THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1881

Entered at the Postoffice at Wilmington, N. C., as Second Class Matter.

We shall endeavor to keep our readers posted on the merits of the railroad question now agitating the State. With this object in view we publish, from the News and Observer, some pretty sharp correspondence between, Governor Jarvis and Messrs. Clyde, Logan and Buford, and will give some more to-

The News and Observer will need that "hammer and tongs," we fear, be fore this railroad scrimmage is finally adjusted. Somebody's toes will be in the way, we are sure.

The News and Observer says that its only "capital" is the interest of the peopla This we do not doubt, and have never doubted, for one moment. It has always been a power in that way and long may it continue to make that sort of capital. That is the kind we are after, notwithstanding Wilmington is a mere strip of land between a river and the ocean and is too often counted out where State matters are concerned. And we admit here, most cha erails, that the News and Observer has been a good friend to our city and our people. Wifmington has not so many triends elsewhere in the State that she can afford to imperil the good-will of any one of them.

As to "Circular No. 88," about, which the News and Observer seems disposed to split straws, let us remind our good friend that virtually the old rates were never withdrawn. Major Yates proves us much in his second communication erous burden, which all others had de to Mr. Hans. He says that he will continue to use them until others are subatituted. Has the suspicion never cross ed the mind of our cotemporary tha possibly Major Yates is a little green at the business and that his second communication, which is really apologetic for the first, is intended to cover up somewhat of this verdancy? and does not it think, too, that Gov. Jarvis was a little hasty in ascribing unworthy motives as a basis for the issuance of an order which superable obstacles presented, have shown my warm, personal friend, and was then Major Yates' action forced upon Mr. Haas?

News and observer. Bailroad Correspondence.

MOREHEAD CITY, N. C., Aug. 1, 1881.

Messrs. W. P. Clyde, A. S. Buford and T. M. Logan:

GENTLEMEN :- We have the honor to herewith incluse you a copy of an agree ment entered into on the 25th day of May, 1881, between W. J. Best and his associates and ourselves as individuals and commiss ners of the Western North Carolina Railroad. Mr. Best and his associates have placed in our hands the sum of \$250,000, which we hereby tender to your to remburse you for your expen ditures upon the Western North Carolina Railroad, legitimately and properly made under what is known as the Best contract, and we are authorized to say if this is not sufficient such further sum as may be due will be paid to you. Mr Best and his associates having in purscance of said agreement obtained a lease of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, and having deposited the sum of \$85,000 as required by said agreement. and being now actively engaged in making the necessary preliminary surveys of the line of the railway between Goldsboro and Salisbury, we have to inform you that if they shall continue to prosecute vigorously the work of constructing and bunding said road, we shall in good taith and literally comply with our part of the agreement above referred to, both as commissioners and individuals.

THOMAS J. JARVIS. Z. B. VANCE, J. M. WORTH, Commissioners.

II.

A REPLY TO THE COMMISSIONERS. The following letter was received by Commissioner Jarvis on the 29th day of August, 1881, in reply to the Commissioners' letter:

RICHMOND, VA., August 25, 1881. GENTLEMEN: - Your letter of August 1st. 1881, has been received, together with a copy of the agreement therein referred to of date May 25th, 1881, between yourselves and W. J. Best. These pa pers have received from us the careful and respectful attention and considera tion which their importance demands, and as emanating from gentlemen in trusted with the important duties conferred on you by the State of North Carolina in this regard, and occupying toward us a business relation scarcely less peculiar than important in its character. We beg to assure you that the delay which has occurred in making reply has resulted only from the fact that, owing to the absence of one of us, it was impossible to obtain an immediate conference. Candor compels us to say that we did not at first escape the impression naturally to be derived from the apparent import and tenor of your letter and the accompany. ing contract to that effect that it was intended to undertake that in your char acter as Commissioners of the State of

JOSH. T. JAMES, Editor & Prop'r have no control, to surrender the just and lawful rights acquired and held by us under the said act, and the assignment thereof from Mr. Best, and that your letter before them. In the meaning, I do not understand that they are sequired by said memorandum for the said act, and the assignment thereof from Mr. Best, and that your letter in any way responters and I have no idea that either of them not regard your letter in any way responsive to ours. Nor do I admit that there your obedient servant. on us to surrender these rights under penalty of all the powerful adverse influence, both official and personal, which you could exert. Upon more careful consideration, however, we do not think that this could be your intention, and for several reasons, among others for the reason that the commissioners, especially Governor Jarvis and Senator Vance, are fully aware of the peculiar circumstances attending the assignment made to us by bility at the time of making his assigntions directly and indirectly from the sequences most disastrous to the interests of the State and its people would ensue if it then became apparent that the Best act was a failure, and that with the full knowledge of these things you not only

annunted to it, but more instruments in inducing us to accept the assignment. Nore particularly is it worthy of note in this connection that Senator Vance was present at several of the interviews held in New York with Mr. Best, and was active in promoting the negotiation, then thought by ourselves, in common with others of the State, to be important and essential to the intests of the State. and of those citizens of the State who had been actively instrumental in procuring the original law and the contract hereunto to be enacted and made. is, moreover, proper to say that the commissioners are, and were at the time. aware that this assignment was not sought by us, but only taken at the urgent solicitation of those who were most deeply interested in its successful consummation, yourselves most conspicuously and influential among the number and that, under these circumstances, we stepped into the breach when every other resource had failed, and assumed an on a surrender of our just and fully recognized rights under this contract, because fully aware that ever since we assumed the responsibility of this assignment we have proceeded to push forward the work in accordance therewith with a diligence and vigor which, considering the unexpected and unexampled and almost inattributable to us, the contract on the part of the State has not been performed in essential particulars that have not the work, but greatly increased its cost. The State has not furnished, and, as we are informed, cannot now furnish, the 500 convict laborers to which we are entitled under the act. For these reasons, as well as others that might be assigned, we cannot construe your communication to be a demand for the surrender of our rights and interests, much your high official position and your percommunication as intended to place before us a proposition which we may consider from the standpoint of the interest

terpretation upon your communication. write to you thus individually, because I We can offer you no better assurance know you well, while I barely know Gen. of the good faith with which this contract is being carried out than the fact that, not withstanding all the difficulties which have surrounded the work arising from Mr. Best's original default, and the extreme rigors of the winter following the assignment to us, it has been pushed forward so rapidly as to insure its completion both to Pigeon River and Paint both ways, and that, on this account, he Rock by November 1, 1881, at which latter point the Tennessee system of roads is under contract to meet and connect with it, and thus open to the State was known, even used his own money to the shortest and most direct route to the save the contract. great markets of the West. We beg to assure you that you will always find us. Col. Andrews, and will never fail to as you found us when approached on this reward them when I can properly do so, contract, ready to cooperate heartily in and I am sure he would not have me do protecting and promoting the real inter | so improperly. ests of the State in which we represent. I think you and your friends rendered s you know, a very large and constant-

whether or not we place the proper in-

at an alleged crisis, and to prevent the indefinite suspension of a great work of long-cherished value to the people of North Carolina, we assume this understand by it until it is executed.

Inspired by your appeals for our aid at an alleged crisis, and to prevent the sincers my associate commissioners will co-operate with me.

So propose to treat ment, Peculiar Critical Cordition, etc. Ably you, and I believe my associate commissioners will co-operate with me.

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So propose to treat with me.

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Respectfully, &c., W. P. CLYDE. T. M. LOGAN, A. S. BUFORD.

III. NORTH CAROLINA. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. is any trouble in construing our letter. If you found it difficult to get at our meaning or purposes, it was so easy to ask us what we meant, without consuming pages of paper in recounting a long

history of the troubles of the past. An east and west line, running from Morehead City to the western borders of the State and beyond, with its outlet at Morehead City, and operated solely in the interest of North Carolina norts, Mr. Best, and were fully cognizant of cities and towns, would be of such im-Mr. Best's utter and acknowledged ina- mense advantage to the State that I would feel bound to do everything in ment to us to take the first step toward my power that was honorable, whether the fulfilment of his undertaking. That as an individual, a commissioner or as at the time of such assignment we were Governor, to secure such a boon for her made sensible by numerous representa- people. Will you not frankly say it would be my duty to do so? This is what commissioners and other prominent and I meant by the letter of the 1st of Auinfluential citizens of the State that con- gust, and this is said without any threat, expressed or implied, to injure any one.

do not know that any such line will be built, or that it is likely to be; but if it is, I trust you will exhibit the same willingness to serve the State that you claim in your letter to have done when you took up the work on the Western substantial, permanent interest of your lines, and I am sure such a noble act would make all North Carolinians your

friends. Now, a word about the manner and the circumstances set out in your letter under which you undertook this work. I have always found you a frank, candid, straight forward man, and I have always said and believed, a gentleman. In this spirit I ask, did you have no desire for the Western road at the time you took up the Best contract? Did you do it solely to help the State and her people, and for no other purpose? Is it true or not true that, at the time Best was negotiating for the purchase of the road, some of those inter ested in your lines met and discussed the question of becoming yourselves bidders against Best? Would you not have become abidder had you not have become satisfied that Best was not in the interest clined, and thereby averted the disastrous of a line hostile to yours? I ask these consequences apprehended by yourselves questions because your persistent pushand others from a failure It seems to ing upon us the suggestion that you took us, also, that you cannot mean to demand | up the contract to avert a great calami-

ty makes them pertinent. But from whatever motive you acted, there can be no possible grounds for such you certainly cannot say you entered into demand. We feel assured that you are the contract at my solicitation. I did not you certainly cannot say you entered into ask, nor did I even know you and your friends had done so till after it was done. It is true that I knew there was trouble between Mr. Best and his associates, and they were likely not to be able to organize. Col. Andrews had been for years upon our part not only good faith, but a as row, a member of my staff. I asked sincere and earnest desire and purpose to him to go to New York and see what the comply with and carry out our contract | trouble was, and, if possible, remedy it. in its true intent and spirit. At the I also telegraphed to Senator Vance in same time we know that you were fully go to New York and aid in the adjustinforma of the fact, for reasons in nowise ment. I felt that it was a crisis in the history of the road, and that if the contract broke down and the work failed, then it would be a long time before the only seriously retarded the progress of people of the west would see the road and hear the whistle of the engine. also knew that you were in New York. and that you did not want the work on the road to stop or the contract to fail, and I supposed the f ct that you knew the read would be an important feeder to your line had something to do with your anxiety and feelings in the matter. But, as before stated, I did less that such demand should be made not know who assumed the responsibili under a menace of whatever injuries ties of the contract till after it was done. There is not connected with this whole sonal influence might enable you to inflict. | matter, from the day Mr. Best first came We can, therefore, only understand your to Raleigh to the present time, one single act, word or line of mine that I would have concealed or kept from the public I therefore beg that you will cease to we represent, and which, without any risk of injustice, may be accepted or de and say what it was that I did to induce clined. If, as we assume, this interpre- you or your friends to take up the Best tation be correct, it will be presented to contract. What promise did I make or all the parties interested, and respectfully | what inducement did I offer? Now, let and duly considered in connection with us have it all out in plain, unmistakable all the rights, interests and obligations words, giving time, place and circum-

> Col. Andrews was an ardent friend of mine for the nomination by the Democratic party and election by the people for Governor. I have no doubt that he thought that a failure of the enterprise at that time would seriously affect me in worked all the harder to get the mafter adjusted; and, I expect, urged it as a reason for his efforts, and, if the truth

but I do want to know what it is.

Logan, and do not know Mr. Ulyde at

that are involved in the whole transac- stances. I do not wish to evade any

tion. We await your reply to know obligation or responsibility I am under.

I shall not soon forget the services of

the State and myself a service in taking ly increasing permanent investment of up the contract at the time you did. no capital, and we in turn respectfully and matter from what motive you acted, and confidently ask your cordial sympathy I do think you are entitled to be treated and continued co-operation in our work, at least with fairness and justice if not Inspired by your appeals for our aid with liberality. I so propose to treat

> the development of the State, like the one proposed by the Midland scheme, if its projectors shall show their good faith

North Carolina, acting under the powers and limitations conferred and imposed by the act of Assembly referred to, you had entered into an engagement with Mr. Best and his associates to compel us, as sioners of the Western North Carolina out without loss. It it has turned out to be a good bargain, so much the bester for you, so that you have not been injured by them. If the time shall ever come gust, in reply to the letter of the commissioners are required, sioners of the Western North Carolina either as commissioners or individuals, 12 miles from Phila.

the assignees of Mr. Best, by such means Railroad of 1st of August, was received by the memorandum of the 25th of May, as might be at your command, upon cer- by me on yesterday. The commissioners to do anything, I do not understand that

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