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WHOM ALL LETTERS ON BUSINESS MUST BE ADDRESSED.

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## CONVENTION—GOVERNOR GRAHAM'S VIEWS.

We take great pleasure in laying before the readers of the JOURNAL this morning the views of Governor GRAHAM upon the all-important question of calling a Convention, and for which we are indebted to our able cotemporary, the Hillsboro *Recorder*.

The many engagements of this gentleman and his somewhat enfeebled health have postponed, says the *Recorder*, the expected communication from him in reply to the queries of the editors of the Wilmington JOURNAL. But he has expressed his sentiments, here at home, unreservedly and strongly. He has spoken among a constituency whose confidence he has held unshaken for half a century, to a people he has never misled. He speaks in the maturity of his powers and the ripeness of his experience, and his counsel should have weight not only with the people of Orange, among whom he lives, but with those of the whole State whose honorable burden it has been his fortune so long, so often and so ably to bear.

At the meeting of the citizens of Orange held in the Court House in Hillsboro, on the 3rd inst., during the absence of the Committee to report resolutions, he was called upon to express his views on the subject of the Constitution, and a Convention. Without undertaking to make a literal report of the speech, we lay before our readers some of its more prominent points, in order that they may see that a gentlemen of Governor GRAHAM's wisdom, recognizes the urgent need of the reformation of the organic law of the State, and one of his abundant caution and prudence sees nothing hazardous to the party that proposes it.

After a reference to the condition of his health, which had prevented all premeditation in his remarks, he proceeded to comment upon the nature and the importance of constitutions and the necessity of frequently bringing them to the consideration of the people. The people ought to have this opportunity once in a while. They are fully capable of passing judgment upon constitutional laws. They are reasonable, and have far more capacity to judge correctly than many of those speakers and writers who assume to speak for them, and will form a correct verdict at the end of a campaign, comprehending readily amendments in the fundamental law.

Have we a Constitution that suits us? How did we get it? The Constitution of '76 lasted until '35; the changes in that endured until '61. The people rejected the Constitution submitted under authority of President Johnson, preferring their own. The Government then called a Convention, requiring negroes to be voters, and proscribing largely among the whites. For this Convention every class of men presented themselves as candidates. The Convention was a disgrace. The Constitution was signed amidst the wildest orgies. Thirty days were given to the people to decide on it. It was not published until half that time expired.

It was then regarded as a mere provisional adoption. It did not suit us. It has as much application to the people of Illinois as to us. Reverence to constitutions is due to the weight of the personal character of their framers. There is nothing to command respect in the framers of this.

The Constitution was accepted, but it was not above criticism. It got the expected colored vote. It got the votes of many who wanted peace, and wou d open the way to reconciliation. Even those who framed it, thought it only temporary. They said, "Take it now; try it, and if it don't suit, amend." Seven years have passed. Why can't we amend by our own people? We are not in hostility to the Government. There is nothing to forbid. Who will compose the Convention? Our own men, men who live among us, men who will not run away. The Constitution may be submitted to the people. They can reject if they wish.

There were provisions in the Constitution insulting and degrading to the sovereignty of the State, purposely placed there. Why make an oath to support the Constitution and laws of the State, the Constitution and laws of the United States a prerequisite for voting? Who can possibly know all these laws?

This Constitution exalts the Executive and Judicial departments beyond all reason, while it degrades the Legislature, the direct representative of the people. Instead of leaving discretionary powers in the hands of the Legislature, it provides a system of its own by which the legitimate law making body is interfered with and restrained. For instance, it limits changes in the number of Judges of the courts. That should be left to the Legislature. The Constitution should not limit, define, or restrict.

Instead of binding out children as under the old system, this Constitution establishes charitable institutions, and prescribes and compels provision for idiots and inebriates. These provisions ought all to be expunged, and the State government be made more simple and more economical.

It exalted the Governor, and made him an officer of overshadowing importance. He is now a vast power. He appoints all officers, and fills all vacancies, without advice or consent. William Hooper was asked when he returned from the Convention of '76, what powers they had given the Governor? To sign his receipt for his salary, was the reply. Governor GRAHAM would return to the old methods of appointment by the General Assembly, and would restrict the powers of the Governor.

Many other objectionable features might be referred to, but he would pass them by now for want of time. He would pass on to the consideration of the subject of calling a Convention at the next session of the Legislature. There was no danger in a Convention. It all depended upon who the people sent, and heretofore, they have always, when they had their free choice, sent the right sort of men. He thought, there was no danger of committing the responsibility to men who would abuse their trust. As to the loss of party ascendency, so much dreaded and dwelt upon by many, if the party is right, the question will strengthen it. Its work must go before the people. They will understand it, and if they approve, will ratify it.

Much was said of the loss to the party by its call for a Convention in '71. That was imaginary. It has never lost the Legislature since. In that election on Convention the question arose, whether the Legislature had a right to call a Convention. The Judges did not think it a lawful mode, and their opinion crippled the vote, yet the Convention vote then was little less than that for Stipp, a vote which had redeemed the State, and the Merrimon vote was many thousands larger. The Convention question had not therefore hurt the party.

As to the question not having been urged, and that the civil rights question was the contested point in the campaign, that was idle. That was something the Legislature had nothing to do with. That was for Congress. If that was all, the Legislature had better adjourn at once and go home. But he thought the campaign embraced all that looked to the welfare of the people. It then became the duty of the Legislature to examine the whole charge committed to them, to act according to the best lights they could obtain, and then leave it to the people to judge, regardless of considerations of party ascendancy. The people were fully able to comprehend, and might be safely trusted to decide that question of ascendancy.

This was far more important than carrying the Presidential election.—For many years to come, the South will occupy but a small space in Federal affairs. Its position now is that of insignificance. Of all of the nine Judges of the Supreme Court not one is appointed from the South of Mason and Dixon's line. The South has no Cabinet officers, and if it has had diplomatic appointments, they have been of inferior grade. If the Republican party continues in power, there need be expected no change in this policy. We have then little interest in general politics. Our powers must be exercised in our own domestic affairs. We must turn our attentic n to domestic reforms. Having done that, we can then rejoice over the Presidential election, and the speaker did have hopes of the election of some suitable gentleman.

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL CURRENCY—UNITED STATES TREASURER SPINNER.

The telegrams informed us on yesterday that Mr. Spinner the Treasurer of the United States had made complaint in his last annual report that in the South, especially in the States Georgia and Alabama, certain corporations had issued and put in circulation their own notes which the people were simple enough to use instead of National Bank notes and Greenbacks. Mr. Spinner thinks that this is an evasion if not a violation of the act of Congress giving to the National Banks a monopoly in money.

With both of his trembling old hands raised in holy horror, as it were, at the enormity of the outrage, Mr. Spinner says "In localities at the South about the entire circulation consists of such local issues, that are put upon everybody in change and notes used in the place of issue, are worthless to the holder." "What is one man's meat is another man's poison" is an old saying and in this case it proves to be true. This local currency that is such "poison" to old Mr. Spinner is "meat" to us. It is exactly what the South needs. Indeed we firmly believe that until we return to the use of local currency for local, home circulation we will never possess adequate facilities for the transaction of our business. We look upon the National Bank system as one of the greatest curses that was ever inflicted upon any country. Nor do we think, by any thinking, it can be adapted to our wants. We can never be free in our business affairs until the monopoly in money now secured to the National Banks is broken up, and this can be done only by a repeal of the prohibitory tax imposed by Congress upon notes issued by banks other than National Banks.

The great mistake of our generation is the attempt to treat the whole United States as one homogeneous community, in a financial point of view. The United States is no more homogeneous, financially, than it is in any other respect. Different sections in this respect as in others, have different wants. The National Bank system refuses to recognize this fact, and seeks to make every community and every interest conform to one unbending rule. The experiment has now been on trial for some twelve years, and the result is that there is financial ruin stalking the whole country in the face.

Georgia and Alabama, it seems, are seeking relief by evading the law. Private corporations, not banks, are issuing *scrip*, which the home public is content to use in its ordinary every-day traffic. If this is all the currency these people can get, or if they prefer it, ought the law of Congress to come in and say they shall not use it?

What need is there that *all* currency shall circulate with equal facility in Maine and in Texas, in Alaska as in Florida, in California as in Carolina? None in the world that we can see. We need a circulating medium, or a medium of exchange, for two purposes, one for home traffic and one for foreign traffic. What do two neighbors in Florida care if their medium of domestic exchange is not recognized as a medium of domestic exchange between two neighbors in Alaska? For traffic not domestic, and for purposes of travel, Treasury notes, or "greenbacks" proper, and bills of exchange are amply sufficient.

To us it seems plain that it will greatly benefit the South to have local currencies that will *not* circulate in New York City, and that until that day shall come, the South will never free itself from its vassalage to New York City. With the present one currency, of universal circulation, New York controls and dictates to the whole country; and so it must ever be as long as the National Bank system continues in force.

We need two currencies, so to speak, one for home use, for local circulation and the other for general circulation. The local currency ought *not* to have circulation in New York. In order to bring about this happy state of affairs, the Federal tax on State Bank notes must be repealed. Georgia and Alabama have met the question in a practical way, but we submit that our people ought not to be driven to such expedients.

If the tax on State banks was removed there is no reason why we should not have banks under State laws. Ample security and protection for the bill holders would be given, and a currency thereby afforded amply sufficient for home use—one that would contract or expand with the needs of the community. This currency would not circulate in New York and for that very reason we would be independent of the crises and panics of that great money centre.

The money power of the country sustains the Federal Government in its attempts at Centralization. Its powerful support is rendered irresistible by the National Bank system. Break up that system and States rights and local self-government will once more be in the ascendant.

## THE RADICAL FUTURE.

From recent indications it seems probable that there will not be perfect harmony in the counsels of the National Radical party. The organization, if present indications are to be relied upon, is not a unit either upon the causes of its defeat or the proper means of recovery therefrom.

President Grant, and his two organs the Washington *Republican* and the New York *Republic*, think the blame lies with Congress and the "third term," and the administration had nothing to do with it. Indeed the *Republican* goes so far as to say that the difficulty was that the Radical ticket had not GRANT's name at its head. This faction is now calling for more work and more money. Inflation and "liberal" expenditure of the public funds in public works and a "generous" employment of a large number of men is the remedy proposed to meet the wants of the large number of people out of work and out of money.—The *Republican* says "the army has been cut down, the department clerkships have been cut down and the Republican majorities have been cut down. Evidently there has been too much cutting down." It complains also that Congress chose rather to curtail all such enterprises as were calculated to stimulate the demand for labor in order that they might show economical budgets. This added to the distress of the laboring classes, and drove them to their only remaining resource of defence. "Can this slip be retrieved," asks the Washington *Republican*.

Can the twenty millions thus economized by Congress at a time when the labor of the country could ill afford it, when the credit of the nation was so well established that a further reduction of the debt was not necessary to its stability, now be so expended as to revive our productive industry and at the same time afford employment to the necessitous poor? This is the paramount question for Congress to grapple and solve when it reconvenes next month. Its committees at the last session reported favorably upon schemes of internal improvements which should be carried out.—They were schemes which promised by the expenditure of one hundred and twenty millions to cheapen the cost of transportation upon the products of industry one sixty millions per annum in the future. They promised, moreover, cheap bread to the masses. They promised to stimulate the demand for labor almost incalculably, both directly and collaterally. With constant and abundant employment the contentment, happiness and prosperity of the masses would have been assured. These, in turn, would have prevented the present political revolution. Will Congress, now that its eyes have been opened to its duty in the premises, make haste to retrieve the false step which it made at the last session? Or will it persevere in its suicidal course, and in answer to the cry of the people for bread again cast at them a stone?

The New York *Republic*, the lasting and closer friend of the President in New York City, and possessing such intimate relations with his Administration as to be considered to speak by authority, says:

"The present Republican administration, since the election of last week, feel relieved from all obligations to force hard money on the country. Six months ago the President, advised and urged by the hard money financial people of New York, did consent to recommend the early return to specie payments. He even went to the extent of recommending the repeal of the Legal Tender act of 1862, after a given notice to the country. He was made to believe that this was the popular sentiment—at least in the great State of New York. He therefore took issue with a score of his best friends in Congress from the West, who insisted that the party could not afford to go to the country on contraction and hard money. Such men as Mr. Morton, of Indiania, Mr. Logan, of Illinois, and Mr. Ferry, of Michigan were so earnest in their protests and convictions on the subject that they were almost driven to open revolt against the administration on the unexpected veto of the President. It was a nicely ballanced question, as we happen to know whether they should openly denounce in the Senate the mistaken views of the President, or leave the whole subject to be settled later in the session, by compromise.—The latter alternative was adopted, for the sufficient reason that the Western Senators knew the President to be sincere in his conviction that the popular financial sentiment demanded specie payments, and, as a preliminary thereto, the repeal of legal tender desirable. The vote was sustained, and the President was warmly congratulated in certain quarters where he was not supported last Tuesday.

"It is now sufficiently clear to the Republican administration that the country was *not* then prepared for specie payments, and that the whole agitation was badly timed and, as the result proves, unpopular. The party have been r d on the cry of the hard times; a the pressure of the hard times was aggravated by the advanced position taken by the President, on New York advice. As to the doing away with greenbacks and the repeal of legal tender, there was no real popular demand then, and there is infinitely less now. The President was deceived into a different opinion, but he is not the man to persevere in a blunder made so palpable by the recent elections as to leave little doubt that hard money and no greenbacks constitute about the last issue before the people, when under pressure of hard times, which should be made by a party in administration."

Thus we have plainly foreshadowed the policy of the administration wing of the Radical party, to-wit: A reckless, extravagant expenditure of the people's money to give some relief from the hard times so rapidly coming. Plenty of money and plenty of work and opposition to the Civil Rights Bill is now Grant's platform for the Third Term Campaign, and be it remembered that our reticent President, our silent man, our man on horseback, our man who never opes his mouth but—not pearls—but smoke comes out or whiskey goes in, has found quick and convenient opportunity to inform the county that he is opposed to Civil Rights.

On the other hand, the other wing of the party, represented by that portion of the press and of the politicians that claim to represent the wealth and intelligence and honesty and respectability of the party, in the Eastern States, at least, are strongly and unalterably opposed to the financial policy thus indicated. This wing of the party, like the other, true to its pocket as the needle to the pole, insists upon early if not an immediate resumption of specie payments.

In plain English the President has joined the MORTON and LOGAN and TERRY wing—the Western, cheap money wing—of his party, and is holding open defiance to the Eastern hard money wing.

Verily the prospect is a good one—for us of the South—for whether the East unloads the West, or the West unloads the East, Democracy is obliged to win.

## CONVENTION LETTER FROM COLONEL W. L. STEELE.

We have the pleasure of laying before our readers this morning a very able letter from Colonel STEELE, of Richmond County, in favor of the call of a Constitutional Convention by the Legislature. The fact that Colonel STEELE acknowledges that at first he had doubts in regard to the *policy* of the movement, which no longer exist gives much force to his letter. His ability, his long experience, his devotion to North Carolina, render the opinions of Colonel STEELE worthy the thoughtful consideration of our people. We gladly enroll him among the distinguished advocates of Convention, and invite attention to his letter:

ROCKINGHAM, Nov. 12th, 1874.

*Messrs. Engelhard & Saunders:*

GENTS:—I have received your letter in which you do me the honor to ask my opinions in regard to the propriety of calling a Constitutional Convention by the General Assembly. Although I have not the vanity to suppose that my views are at all likely to have any influence upon the course of that body or to sway the opinions of any great number of the people of the State; yet as I have no concealments upon any question relating to the public welfare, I shall not hesitate to comply with your request. In doing so, I shall content myself with conclusions rather than the arguments by which they are reached.

Independent of the fact that the instrument called the Constitution of the State is not the child of the people who are governed by it, but a bastard begotten by perjury and perjury, it is a "*monstrum, horrendum, informe.*" The instrument is a compound of organic principles and statutory requirements, thrown together without order, dangerous and absurd. It is mysterious and cumbersome, and tends to impede rather than advance rational progress. It imposes burdens, "grievous to be borne," and prevents the passage of laws which growing conveniences and necessities demand. It needs heavy pruning and a thorough reconstruction to bring it into harmonious shape, solid structure and becoming proportions. All partial attempts at amendment, therefore, will only add more patches to the mosaic garment. A general revision, preserving the principles established by our fathers, and such new provisions as our changed condition requires, is the only means by which we can hope to get the organic law into harmony in all its parts, securing at proper landmarks for legislative and judicial guidance and unfettering the General Assembly of many needless restraints, which now hamper and control it. And this requires a Convention.

It must be recollected that the legislative mode of amendment was resorted to in 1870 and 1872, and certain amendments supposed to be made by it. I learn that a case is now pending in the Supreme Court, on an appeal from a decision of the late Judge Tourgee, in a case where the University is concerned, and grave fears are entertained that the Court may declare that no such amendments were made at all, because *all* the amendments proposed in 1870 were not sanctioned by two-thirds of the General Assembly of 1872. If these fears are realized, then we may have, practically, no remedy for our distresses by this mode of amendment and be obliged to bear our burdens as best we can.

I may as well state that when the question of a Convention was first mooted, I had doubts in regard to the *policy* of the movement. Although I knew that the present proposition was quite different from the former one in which it was submitted directly to the people to say whether *they* would call a Convention, and the circumstances of our present condition left us with far more freedom to speak and act upon our opinions. I still apprehended that we might hazard by the experiment, the loss of a power, which I regarded as essential to the weal of the State. I thought it possible that we might have some more Ackermanic fulminations from Weldon, which would intimidate our people and frighten them from the exercise of a clear constitutional right, and the use of a needful and proper remedy for the grievances under which they labored. Now, however, thanks to the impressible genius of constitutional liberty, which has so clearly manifested itself by a popular upheaval almost unparalleled in our history, these apprehensions have passed away, and I feel that we have the glorious privilege of doing what is right without fear of interference by measures or bayonets. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and other commonwealths have declared that as they claim to possess "the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police" of their own States, Louisiana and North Carolina shall not be denied the save sovereign prerogative, and shall not be crushed by the heel of a despot or their lives destroyed by the bayonets of his minions. The suggestion was a healthy one, and has a potent authority which no man can disregard. I have these fears no longer, and hence, so far as the influences which intimidated us before are concerned, they may be disregarded as no longer worthy of our attention.

At all times *right* should prevail rather than *policy*. But the proposition may be more truly stated, that *right* is *policy*, and he who regulates his conduct unswervingly by adherence to principle will, in the end, always triumph. The question is then narrowed down to this: Does the Constitution need such thorough revision as to require the assembling of a Convention? I think so; and if the General Assembly shall entertain a similar view, then the duty becomes imperative that it should call one. It must reject all inquiry as to whether such a step would be popular or unpopular, and elevate itself to the position of pure statesmanship and patriotism. Let it do what it shall believe to be best for the people of the State, regardless as to the particular effect such action shall have on the political or personal future of each individual member. When our Legislature can attain to this standard we may well trust our fates in their hands and regard them as the direct agents of an overruling Providence for the salvation of our people, and not as instruments of His inscrutable wrath.

I do not fear that a Convention, now called, would be composed in the main of ignorant and corrupt men. A controlling portion of them would be the wisest and best of our people. Their acts would, I believe, be founded in wisdon and sustained by the people at the ballot-box. No man can have any apprehensions that his rights of person or property would be invaded. I would not care to restrict or attempt to restrict the action of the body, but would be willing to entrust the whole matter to its discretion, having the most implicit confidence that its action will be dictated by a sincere and patriotic desire to advance the general interests of the people. If others are not so trustful as I am, the Legislature might suggest certain lines, which the Convention should not pass. No Convention would disregard them, and if it should, then the people could reject all the propositions submitted to them. There is no danger on this point, for that body would not, merely to show its "brief authority," hazard the loss of all its labors.

It is true that a Convention would cost something. So do food and raiment, and medicine; but yet the cost is repaid by strength, comfort and health. Our government is cumbersome and expensive, and I think the whole cost of a revision of the Constitution would be saved, in two years of a reduced expenditure, to say nothing of the retrenchment for many years to come, and the confidence and satisfaction which would be given to our people by having a frame work of government suitable to their tastes, habits and even prejudices.

These are my views, gentlemen, I hope expressed with sufficient clearness that you can comprehend them. If I have been unfortunate in that respect I can sum up my conclusion so that no difficulty of this sort will be experienced. I would vote to call a Convention if I were a member of the General Assembly, and I would do so if it brought me in opposition to the views of some friends, whose intelligence and patriotism I highly respect. Those differences always exist, and if they are to govern the duties of a Legislator, are too insignificant to notice, for then very little could possibly be done.

Apologizing for the hurry in which I have written and the somewhat disconnected manner in which I have stated my conclusions.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WALTER L. STEELE.

## THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

As the complete returns of the sweeping Democratic victory come in, it is discovered that the gains made in the United States Senate leave the Republicans with only ten majority. There are very bright prospects of electing a Democratic President and House of Representatives in 1876, and it would be very important for that party to secure the Senate in order that they may not be checked in their purpose to reform the General Government.

A gain of six Senators in 1876 will overcome the Republican majority. The terms of twenty-five Senators expire March 4, 1877, and their successors are to be determined by the elections held in the Fall of 1876. Of these twenty-five outgoing Senators fifteen are Republicans; and the defeat of four of these is absolutely certain. They are Clayton, of Arkansas; West, of Louisiana; Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey; and Cragin, of New Hampshire. It is very probable that in addition to these four, Logan of Illinois; Harvey, of Kansas; Ferry, of Michigan; Windom, of Minnesota; Hitchcock, of Nebraska; and Howe, of Wisconsin, will also give place to Democrats. Thus the controlling power which the Republicans have been flattering themselves they would retain in the administration of the Government for many years to come is threatened with speedy annihilation.

## IMPORTANT DECISION.

The correspondent at Washington City of the Baltimore *Gazette* gives condensed abstracts of sundry decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, the opinions having been delivered on Monday last.—Among the decisions is one deciding a principle of construction in which many of our citizens are deeply interested. The case referred to is reported as follows:

LIABILITY OF STOCKHOLDERS.

Pollard vs. Bailey, assignee, &c.—Error to the District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

In this case the Court below allowed a recovery against a stockholder of an insolvent bank without reference to the question of proportion. The judgment is here reversed, the Court holding that each stockholder is liable only to pay a sum which shall bear the same proportion to the whole indebtedness that his stock bears to the whole capital.

The Chief Justice delivered the opinion.

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS.

In 1870 six States had Democratic Governors. The number is now twenty-two out of thirty-seven.

Thirteen States elected Governors on Tuesday of last week, and ten of the elect are Democratic, viz: Alabama, GEO. S. HOUSTON; Arkansas, A. H. GARLAND; Delaware, JOHN. P. COCHRANE; Massachusetts, WILLIAM GASTON; Michigan, HENRY CHAMBERLAIN; Missouri, CHAS. H. HARDIN; Nevada, L. R. BRADLEY; New Jersey, JOS. D. BEDLE; New York, SAM'L J. TILDEN; Tennessee, JAS. D. PORTER. The Radicals elected only SILAS GARBER in Nebraska—CHAMBERLAIN in South Carolina, and T. A. OSBORN in Kansas.

## THE CONVENTION QUESTION.

The subject, says the Cleveland *Banner*, is now being agitated, and thoroughly and ably discussed, by the Democratic press and people of the the State, from Currituck to Cherokee, the Wilmington JOURNAL, that staunch old Democratic paper, so ably edited, and always right, taking the lead.

A month or more ago we wrote an article favoring the call of a Convention; but at that time the question was new, ostensibly, and but little had been said about it. The press seemed to be languid, and indisposed to take hold of it, knowing that it was one of great magnitude and importance, upon and around it clustering the weal or woe of the State. But since then calm deliberation has driven away the clouds of doubt, fear and pusillanimity, and awoke the people to their danger, and their solemn and imperative duty.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

A recent corner in barley in Chicago is announced as having netted the men who "engineered" it $70,000.

The Alabama papers insist that the new House of Representatives shall begin its investigations with the overflowed bacon business. It is rich to ripeness.

Sims Reeves, the English tenor who has just signed contracts to come to America next season for a series of concerts, is to receive $115,000 for one hundred nights, or $1,150 per night.

Maynard, who was waterlooed to the tune of about 50,000 for Governor of Tennessee, did not carry a county in the middle or western sections of that State. He was beat in his own county, and it is believed that he will not have a majority in more than ten counties all told.

Dr. Ayer, the Massachusetts medicine man might have been elected to Congress if all the men in the district who have swallowed his cherry pectoral, had voted for him. It was the fellows who didn't take it, who were alive and kicking on election day. They voted for Tarbox.

It has just come out that Gen. Sherman presented his daughter, Mrs. Fitch, with $10,000 in the way of a substantial wedding gift. The house of the youthful pair in St. Louis is the gift of Mrs. Sherman, and, although quite unpretending in size and external appearance, is handsomely furnished with articles from the Washington house, the furniture being a so Mrs. Sherman's gift to her daughter.

There is a prospect of tribulation, of weeping and wailing among the saints out in Utah. Nineteen Mormons have been indicted for polygamy by the Grand Jury of Judge McKean's Court, and the job is only fairly commenced. The Salt Lake *News* is alarmed at this sudden coming down of the law upon the "peculiar institutions," and rushes in to figures to figures to show what a tremendously expensive and grievous piece of business it is liable to prove.

State Geologist Buckley, of Texas, will report the next legislature his observations in fifty-four counties, from which it is settled beyond any question that the sections visited principally in the central, eastern, northern and western parts of the State, abound in vast deposits of iron and coal. The copper region has also been found to have a wider and larger range than generally supposed, and there is an abundance of salt, gypsum and good roofing slate. Silver has not been found in paying quantities, although its existence in the counties west of Llano has been satisfactorily demonstrated.

The Fiji Islands, which the British Government have just annexed, are a group of one hundred and fifty-four islands, sixty-five of them being inhabited. They are situated in the South Pacific ocean, between the fiftieth and twentieth degrees of south latitude. Only two of these islands are of considerable size, Anna Levu and Vita Levu, which have a surface respectively of about five thousand and three thousand six hundred square miles. The Fiji Islands are fertile and very productive of tropical fruits, but heretofore have had very little attention given them by this country. Now that her Majesty, Queen Victoria, has taken the place of the latest successor of "Hoky-poky-winky-wank, the King of the Cannibal Islands," who has acquired much celerity in song and story, it is quite probable that it will have a beneficial effect upon the future of his carnivorous majesty's realm.

The Salem Press says: Live partridges are shipped every few days from this place for New York, and thence to England, for some of the parks of the noblemen.

The Raleigh News says: Mr. Albert Magnin, of this city, has been appointed by the Department at Washington Special Commissioner, to take testimony to be used before the Claims Commission in cases pending before that body from North Carolina.

The Charlotte Observer says: Our friend Johnstone Jones, Esq., until recently editor of the Observer, left this city last evening to become a resident of Raleigh. He has accepted the position of political editor of the State Agricultural Journal. We regret exceedingly to lose Mr. Jones from Charlotte, and know that we express the sentiments of the community in saying this. He is a gentleman of fine talent and a young editor who has already taken a stand among the leading journalist, of the State.

The Newbern Journal of Commerce says: On Thursday, while Robinson's circus was performing at Kinston, a man named Dail, of Lenoir county, was found dead in an alley a short distance from the circus tent. By some it was thought that his death was produced by natural causes; but the general opinion is that he was foully dealt with, and bruises upon his head and body give strong color to this view. One report is to the effect that he was set upon by a party of negroes, while another is that he was murdered by men connected with the circus.

From the Hillsboro' Recorder.

## Convention Meeting.

At a meeting of the citizens of the county of Orange, held in the Court-House in Hillsboro on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., Mr. John W. Norwood was called to the chair and John D. Cameron appointed Secretary.

It was moved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare and submit to the meeting resolutions expressive of its sentiments.

The chair appointed the following gentlemen: John W. Graham, Dr. Pride Jones, John Burroughs, Jonathan Nichols and Patillo Clark. The committee retired, and during their absence the Hon. W. A. Graham was called upon, and addressed the meeting at length, urging with great force of argument and illustration the right, duty and necessity of calling a Convention.

The Committee returned, and reported the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Constitution under which we are now living was formed by persons who had not the interest of the people of the State at heart, was badly conceived and is illy adapted to the wants and habits of our people, is burdensome in its requirements and entailing unnecessary expense upon our citizens, is hard to understand, and in some instances has necessitated legislation by the Judiciary in order to make it intelligible.

AND WHEREAS, The said Constitution provides, that a two-thirds majority of each Branch of the General Assembly may call a Convention of the people to alter and amend the Constitution.

AND WHEREAS, The Democratic-Conservative party is now known to have a majority of two-thirds in each Branch of the incoming Legislature, a party that has gained its present ascendency in the councils of the State, by its professions of reform and its earnest desire to correct abuses and diminish expenses.

*Therefore be it Resolved,*

1st. That in our opinion, an alteration of our Constitution in many essential particulars is necessary to our happiness, and to secure an honest, economical administration and regulation of the internal government of the State in its various departments, and just accountability on the part of its officers.

II. That having assembled together to consult for our common good, we do apply to the Legislature for redress of the grievances imposed on us by a Constitution, and upon the adoption of which, many of our best citizens were deprived of their birth-right of suffrage. And we do instruct our Representatives that a Constitution, the makers whereof were prejudiced or ignorant, is not one tamely to be submitted to by the freemen of North Carolina.

III. That the wisdom of our ancestors, in declaring that "elections shall be often held," has been exemplified in the tendency of the long term of four years for executive officers to render them indifferent to the wishes of the electors, and disposed to trample on their rights.

IV. That we can not appreciate the force of the pleas urged for an acquiescence in admitted grievances, or be soothed by the apprehension born of timidity, but knowing our rights, we dare maintain them, and place our reliance in overcoming difficulties by facing them, and not shutting our eyes upon them.

V. That we disclaim any intention or wish to see the beneficent provisions contained in the present Constitution in regard to the Homestead and the exemption of the property of unfortunate debtors from execution abolished or in any way abridged, but we urge that the estate therein be enlarged to a fee simple and rendered more secure to those dependent upon the owner thereof for protection.

VI. That we have no desire to deprive the colored people of any right conferred on them by the various amendments or which the laws now give them; and only insist that in the enjoyment of the fruits of our own labor and in the pursuit of happiness, we should be left unmolested.

VII. That we do favor a change in our form of government by a Convention of the people in pursuance of law, rather than legislative enactment, and insist that the enumeration of rights given to the Legislature as specified in the present Constitution "shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people, and that all powers not delegated, remain with the people."

Mr. John W. Graham supported the resolutions in a few able remarks. He moved that these resolutions be adopted as the sentiments of the meeting, which was carried unanimously. The hour for the reassembling of the Court having arrived, the meeting adjourned.

JOHN W. NORWOOD, Ch'm.
JOHN D. CAMERON, Sec'y.

## The Charge of Early's Division at Gettysburg.

The Southern Historical Society held its annual meeting in Richmond a few days ago. Gen. Early is President of this association. Hon. R. M. T. Hunter delivered the annual address. The Richmond Enquirer says:

"At the conclusion of Mr. Hunter's address General Early related how a brigade of North Carolinians and another of Louisianians charged, unsupported, up the heights of Gettysburg on the third day of the fight, driving the enemy until they were overwhelmed and outflanked, and then falling back with 100 prisoners and four captured flags. One of the regiments was commanded by D. B. Penn, of Louisiana."

And, we will add, that the other brigade (Hoke's) was commanded by Col. I. E. Avery, of the 6th N. C. Regt., who was mortally wounded just as they were ordered to fall back and lived only long enough to write on an envelope, crimsoned with his blood, "Major Tate, tell my father I died with my face to the foe." The note was addressed to Col. Samuel McD. Tate, of Burke, then Major of the 6th Regiment, and is now in possession of the writer.

It is sad to note how little interest is manifested in the war record of the North Carolina troops by the soldiers themselves. No member of that command has ever taken the trouble to write a description of this one of, if not *the* most daring charge made in the late war. Yes, it is sad but not so surprising when we reflect that one cannot write anything about either the Revolutionary or the late war, in which one's kith or kin took any part, without some sore-headed, contemptible boom-proof agrarian of the press insinuating that he wishes to extol his own relations, or something to that effect.—*Piedmont Press.*

A rich but parsimonious old gentleman, on being taken to task for his uncharitableness, said: "True, I don't give much, but if you only knew how it hurts when I give anything, you wouldn't wonder."

An inquiring man thrust his fingers into a horse's mouth to see how many teeth he had. The horse closed his mouth to see how many fingers the man had. The curiosity of each was fully satisfied.

## STATE NEWS.

Carrington's circus is to be at Snow Hill on the 19th inst. We believe this show was organized in Virginia.

The Polkton Ansonian says: Our neighbor, Mr. J. M. Flake, killed a calf on the 3d inst., eight months old, which weighed 40 lbs. to the quarter. Who can beat him?

The Newbernian says: On Saturday morning last the roof of the cotton gin house of Joseph L. Rhem, Esq., of this city, took fire from sparks issuing from the smoke stack, but fortunately the flames were subdued before much damage was sustained. Loss about $150.

The Charlotte Observer says: We have said so much about potatoes lately, that we are almost afraid to speak of them now, and would'nt, but for the fact that on yesterday Mr. James Manning rolled one up our back steps, into our office, which weighed eighty-three ounces.

The Greensboro Patriot says: We saw several young men, with their wagons and teams, on their return to old Guilford last Saturday. They had been West—tried it, became disgusted and have come home. This is a good sign. Few places (if any) are better than the Old North State after all.

The Tarboro Enquirer-Southerner says: We learn that Mr. Lamb Lawrence, living some six or seven miles below this place, was so unfortunate on last Sunday night as to lose his gin house and about thirteen bags of cotton. He has no doubt but it was the work of an incendiary.

The Washington Echo says: The jury in the case of the State vs. Aaron Bonner, colored, for rape upon the person of Margaret Hipps, white, brought in a verdict of guilty on Saturday evening about 6 o'clock, having retired to their room about 2. Seven blacks and five whites composed the jury.

The Raleigh News says: Judge Henry has just rendered a decision in the case of Branch vs. the North Carolina Railroad, dissolving the injunction prayed for. It will be remembered that this injunction was granted in consequence of the prayer of Branch and others against the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Railroads and the issueing of the bonds of the said North Carolina Railroad in order to complete the latter. We have not learned the ground of the Judge's action in the case.

The Raleigh News says: Ex-Senator Eppes, colored, or rather as black as the hinges of perdition, who has been a member of the Senate from Halifax for several sessions, and who is by the way a minister of the gospel, has been convicted at the present term of Halifax Court for cheating and conspiracy to cheat. We have not learned the specific nature of the charge. Eppes was not returned to the incoming Legislature, having been succeeded by John Bryant.

The Washington Echo says: H. G. Foster, an intelligent colored man, and a juror in the trial of Aaron Bonner for rape, was met on the streets by a crowd of negro loafers, and hissed at for not acquitting, because the prisoner was a colored man and the injured party a white woman. We are glad to know he took no notice of them. He acted the part of a good citizen in upholding the majesty of the law, regardless of color, and in doing so has won the the esteem of the intelligent and sober-minded portion of his race.

The Raleigh News says. Capt. Fulghum, who has faithfully served the State Agricultural Society for the last two years in the capacity of Secretary, retires from that position on the first of December, and will be succeeded by that elegant gentleman, Major J. G. Winder. Capt. F. declined running for the position of Secretary or Superintendent, from the fact that he desires devoting his entire time to the building up of the State Agricultural Journal, which paper will continue to be the organ of the State Agricultural Society.

The Winston Sentinel says: The body of Mrs. Christina Heartel, interred about 12 months ago near Salem, was disinterred a few days since, and a post mortem examination held to see whether or not she was poisoned. An inquest was held, and Drs. Shaffner and Siewers made the test, and upon their sworn evidence the jury returned a verdict of "death from natural causes." The investigation was made at the instance of her son, who it seems had conversed with the spirit of his mother through the medium of "spirit rapping," and was informed by her of the poisoning.

The Raleigh News says: About 8 o'clock last night the new gin house and saw mill of Mr. W. V. Clifton, located on the creek running through the farm of Mr. Bledsoe just south of the city, was discovered to be on fire. Our fire companies turned out promptly, but could not reach the scene. The building, together with some twenty-five bales of cotton, was totally destroyed, except about three bales that were saved. The fire was supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The building and fixtures were valued at $3,000 and was insured for $2,000. The cotton was insured for $500.

The Hickory Press says: The directors of the Fair of the Carolinas insisted upon Governor Vance delivering an address on Friday of the exhibition. The Governor reluctantly consented, and warned them that he should say some things that might not be very palatable. We can recall only a few of his happy hits. He commenced by saying that he was particularly fitted to deliver an address on agriculture, for he had followed the plow from his youth up, but he had always taken particular pains to follow it at a respectful distance, and had never caught up, even unto this day; said he was fitted, too, to write and talk of agriculture for another reason, that as the best and most impartial accounts of all great struggles had been written by outsiders, so he could give an unbiased opinion on this sub