

Atrocities in the Country.

We desire to call the attention of our civil officers to the account of the recent diabolical attempt at murder and arson in this county, which is furnished by an intelligent and reliable correspondent, which we publish to-day. We have heard of many similar outrages throughout the South. It is not to be wondered that the sudden and total emancipation of our large negro population from the moral and legal restraints which formerly controlled them, without means, and generally indolent and improvident, should have forced them not only to gain a livelihood by improper and illegal means, and that their ignorance, always accompanied with a spirit of revenge, would have led them to the commission of criminal outrages similar to those related by our correspondent, upon such good citizens who should attempt to frustrate them. But the fact that such deeds so frequently go unpunished, and the perpetrators are not discovered, is greatly to be wondered at, unless we ascribe it, also, to the general demoralization produced by the war.

Crime will rather increase than diminish, even without greater inducements, if the perpetrators go unpunished, and it is time by a more stringent attention to duties and an increase of the police force of the country, that criminals should not only be ferreted out, but should be made to know and feel the majesty of the law. If our civil authorities are unable to attend properly to this matter, we respectfully suggest to the military commander the propriety and necessity of issuing an order similar to the one promulgated by Major General Scott, commanding in South Carolina. This course will not only lessen crime by preventing lazy vagabonds from wandering about the country, committing outrages upon industrious and peaceable citizens, but would compel many of them to become industrious and profitable laborers in the great work of restoring the former prosperity of the country and benefitting both the white and black races.

Lieutenant Governor.

The last Raleigh Sentinel contains the following letter in reference to one of our own citizens in connection with the Lieutenant Governorship:

MESSES. EDITORS.—Among the names mentioned in connection with the office of Lieutenant Governor, on the ticket with our present worthy Governor, there is one which the people in this section of the State would be delighted to support. I refer to Wm. A. Wright, Esq., of New Hanover. Mr. Wright has always been one of the most conservative men in the State, one of our ablest lawyers, and a pure-minded, high-toned, honorable gentleman. He would dignify any office in North Carolina, and I think he would accept the position, but the State at this time needs the services of its best citizens, and I think we have the right to demand them, except in cases where the personal services would be too great. Mr. Wright's qualifications for the position are unquestionable. Decided abilities, pleasing address, and a steady manner that would disarm opposition, render him peculiarly fit to preside over a deliberative assembly. As the East is entitled to the representative, I know of no one better qualified for the position than he. Never a party or sectional man, he would bring to the discharge of his duties great ability, unvaried industry and spotless integrity.

CLARENDON.

Wilmington, July 4th, 1866. Mr. Wright is the third gentleman from our city, whose name has been proposed as Lieutenant Governor. We would willingly support either. Mr. Wright is at present the President of the Council of State, and has earned an enviable reputation as one of the ablest and most laborious members of the late Convention.

So many good and true men have been mentioned in connection with this office, the Sentinel suggests that if the Constitution should be ratified, the gentlemen who have been named for Lieutenant Governor, of both the old parties, should meet in the city of Raleigh on the 22d of August next, and make selection, and recommend him to the people of the State. We care not how the selection is made, so that it be a good man. The East will very properly claim this office, and we suppose the West will readily grant it. And while we prefer one of the gentlemen from this city, who have been named, still we will give our hearty support to Judge Howard, Col. Ferebee, Judge Shepherd, or a great many others who we could mention. We think, however, that subsequent to the August election will be time enough to agitate this matter.

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, Sumter, S. C.

The closing exercises of this Institution for the year took place on Friday last. We (the Associate) having business in Sumter were present on the occasion, and were much gratified at the success of the exhibition. The Sisters of Mercy deserve the thanks of all parents whose daughters have been under their care, for the manner in which they have performed their delicate duties, surrounded as they have been by so many untoward circumstances on account of the condition of the country.

From the smallest to the largest, the young ladies went through their exercises in the most creditable manner and fairly earned the beautiful, and in some instances, really valuable prizes. Young ladies from North and South Carolina and Georgia contended for the prizes, and while we are willing to give all their due credit and acknowledge the great degree of excellence exhibited by all, it must be confessed that Wilmington bore off the palm.

The people of that section should be, and doubtless are, proud of having such an institution in their midst. This School has only been located in Sumter about two years, having been removed from Charleston in the fall of 1863, on account of the bombardment of that city. Its present location has been most happily selected, not only on account of its accessibility, but it is situated in a most beautiful, refined and healthy district.

Although removed at a most unpropitious time, and struggling against difficulties that compelled so many similar institutions at the South to suspend, we are happy to say that the success of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy is now assured. The patronage is so liberal that the building is to be enlarged, while it is confidently believed that the attendance the next session will be much greater than during the term just closed.

The Atlantic Cable.

The energy and enterprise displayed in the repeated and costly efforts made to establish permanent electrical communication between the continents must eventually meet with complete success. It has never been definitely settled whether the attempt made last year proved unsuccessful from accident or wanton carelessness, but it is now thought that failure will insure success during the present year. We learn from the English journals that during the interim the science of making, testing and laying cables has so much improved that an undetected fault in an insulated wire has now become literally impossible, while so much are the instruments for signaling being improved that not only can a slight fault be disregarded if necessary, but it is even easy to work through a submarine wire with a foot of its cop-

per conductor stripped and bare to the water.—This latter result has been clearly established by actual experiments.

The new cable, upwards of one thousand seven hundred miles in length, with all the improvements in its manufacture and in the apparatus for paying it out, has been for some time securely and properly coiled upon the deck of the *Great Eastern*, and that vessel was to have sailed on the 30th of June from Sherness to Valentia. The tremendous iron coil which is to form the Irish shore end will be laid by the steamer *William Cory*, which it is supposed would take two or three days, and unless some accident has prevented, before this the splice has been made in Valentia Bay, and the *Great Eastern* is now on her way to the coast of Newfoundland. From the low rate of speed made necessary for the safe laying down of the cable, the trip cannot be made to Heart's Content, the point at which the American end of the cable is to be landed in less than eleven or twelve days.

If the attempt proves successful, the *Great Eastern* will return to the point where the cable was so unfortunately broken last year, and with arrangements made for raising it as perfect as can well be imagined, every effort will be made to grapple it, without regard to expense or time.—Of course if this proves a success, the cable will be spliced and the vessel return to Heart's Content.

It will thus be seen that in a short time we may have two cables connecting America and Europe. The effect of the successful completion of this work upon commerce, and in fact upon all classes of business will be very great. We hope before many months to be able to furnish to our readers the markets of London and Liverpool of the day before publication, as well as those of our Northern and Southern cities.

The Philadelphia Convention.

If the people of North Carolina intend to be represented in the proposed National Union Convention it is time that steps should be taken. The Raleigh Sentinel proposes that District Conventions should be held in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth Congressional Districts on Wednesday, the 25th of July, and for the sixth and seventh Districts, on the 27th and 28th of July respectively, and that the delegates selected by these different District Conventions assemble in Raleigh, on the 11th of August, to select four delegates from the State at large.

On the other hand the *Charlotte Times* recommends the holding of a State Convention and empowers that body to send the entire delegation.—The delegates from each district might recommend and the Convention ratify. It however suggests no time or place for the assembling of the Convention. This plan is similar to the one recommended by Governor Orr, of South Carolina, who, as one of the Vice Presidents of the National Union Club, has issued an address to the people of his State, earnestly recommending a hearty response on the part of South Carolina to the call for the Convention and suggests that meetings be held at the Court House of each district throughout the State on the 23d of July to appoint delegates to a State Convention to assemble at Columbia, on Wednesday, the first day of August.

We much prefer the plan proposed by the *Sentinel*, as the most expeditious and one calculated to secure a much better attendance. The want of mail and traveling facilities, and the very great scarcity of money would prevent a general representation in the Convention, while the more remote portions of the State would be entirely unrepresented. If delegates are to be appointed, they should not only be our purest and most prudent men, but they should be *representative* men, who will carry with them to Philadelphia, the hearty and cordial sympathy of the people they represent.

We are satisfied with both the time (23d July) and the place, (Goldsboro) suggested for the citizens of this district to meet, and we will not only be glad to hear from our cotemporaries of the press, but from the citizens of the district. If we are to have a Convention let every county be represented.

Major Gee.

We are glad to see it announced in the Raleigh papers that this gentleman has been released from confinement. It was not only simple justice to an injured man, but is especially gratifying, as a letter received by a gentleman in this city from Major Gee, represented his health as rapidly giving away under his long and close imprisonment. It is said he starts for Florida to-day.

Major Gee, after a confinement of nearly a year, has not only been honorably acquitted but the evidence elicited upon the trial has proved his humanity and kindness as an officer. Arrested upon the false testimony of would-be assassins, and imprisoned and tried to appease a fiendish thirst for blood, every good man will learn the result of the trial with feelings of great satisfaction. We trust Major Gee may be spared to recuperate his health and revive his fortunes, both of which have been offered as sacrifices, by the Government, to the Moloch of Fanaticism.

The English Ministry.

It seems a little strange that Mr. Gladstone, at once the ablest statesman and foremost orator in England, should have so signally failed where much inferior men have succeeded. We have looked forward to the defeat of the ministry, since the news by the last steamer, but had no idea its dissolution was so near. Mr. Gladstone declared he would stand or fall by the Reform bill, and although that measure was defeated only in an unimportant particular, still the ministry regarded it decisive, and the tumultuous manner in which the result was received in the House of Commons, disclosed how much the Prime Minister had lost his popularity and influence in that body.

The present Government has been in office for seven years, and is now broken up at a moment when the continent of Europe is in the throes of a mighty revolution, that threatens more signal changes in many of the most laudable and powerful dynasties than any that has occurred within the present century.

The English papers seem to point to one of two persons of the same family and the same school of politics, as the probable head of the new Government, Lord Derby or Lord Stanley. They are conservative, wise and able statesmen. Lord Derby is now quite old, and should the claim the vacant Primership, the real duties of the Government would devolve upon Mr. Disraeli, who is young, ambitious and able.

Great National Railroad Convention.

On Wednesday, the 4th of July, at noon, a convention of railroad delegates, from all sections of the United States, assembled at the Musical Fund Hall, to concert measures for the benefit of the railroad interest in the United States. Fifty railroads whose total lengths were eight thousand one hundred and thirteen miles, were represented.

Among the delegates, were Col. Wm. Johnston,

President of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad; Hon. R. R. Bridgers, President and Col. S. L. Fremont, Superintendent of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad; Maj. Henry M. Drake, President, and General Wm. McRae, Superintendent of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad; A. S. Buford, President, and Thomas Dandam, Superintendent of the Richmond and Danville and the Piedmont Railroads; and John M. Robinson, Acting Director of the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad.

The following officers were elected: President—J. Edgar Thompson, President Pennsylvania Central.

Vice-President—J. H. Sturgeon, President North Missouri Railroad.

Secretary—S. L. Fremont, Engineer and Superintendent, Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

A committee of five were appointed to memorialize Congress remonstrating against the present proposed tariff on railroad iron.

Mr. Ramsey, President Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, offered the following resolution, which was referred to the committee to memorialize Congress:

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Convention the revenue tax should be added to the rate of railroad fare, as most of the rates were established and limited by law previous to the war, and which have not since been increased, whilst in almost every other department of business and trade there is no limit to the amount which can be charged, thus clearly showing the wisdom and justice of permitting the law to remain instead of discouraging them.

The second and last day's session, the following memorial to Congress was adopted after much discussion: To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:—The National Convention of Presidents, Superintendents and Chief Engineers of Railroads, met at Philadelphia, to memorialize your honorable bodies, to the end that there is no present increase of the existing tariff on railroad iron and other materials required in building railroads, and offer the following reasons therefor, among many others that might be presented for your consideration:—

1. Because it is manifestly the interest of the Government that every encouragement should be given to the people of the country to take stock in railroads, to develop the resources of the country instead of discouraging them in doing so by levying a heavy tariff to be added to the cost of their railroads.

2. Because it is manifestly impolitic and unjust to place burdens upon the efforts of the people to develop the resources of the country.

3. Because the Government in the inconsistent position of annually making large appropriations to improve rivers and harbors, of donating the public lands and loaning the public money to the farmers for all the country, whilst on the other hand it levies, by tariff, enormous burdens on independent railroad companies that ask nothing from the Government, and that the reality of their citizens be not taxed for developing the resources of the country.

4. Because the Government in the inconsistent position of annually making large appropriations to improve rivers and harbors, of donating the public lands and loaning the public money to the farmers for all the country, whilst on the other hand it levies, by tariff, enormous burdens on independent railroad companies that ask nothing from the Government, and that the reality of their citizens be not taxed for developing the resources of the country.

5. Because every dollar of additional tariff laid upon iron or other materials required in building railroads to require that sum from the people already too poor to raise the means to build the railroads, and having to resort to mortgages, whereby they lose their large stock invested by them.

6. Because by discouraging the building of railroads you retard the development of the country, and to that extent lessen the ability of the people to meet the taxes required for the support of the Government.

7. Because it burdens the agricultural interests of the country for the benefit of an interest far less important than the agricultural and railroad interests, which are our main resources.

8. Because by increasing the cost of railroads you increase the amount of means to be raised by stockholders, and the more they are required to raise, the more they are obliged to sell or buy, and lessens the yearly profits of his farm to that extent.

9. Because, if we are correctly informed, the iron interests of the country at this time are making enormous dividends, and could well afford to have the tariff reduced if they would be content with eight or ten per cent. dividends on the capital invested in their railroads.

10. Because the cost of iron rails, the most expensive item in the construction of railroads, is rapidly increasing, so enormous that it may well be questioned whether there are not now existing railroads of no small value which would be better to replace those now fast wearing out.

11. Because in addition to the cost of ocean transportation, freight, commissions, &c., we are of opinion that a duty of a rate lower than the present per ton on iron rails would afford all the protection that is required, and would be fixed will, by its greater probabilities of stability, do more for the permanent iron interests of the country than any higher tariff.

12. Because the increase of duties proposed in the present Congress upon railroad iron would be unjust and oppressive in the extreme to the railroad interests of the country, and that the interests of the iron manufacturer, as well as the industrial pursuits of the whole country, would not be promoted by such increase; and that the effect would be to deter the investment in the manufacture of iron, in consequence of the want of stability and the danger of reaction to the other extreme, occasioned by the sudden fluctuations of the market.

Ordered, That the foregoing memorial be printed, and a copy of it sent to the President of the United States and each member of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Resolved, That a committee, to consist of five members, be appointed to visit Washington in relation to the tariff on railroad iron.

The Committee on Business reported the following topics to be considered by the sub-committee, who should be unanimously adopted:—

First. The abolition of the whole system of runners, commissions on sales of tickets, and other irregular modes of obtaining business.

Second. The abolition or very great reduction of free passes, by general action, as a ruinous tax upon railroads.

Third. A memorial to Congress requesting additional and adequate compensation for traveling, post offices and other matters.

Fourth. A memorial to Congress to secure the remission of taxes on gross receipts for freight, and to make a two cent stand on the gross receipts of all lading in the place of the present five cent stamp.

Fifth. A respectful memorial to the Postmaster-General to suspend the law of the 10th of October, next, on the return of peace, the public interest not absolutely require, so that Sunday trains may not run, and employees may have a day's rest in each week in accordance with the moral sentiment of the community.

Sixth. An adjournment to meet at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York, on Wednesday, the 10th of August, next, and the appointment of a committee to consider on the various subjects pertaining to the details of railroad management.

Messrs. A. S. Buford, Va.; Wm. Johnston, N. C.; J. H. Ramsey, N. Y.; J. H. Sturgeon, Mo.; J. H. Bradley, Pa. were appointed the special committee to proceed to Washington.

Messrs. Carter, of Texas, Fleming, of Illinois, and Samuel Sloan, of New York, were appointed an Executive Committee, to appoint the sub-committee, who should have power to increase their members, to whom should be referred the various details of business to be considered. The Executive Committee was also directed to consider and report upon the subject of insuring the lives of the employees of railroads from accidents while transacting their duties.

The Convention adjourned until the third Wednesday in October next, to meet at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York.

We understand that great harmony and good feeling prevailed, and we venture the assertion that throughout the entire United States, a more Conservative and national body of men did not assemble upon the anniversary of the Republic's birth-day, than were collected together in this Convention in the city of Philadelphia. We confess that we derive more hope from the assembling together of the representatives of our great lines of railroads and our commercial and agricultural men, than in similar collections of politicians.—Commerce is the great conservator of our Government, and the representatives of our railroads, meeting together in council, for the advancement of the interests of the great social and commercial channels of the country, will have the most salutary influence, uniting in a common purpose the extreme sections of the United States.

We are glad that the Convention will assemble again in the Fall, and, then, the tens of thousands of mercantile men, who will visit the North during the Fall, will, together be valuable delegates from our section to restore good feeling and reconciliation, the want of which is now the great stumbling block to complete restoration. What is left unrepresented by the National Union Convention, these yet more efficient delegates will accomplish. We would hail with pleasure the announcement of a great National Convention of the commercial and agricultural men of the country, and would readily abide by the terms agreed upon by them for the reconstruction of the Union.

Stenographer.—We hear it currently reported that the so-called Dr. Schooner Jos. Setters, Capt. Harvey, has been seized by the Revenue Cutter Moccasin, sailing from the act, or suspicion of smuggling.

The Joseph Setters has been engaged in the trade between this port and the Cuban ports for some time past, and has made several trips into this port. It is reported that, on the trip previous to the last one, he ran into Little River, S. C., and landed there a portion of her cargo of merchandise, upon which no duties were paid. After landing the most of her cargo, she came into this port almost entirely unladen, was quarantined, and after the usual time had elapsed, look in a cargo for Matanzas, Cuba.—Suspicion was directed to her illegal proceedings, and the Government no doubt, had spies on the alert to guard against a recurrence of the event, and also to watch her actions for confirmation of their suspicion. She was seen upon the coast some time during the week just past, and again made into Little River, and had the weakness to enact again the same routine of landing a smuggled cargo. This fact was reported to the proper authorities at Smithville, whither also the Captain of the Schooner directed his course, in order, no doubt, to allay the suspicion and counteract the report.

It is further seized by the officer in charge of the Revenue Cutter Moccasin, taken on board and conveyed to the schooner then lying in Little River. The schooner was then seized by the Moccasin, on behalf of the Government, taken in tow and brought into the harbor at Smithville.

The facts connected with the case will in all probability soon be brought to light and those connected with the illegal practice pursued with the utmost rigour of the law. Dr. Setters, his wife, and his son, were taken on board the Dr. Setters, but he learned, owned in Boston, that stronghold of New England Puritanism. The Captain, we believe, hails from Massachusetts, and he, together with the owners of the vessel, are "loyal" men, and are fully imbued with that Radical spirit and intense hatred of the people of the South, which characterizes the dominant party at the North.

This evidence of loyalty on their part is no doubt in keeping with the spirit of their party. While the leaders of the Radical colors, but he learned, owned in Boston, that stronghold of New England Puritanism. The Captain, we believe, hails from Massachusetts, and he, together with the owners of the vessel, are "loyal" men, and are fully imbued with that Radical spirit and intense hatred of the people of the South, which characterizes the dominant party at the North.

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Those deeds are perpetrated upon Southern soil, a place, according to their bitter and hated doctrine, fitting for the performance of deeds of evil, which, if they were, will fall in a measure upon the inhabitants of that land.

Truly a loyal deed, and one which emanates from loyal men.

The above are the facts connected with the case, as far as we could learn, some of which may perhaps prove incorrect, but we have received them as reliable and give them for what they may be worth.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held by Coroner J. C. Wood, on Sunday last, over the body of one Needham, a freedman, who died at the hospital at Camp Lamb, on Saturday last.

The facts elicited from the examination of the witnesses were to the effect, that a row occurred at Camp Whiting, about three miles from the city, on the night of Friday, the 6th inst., in which the negro, Needham, living at that place participated. During the melee, the deceased was shot by a freedman known as soldier Bill, and sometimes called Albert. The contents of the gun entered the body of the deceased, inflicting a mortal wound of which he died at the time and place mentioned above. The witnesses also stated that the dying declaration of the deceased was, that the negro called Bill shot him, and that he had several times previous to the row, threatened his life.

The jury rendered a verdict that "the deceased came to his death from the effect of a gun shot wound, inflicted by a negro known as soldier Bill, and sometimes called Albert, on the night of the 6th inst."

NEW HANOVER COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—There was a good attendance at the meeting of this Association, held on Friday last, in the City Hall, presided over by the President, the venerable and distinguished Dr. James F. McCreary.

This was a very interesting meeting, and the Association is in a healthy and prosperous condition. Medical subjects were discussed, and regulations adopted for the good, both of the community and the profession.

A paper, on some medical subject, is generally read by some one of the members. At this meeting one was presented by Dr. J. Francis King, on cholera, and ordered to be placed in the archives of the Association. Dr. J. C. Walker was requested to present a paper at the next regular meeting, which will be held at the City Hall, on Tuesday night of our coming September Court.

A new and uniform system of charges constituting a regular Medical Fee Bill has been adopted for city and county.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—We have received information in regard to a case of highway robbery, committed recently, which, for boldness and cunning design, excels anything of like character which has been brought to our notice lately.

It appears that on Saturday last, a young man by the name of Stearne arrived here from Baltimore, and after depositing an amount of \$1000 in a bank in this city, left for Charleston. During the night, just before the cars arrived at Florence, he was accosted on the train by a person who inquired if he were not Mr. Stearne.

The young man replied that he was from Baltimore, that his name was Stearne, and not the name the person had mentioned. The person who had thus accosted him, stated that he was a detective and produced a warrant for the arrest of Stearne, and that he was signed by Gen. Ransom, Marshal of this City. Arriving at Florence, Stearne was taken in custody by the person producing the warrant alluded to, and placed on the returning train to this place, toward which he, together with his captor, were soon started.

On the route, this bogus detective inquired of Stearne whether or not he had a pocket book, containing money to his own person. Answered in the affirmative, he took possession of the pocket book, in which was a considerable sum of money, and shortly afterward arriving at Whiteville, whether the train going South passed, the bold robber jumped from the platform of the car on which he stood, and getting on the other train was soon out of sight.

Stearne proceeded to this place, and waited on the Marshal, by whom he was informed that no warrant had been issued for his arrest, and that he had been made the victim of a scheming villain. He telegrams were immediately sent to Charleston, Kingville, Augusta, Columbia and other places, for the apprehension of the highwayman, together with a description of his person. After a delay of one or two days an answer was received from Columbia, stating that a person answering the description had been apprehended in that city, and that he had applied for a writ of habeas corpus. Word was dispatched that the witnesses would soon arrive, and he should be taken into custody, and he was then to appear against him.

It is to be hoped that the offender will be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

NEW FLOUR.—We learn that six barrels of new Flour were received by Stealer Gow, Worth, from Fayetteville, yesterday, consigned to A. Johnson, Jr. It was branded Family, and sold at \$17 per barrel.

The Wheat was raised by Mr. Newton R. Bryan, of Jonesboro, Moore Co. The Flour is said to be the best article brought to the market in some time, and is the first Flour from new Wheat received here this season.

TAX ON PURCHASES. STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, July 6th, 1866.

MESSES. ESKENHARD & PRICE, Wilmington, N. C.

Dear Sirs: You ask whether editors of newspapers must list their purchases of paper under section 21, schedule B, of the Revenue Act? The question is not free from difficulty, and I am glad to see that your Sheriff shows such an intelligent study of the tax law.

On reading section 21, you will observe: 1st, that many persons, who buy raw materials and manufacture them are included, for example the maker of a schenning villan. He manufactures a cloth, made by him into clothing. 2d, You will notice that the expression descriptive of the business is "buying or selling," which strengthens the above idea.

according to the common understanding of the meaning of the words used. If a farmer buys guano and makes it into fertilizer, it would be strange to tax his purchases of guano. He is not commonly known as a "trader." So I think editors of newspapers are never called "traders." The paper they purchase and on which they imprint their editorial and other matter, is merely the vehicle for the transmission of the real things sold, viz: the printed "news," advertisements, &c.

Without arguing the matter further, I am of opinion you are not taxable on the purchases of paper, used in printing your paper.

Very respectfully,
KEMP P. BATTLE,
Public Treasurer.

A Cowardly attempt to Murder a Citizen of New Hanover. July 7th, 1866.

Editors Journal:

A cowardly effort was made on Thursday night last, to kill Mr. William J. Walker, a peaceable, inoffensive citizen living on Long Creek, in New Hanover county. He was shot near the shoulder in each arm with large shot, and the wounds are dangerous. He was aroused about midnight from sleep by the effects of fire, and found his house burning up. In attempting to extinguish the flames, he was fired upon from ambush, and the guilty party fled.

Recountances point with unerring certainty to Ned Bell and Harry McAllister, freedmen, in that section, as being connected with this diabolical deed. One or both, no doubt, attempted to kill him. These villains and thieves have been committing, with impunity, all manner of crimes, and rascalities since they were freed, upon the good people of Long Creek and vicinity, and Mr. Walker recently exposed some of their villainy.—They threatened the life of himself and others for such exposure, and revenge prompted these scoundrels in this secret attempt to murder. Mr. Walker's conduct is worthy of the highest commendation.

His neighbors believe that the plan of these black, midnight assassins was to burn up his house, kill him at the time, and commit his body to the flames, in the hope that public judgment would be that he was accidentally burned while the house was burning. We hope that Sheriff Bunting and other officials will be on the alert for these murderous scamps, who have been so long a terror to peaceable citizens. A well-arranged systematic course of stealing has been for some time going on in sections of country adjoining Wilmington, under the direction of these and similar negroes, and the losses of the farmers in poultry, stocks and other property have been and are immense in this respect. It is believed that this systematic arrangement secures the co-operation of negroes in Wilmington with those in the country in these criminal acts. The vigilant police operations in Wilmington are driving many of these black desperadoes from the city only to depredate upon the country people, who are not so well protected, and the lives of the country people are, therefore, more in danger than those in the city. If that gallant soldier and ardent patriot, General Ransom, who as Marshal, is doing, and will do, so much for the people of Wilmington, will aid the country people in breaking up these desperate states of things, he will merit and receive the additional thanks of his host of country friends and admirers.

These thieves, outlaws and murderers, such as Ned Bell and Harry McAllister are constantly increasing in numbers in this county, and their example and influence are destructive to the peace and prosperity of the county, and are a menace to a living. Too long have they, they must be, or starve; and it is believed that they often import upon the Freedmen's Bureau, and obtain rations and other assistance, when they are not objects of charity, but ought to be made to work. To give to such negroes is not charity, but it adds to the burden of the people, and the generalization now existing to an alarming extent among the negro population. Any peaceable man in the country, who goes to bed at night is liable to be murdered, or have his house burned, or smoke house or crib broken open before he wakes up in the morning. What is to be done?

JOHNSTON COUNTY, N. C., July 4th, 1866.

EDWIN G. READE, President.

R. C. BADGER, Assistant Secretary.

AN ORDINANCE.

REPEALING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION NINE OF AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONCERNING NEGROES AND PERSONS OF COLOR OR OF MIXED BLOOD," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, That all elections for Governor of the State of North Carolina, members of the General Assembly, and all other elections, now required by law to be held on the first Thursday in August, shall hereafter be held on the first Monday in October, under the same rules, regulations, and restrictions as are now prescribed by law.

SECTION 2. Be it further ordained, That sections fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, and sixty-six of chapter one hundred and thirty of the Revised Code, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

[Ratified the 10th day of June, A. D., 1866.]

AN ORDINANCE.

TO CHANGE THE TIME OF ELECTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, That all elections for Governor of the State of North Carolina, members of the General Assembly, and all other elections, now required by law to be held on the first Thursday in August, shall hereafter be held on the first Monday in October, under the same rules, regulations, and restrictions as are now prescribed by law.

SECTION 2. Be it further ordained, That sections fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, and sixty-six of chapter one hundred and thirty of the Revised Code, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

[Ratified the 10th day of June, A. D., 1866.]

AN ORDINANCE.

REPEALING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION NINE OF AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONCERNING NEGROES AND PERSONS OF COLOR OR OF MIXED BLOOD," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, That all elections for Governor of the State of North Carolina, members of the General Assembly, and all other elections, now required by law to be held on the first Thursday in August, shall hereafter be held on the first Monday in October, under the same rules, regulations, and restrictions as are now prescribed by law.

SECTION 2. Be it further ordained, That sections fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, and sixty-six of chapter one hundred and thirty of the Revised Code