of the mortgage bonds, on the convicts. I think that whenever any ground of usury, was followed by a There are many fertile valleys of great- interest promptly hereafter, the accufacilities, such as the great valley of the of payment extended, the bondholders surrendering \$10,000 of bonds and conwould be induced to attempt the build- into the hands of the present board, it ing of narrow gauge railroads if they was apparently in the last extremity of were given the necessary labor; and exhaustion. Its road-bed, track and many excellent turnpikes would be con- bridges, worn out and unsafe, its rolling many rich swamps might be drained in its interest really twelve months in dethe same manner. In this way the in- fault, and a floating debt of about \$27,creasing cost of the penitentiary would | 000 due-all this has been changed .be kept down, and a vast benefit to the The road-bed, bridges and rolling stock, are now much improved; the floating debt has all been paid, employees are paid off weekly, arrangements made to adjust its bonded debt, an old tax debt situation of that rich and once product- \$6,500 is being paid at the rate of \$600 due the United States, compromised at per month, \$1,500 being already paid; and the President reports \$10,000 in the treasuary on the 1st of January to meet the interest when the first installment becomes due in July next. Its gross receips for 1877 were about 12 per cent. greater than the year previous. and up to date of report were still greater for 1878. These are certainly very gratifying results, and give positive assurance that the road can take care of itself, if run on business principles and by business men. It is a source of much regret to me that the plan adopted by the board and approved by me to reach this end caused such local opposition, and subjected all concerned to the imputation that the great desire of the board and myself to save the State's property was pursued without regard to private intercrests. I believe and earneetly hope that when results are seen, these unjust impressions will be remov-

forward with energy and economy. I It is also a source of regret that the regret exceedingly that the management | work of cutting a canal through Angohas not been able to have the cars on la Bay was not undertaken as provided convenient for the Board and all con- the Western North Carolina Railroad by law. The board were ready to do cerned, who sometimes have to consult running across the Blue Ridge by this so at my request, and offered the con-

NAVIGABLE. WATERS. hands of our representatives in Congress in obtaining the necessary appropriations.

FINANCIAL.

The treasurer's report will engage our earnest attention. You will see that whilst the utmost economy has been

the last General Assembly, who thought General in presenting to the court the assembling for parades, reviews &c. On the whole the experiment of con- the tax bill would yield sufficient reve- views entertained by the government of fall quite heavily on them. structing that road by the convict labor enue; and so it would and more, under the State. After a full discussion by The State Guard really do all the has been a success. I hope it will be a better scheme of assessment. I cancontinued, the number kept up and evenot conceive it possible to devise one dissenting voice, affirmed the opinion whole militia contemplated in the conpense. Let us not try to evade a plain ry necessary step taken by your body to which would operate more unequally, and judgment of the lower court, and stitution, and should be encouraged and finish the road to its Western connections as heretofore agreed upon.

The squad of hands employed on the township is different, and the values of at the same time in the crac of the State pay he increased to \$600. His duties Georgia and North Carolina Railroad property situated in the same locality against William Deaver appealed at the are now considerable, and are daily inhas finished grading to the town of and of the same character, are as variant Murphey, in Cherokee county. I have and prequal as the avoided, arbitary, and received no official report of the work. often indifferent opinions of the assess- of the Hon. John M. Cloud, the judge | Provision also should be made for a Col. L. C. Jones, President of the ors may chance to be. Very little prop- presiding. Deaver and another had speedy and cheap enrollment of the tay Schleicher, of Texas, both men of Western Railroad, makes a very flatter- orty is assessed to anywhere within the ing report of the progress of the work neighborhood of its value, but that does done by the convicts on his line. Hav- not matter; the essential idea is to have ing determined to extend it in the di- the assessment bear the uniform proporrection of Greensboro, the company be- tion to the true value of the property tax- lar to that obtained by Hoskins. gan work at or near Egypt in March, ed. Unless this is secured, one man . The decision of the Supreme Court 878, with 100 convicts, and there is a pays a vastly higher tax than his neighgood prospect of soon seeing this road bor, and one township or county than completed to Greensboro. It will open the adjoining toownship or county, and out a fine section and be a great lenefit it is in the power-and often happens in to the country through which it passes, practice-of the county assessors and commissioners to defeat the will of the hands on this road have earned net Legislature by lowering the assessments. It becomes also a heavy tax on bonesty, The Chester & Lenoir Narrow Gauge and compels the conscientious man to Railroad Company has finished its line pay sometimes double or treble the tax to Dallas, in Gaston, county, and the paid by his less scrupulous neighbor. A grading to Newton on the Western remedy for this evil is demanded alike North Carolina Railroad. From that by justice and good policy. What that point to Lendir, the greater part of the remedy shall be your wisdom must degrading is done, and the work is be- vise. We do not want an increase of the peculiar constitution of the Federal toes and clerks will remove all further ing pushed with energy. They have taxes but an equalization of taxes, and a been furnished with fifty convicts, and faithful collection of those which are the number has been kept up. I cor- levied. My own opinion is that the tion I desired to have presented. I have closely.

assessors, with power to supervise and haps more important to the welfare of equalize the assessment of the county ofthe State than that of any other rail- Leials whose lists should be submitted to it; and it should have authority to na. It not only points towards the most summon witnesses, hear testimony, &c. remarkable and extensive iron and cop- and if the county assessors were chosen per mines in the South-Cranberry and by this State board it seems to me we the Ore Knob-but also the salt, lime | would almost have a guaranty that uni-So, too, some disposition should be made relative to the lands sold for taxes renovate the agriculture of our State and bought in for the State. For ten 2. That convict labor is more valuable than anything which could perhaps be years these lands have been accumula-I call your attention to the report of used in this kind of work than employ- devised. I regret to say that work on ting, until as the report of the Secreta-Dr. Ledoux, Director of the Fertilizer ed at trades and mechanical work in the Spartanburg & Asheville Railroad ry of State informs me, there are now 3. That the health and general tone of the convicts is better in outdoor work. It is beautiful valley of the French taxes to the amount of nearly \$17,000, the United States. Influenced by these considerations I am Broad. Two hundred hands had been on which the time for redemption has

be authorized to act as a State board of

amounts to more than \$100,000 in two our policy to provide labor for them on tract made before I came into office, at In most cases the owners continue hap. An indictment inaugurated by Governor have made it a rule to consult both can of the owners continue hap. public works altogether, after the com- a small hire, which contract was re- pily in possession, whilst their defaults Caldwell, in Wake Superior Caurt in leaving within its walls only such as ber, when finding the company in a fail- I refer to the treasurer's report for a Littlefield having been tried, as was alfrom feebleness or the nature of their ing condition, and unable to pay, the statement of the annual expenditures leged, before Judge Watts in 1875, and crimes cannot be sent outside. In addi- hands were withdrawn, and placed on of the government, which is so clearly taken by certiorari to the Supreme Court tion to the completion of the roads be- the Western North Carolina work, be- set forth as to need no comment from me.

The public debt, it will be seen by the treasurers report, amounts to \$16,960,045 principal and \$10,160,182,25 interest .-This is known as the recognized debt, as contradistinguished from the special tax bonds. What shall be done with it is question that deserves your best consideration. It is out of the question for us to attempt to pay it at its face value .-Indeed I do not conceive that there is any moral obligation on us to do so; nor do our creditors expect it of us. Quite one-half of our property upon which our bonds were based was wantonly destroyed by consent of a large majority of those who held them, and no court of conscience upon the earth would permit a creditor to destroy one-half of his security and claim full payment out of the remainder. But we can and should pay sion constituting the Governor, Treasurer and Attorney-General, a committee to confer with our creditors, gave no STATE PROPERTY HELD BY THE UNITED power to make or accept any proposition whatever; and so an invitation to visit New York to confer with the holds the Confederate Hospital, now known as suggestions for the various committees ers of our bonds was declined as the accompanying correspondence will show. has been occupied by the United States be will appear from time to time. grounds to believe that very reasonable sion or payment for its use have both evince a determination to settle the to both law and public comity. pressed to your predecessors, remains of this State taken by military authority tion 8, art. XI, of the constitution. may be as to a very small fraction hon- this office. Both requests were refused. honorable adjustment of all our indebt- in the correspondence itself, I make no ple whose servants we are edness, as something which sooner or further comment. later will have to be done alike for the sake of our good name and future pros-

FEDERAL INTERFERENCE WITH STATE COURTS

I also call your attention to certain matters which have occurred since your last session, and which give rise to questions of difficulty and grave importance, laws of the United States and those of

At the fall term, 1876, of the Superior Court of Guilford county, one Hoskins and two others were indicted for an assault and battery upon Levi Humble. In The work on the Western Insane Asyas cutting a railroad track through our little amendment to the law in this retition under oath, in which they set forth do this; and if see constituted as it is. that they were officers of the internal revenue department of the United States, and that the acts charged against them in the bill of indictment I have mention-It is gratifying to see that the general cal were committed under color of their government has begun to take an inter- office; they therefore prayed that the est in the improvement of our naviga- prosecution against them should be reble waters. Surveys of the Neuse, the moved from the State Court to the Cir-Yadkin and the Catawba are in progress cuit Court, in pursuance of an act of or contemplation; and if reperted upon Congress now embodied in section 643, favorably, I would suggest that a reso- of the Revised Statutes of the United lution of the honorable body in this be- States, and which provides that criminal half would materially strengthen the prosecutions commenced in any court of a State against any officer acting by authority of any revenue law of the United States, on account of any act done under color of his office, may at any time before trial be removed for trial into the Circuit Court next to be holden in the An appropriation of \$20,000 was made by the last Legislature, but no tax was levied to raise money, and at an 'early levied to raise only in the leven companies of colored guards of the superior Court of Guilford county, and the raise money are removing the case was, on the 5th day of March, 1877, served upon the clerk of the Superior Court of Guilford county, and the raise money are removing the case was, on the 5th day of the leven companies of colored guards and the leven companies of colored guards are removing the case was, on the 5th day of the leven companies of colored guards are removing the case was, on the 5th day of the leven companies of the superior Court of Guilford county, and the removing the case was, on the 5th day of the leven companies of the superior court of Guilford county. district where such prosecutions are

votes cast, and some even failed to return any at all; and so on through the list. It is to the last degree discouraging to those who earnestly desire to do something for the public good to find that those who earnestly desire to do something for the public good to find that those whose special duty it is to help will not do so, and can refuse to do so with impunity.

As to the work of the agricultural barren, and purchased a beautiful and Little river, within one mile of, the number of the count of the court no engre has jurisdiction the count of the court no engre has jurisdiction of the court

spring term. 1877, of the Superior Court ereasing in taboriousness, and usefulof Rutherford county, from the judgment | ness, been indicted for a conspiracy to extort militin by the tax-listers, or otherwise, note, and of more than ordinary ability. ablained from the Circuit Court of the for exemption from daty for the benefit of Four members have already died this United States an order of removal simi- of the school fund, as provided in the session.

was the same in both cases. Impressed with the importance of having the earliest possible settlement Court of the United States, where alone adjudication in these cases of the quesdially commend this enterprise to your treasurer, auditor, or other State officers. reason to believe that similar difficulties have arisen in other States, and that pub- Much criticism has been made upon Speaker; John D. Cameron of Orange, lie attention and discussion has been ex- this and preceding administrations in

I therefore refer it to your honerable body to decide whether I shall further ance with law, I herewith submit a list prosecute the cases now depending in of those to whom clemency has been exthe Supreme Court of the United States; tended by me, with a brief statement of or whether it more comports with the the reasons which influenced my action dignity and gravity of the question, that in each case. It will be seen that the you should instruct your Senators and number amounts in all to 106, of which request your representatives in Congress 13 were commutations and 2 were simto call the attention of that honorable ply respites. Counting those in con-body to the fact that persons indicted un-der the criminal laws of this State are and those convicted of offences during seeking and obtaining immunity from the past two years, the whole number prosecution, under a Federal law enact- of offenders cannot fall short of 3,000, of

1874, against G. W. Swepson, and M. S. and being continued there until August last, was then decided upon and case remanded for a new trial. The circumstances are all set out with particularity in said decisions, reported in 79 N. C. to which you are referred. Under a resolution of the Legislature ratified on the 16th of February, 1874, I employed counsel to assist. An amended bill against both defendants was found for obtaining money under false pretences, and the case now stands for trial. It is alleged, hower, that a compromise was made between parties acting for Swepson and the Western Division of the W N. C. R. R. Co., which by implication binds the State not to prosecute. I do not wish, if I possessed the right, to take the responsibility of deciding whether it does or does nos, and so refused to interfere with the due course of law. I respectfully ask your will in the premises, something. The resolution of last ses- ly impropher upon a case now before and forcear further remarks as manifestthe courts.

tions with us has been made. But I have have long since been removed, possesterms indeed can be obtained if we been refused contrary, as it seems to me

exclusively to what is known as the 'tree- last General Assembly, I also applied to bonds are concerned, my opinion as ex- cial letter-books of the executive office unchanged-that they are not binding in 1865, or to permit me to make a copy either in law or good morals, unless it to supply the place of the original in estly appropriated to the State's use and The correspondence between the Secre-

SATE GEOLOGIST. The State geological survey having

been made a co-worker with the board of agriculture, its usefulness has been thereby greatly increased to the people. In order that it may be made still more that it may be made still more of agriculture, its usefulness has been that it be placed under the direction of the board of agriculture, of which the involving a serious conflict between the instead of the board of education, as at State Geologist is ex. officio a member. present. I am satisfied that the dissatisfaction which has for a long while existed with a portion of our people towards this most valuable and important work, has arisen from a failure of the latter board to direct the labors of March, 1877, the defendants having been the geologist in those channels in which mediate interest. The board of agri- as it is worthy of exceful perusal. do this; and if so, good results may be anticipated.

THE UNIVERSITY The success which has attended the efforts to revive the university is gratilying in the extreme. The number of students is constantly increasing, a large proportion of whom receive tuition free—the course of study is practical and thorough, the corps of professora is ample and excellent, and the administration of President Battle las preven heartily to your favor this cherished memorial of the wisdom and patriotism of our fathers, were mailtand sit no tues

MILITIA.

cepted and the joundation of the building laid, as will appear by the report of the commissioners. It now remains for you to provide means to creet the building the sick, the women and all year from October to January. It is to be regretted, and I have no doubt is very other some committees of the c

constitution. ACTS OF THE LEGISLATURE Complaint is frequently made by the Secretary of State and others, at the careless and insufficient manner in of a question of so great moment, I di- which many of the acts and laws in the rected the State's counsel to carry, by original are kept and enrolled, Some writ of error, both cases to the Supreme | that were passed by your predecessors were lost entirely, to some the amendsuch questions of such a miture can be ments were lost, and could not be supfinally decided. Transcripts of the cases plied from the journals, being often have accordingly been prepared and formere scraps of paper pinned to the warded, and the cases are now depend-originals which were lost in handling. ing in the Supreme Court. I am advis- together with other inaccuracies, which | Clerk : Platt D. Cowan of New Hanoed, however, by the State's counsel that ninde it difficult to prepare proper copies there may be difficulties growing out of for the printer. I trust your commit-Supreme Court, which will prevent an trouble in there respects. It is of sofficient importance to be looked after

clemency toward criminals. In accord-

annum. It is quite possible that in some cases I have been imposed upon, though in most cases of importance I judge and solicitor, and obtain their approval. And it may also be that in some cases I have yielded to the importunity of friends human nature could scarcely avoid this in a government like with all names and all officers on same ours - but in the vast majority of the casus acted on, I exercised this grand and majestic attribute of the collective sovereignty of the people, with a sin ment of a spec-cere desire to promote the public good, third reading. and in the feat of that God who is to pardon our transgressions, as we trust. The subject of the proper exercise of this prerogative is so grave, the rest the consideration of so many local ponsibility-ospecially in capital cases bills Good warms work to Annual is so great, that the criticism of those unacquainted with the facts is often dangerous as well as unjust, as tending to force executive action one way or the such complicating clamor. If error there has been—and undoubtedly there was some-I am glad to believe that it was on mercy's side.

The reports of the Secretary of State, auditor, and Saperintendent of Public Instruction are herewith sent and commended to your attention. They exince The property of the State, once called to me to say that he reserves als special

in the attendance of pupils, true blo T

I also send in a communication and report from the Grand Lodge of Masons in this State relative to the Oxford Asyognized" debt. So far rs the special tax the Secretary of War to restore the offi- lum for Orphass, and commend it to your attention, in connection with seg-And now, gentlemen. Inving briefly reviewed the condition of affairs and made such suggestions as I deem cal-

culated to aid you in the performance of to the reduction of State officers' and accepted by her. For one I vow my tary of War and myself in relation to your important duties, I commond you members salaries. readiness to co-operate with you to the the harracks and the letter-books, is to the Spirit of all Wisdom, praying full extent of my power in devising the herewith submitted. My opinion to remethod and bearing the burthens of an gard to these matters being infimited redound to the welfare of the great peo-

Yery respectfully, Your fellow-citizen, valualas toos slidwa Z.B. VANCE

SALEM, N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1879.

Vance to the Legislature. Don't be over allowance into Treasury quarterly. arrested, filed in the office of the Circuit the majority of the public feel most im- deterred from reading it by its lengt,

> RETERNORMENT AND REPORT .- It now looks as if the Legislature was in earnest in cutting down salaries. A good start has been made, and we hope this Legislature will hereafter be known as the "Reform Legislature," and the

proport rather and mist dissecut Mr. Merrimon has withdrawn from the Senatorial contest, which insures Gov. Vance's election to the Senate of the United States.

If the Legislature does not accom-To the unceasing energy and perseve-rance of Adjutant-General Jones we are session, it will not be for want of the indebted for the nucleus of am exectiont; best advice from the leading papers of

the 11th, considered the House proporing a reduction of the tax on to V. & E. Frois Live In cone Nothing shoot washintered

was: The constitutional convention abolishing annual sessions of the Lex islature saved \$80,000. Taxes are not reduced but shess is a deficity according \$100,000 in the State Treasury How

We hope the Legislature will look into this. There must be considerable

Deaths of members of Congress, several of them, have occurred recently Julian Hartridge, of Georgia, and Gos-

The Swepson trial has been removed to Franklin County.

The State Legislature.

The Legislature assembled on Wed esday, the Sth. Lieut-Gov. Jarvis presided in the Senate and the following subordinate officers were elected: R. M. Furman of Buncombe, Principal ver. Reading Clerk p.J. S. Tombrison of Catawha, Engrossing Clerk, and Mr. Murrill of Onslow, Doorkeeper.

The House was organized by the elecion of John M. Moring of Chatham, Clerk , R. W. Best of Wake, Reading regard to the exercise of executive Clerk; W. A. Barrett of Lenoir, Enressing Clerk : Wm. Hill of Randolph Boorkeeper.

In the SENATE, the following businew has been introduced, among othelseron one man a conservor to man f Resolution of instruction to the Com-

mittee on Salaries and Fees. Bill to render more speedy the exe cution of persons convicted of capital An act restoring the whipping post

A bill to punish the selling or giving

away of poisonous drugs or medicines except upon prescription of a physi-In the HOUSE, resolution in relation to election fraud, and proposing to have in future one box and one ballot

Bill to exempt merchants from pay

in SENATE, on Saturday a move was made looking to the prevention of

Mr. marris, of Franklin, introduced a resolution that the Finance Committee be instructed to report to the Senother contrary to judgment or consci-once. I have tried to avoid this; but it liquors which shall enforce the idea of is hard to hold the balance even amid the Moffit Bell Punch tax, which tax

shall be for the public schools. By Mr. Bryun, of Pender, to regulate the pay of bertain officers of the General Assembly. The principal and asstant clerks to receive \$5 per day and mi.eage.at 10 cents per mile; enrolling economy and faithful work on the part of those officers. The Auditor requests doorkeeper and assistant doorkeepers \$4 and mileage, then will have

fit should be three instead of \$5, and theo in place of \$4., &c. | 100 101 101 Besides this no attempt to open negotia- ever since 1865; and although troops. The superintendent's report shows an The repeal of the merchants' \$5 and expenditures of the school fund and privilege tax was passed, after con-

A number of bills and resolutions were introduced, which will be noticed when passed. In the HOUSE, Rowan sends up a petition to abolish the homestead law

and revive the whipping post. A resolution was introduced in regard Bill for enlarging and defining the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace.

A bill to relieve horse drovers from the \$10 tax was introduced. Let it alone. We need ference In SENATE, on Monday, Mr. Graham, of Lincoln, introduced a bill reducing salaries, as follows:

Governor's salary \$3,000 with a Pri-Treasurer, \$2,750 with a cierk at \$1. 50 who shall be ex-officio treasurer of the boards of charitable sed penal institutions and reserve a salary of \$75 for each board to be paid out of funds THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—We de vote a great deal of our space this week to the admirable Message of Gov. Treasurer for all fees and pay surplus Auditor, \$1,500. Superintendent Public Instruction,

Librarian, 8500, Keeper of Capital, \$500. Judges of Superior Court, \$2,000. Fees, mileage and compensation of Clerks, Sheriffs and other county offi-cers to be regulated by County Com-missioners on first Monday in March '79, and every four years thereafter, [Amounting in the aggregate to a saving of about \$30,000 per annum.]

In the HOUSE, a resolution to appoint a committee to confer with the Legislature of South Carolina in regard to obstructions in the Yadkin River,

Also to consider the questions of reduction and regulation of railway freight charges. And concerning reduction of salaries, fees and emoluments of State officers

could not pay my warrants. Unwilling to do nothing toward an object so much needed, Iappointed a board of commisneeded, Iappointed a board of co Also to Instruct the Judiciary Com-