WM. H. BERNARD, Editors. CICERO W. HARRIS,

WILMINGTON, N. C .: WEDNESDAY MORNING, Aug. 26, '74

THE CONVENTION QUESTION. Although we think elaborate discussion of the Convention question rather premature we present this morning copious extracts from such of the State journals as have had anything to say on the subject. One or two articles are not before us, and so do not appear.

We believe that a majority of the press will coincide with our position, that the call of a Convention to change the Constitution at this time would be unwise, because premature, perhaps hazardous. The necessity for important changes in the organic law all recognize. On the part of a large majority of the people of North Carolina there is nothing but repugnance for the present Constitution, which is the spawn of the lightfingered gentry of 1868. In many of to the great singers like Nilsson and its features it is oppressive, and its genius is altogether unsuited to this latitude. The sooner we can get a good Constitution the better-always provided we can get it. If we try, as we tried in 1871, and fail we must expect the same result of our folly in 1876, that we realized in 1871. Like causes produce like effects. Popular distrust of innovation was always strong in this ised operas is large. There will be State. Our leading men know this, and therefore they are responsible if they wreck the party by failing to use their knowledge.

Urgent changes can be effected by Legislative enactment. If they cannot be immediately effected it is better there should be some delay than grave risk of losingall we have achieved by our victory. This way is safe. In the other course lies danger. We can not afford to throw away our victory. It cost too much. It is too dear now that it is won. - The Democratic Conservative party has no lease of power. We believe it will retain power until it does some imprudent act. Let the party profit by the past and do nothing that would place its mastery at this time.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL IF LITERAL-

We find this paragraph credited to the Washington Chronicle:

"Postmasters are notified that under the new postal law it is not lawful to deposit in a postoffice to be sent by mail any letters or circulars concerning so called gift concerts or other similar enterprises offering prizes of any kind on any pretext. Such matter should be immediately forwarded to the dead-letter office, and at the same time, but separate from the package, a letter should be sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster General advising him of the transmission.'

Now this seems to give the postmaster authority to open private letters, and send them to a destination not intended by the writer. Where does the Postoffice Department get this extraordinary power? In the Constitution? Where?

The purpose of the law referred to, which law it would appear is not as and his family from the Ark a tableso comprehensive as the Department claims that it is, is a good one, viz: to prevent the transmission of circulars of swindling schemes. But in executing a law intended for the public good care must be taken not to infringe upon the undoubted right of the citizen to his privacy of correspondence.

THE PROPOSED DEMOCRATIC-LIBERAL COALITION IN NEW

Experience taught the New York Democracy a very useful lesson, namely: not to decline help when it is very much needed. In the last State campaign the Central Committee of the party declined to unite in a call for a joint convention with the Liberal Republicans. The consequence was the Liberal Republicans held a convention and resolved to support a part only of the Democratic ticket. That part was elected; the other part was defeated. This year the Committee has issued a call for a joint convention. It will assemble on the 16th of September, at Syracuse. We trust the Liberal Republicans will elect delegates to this convention, and that it will be the means of bringing out the full strength of both parties, which ought in future to be one great Liberal Democratic party bent on the restoration of sound, pure government not only to New York, but to the whole country.

"Instead of going to the hydrant, the Louisville cockroach mounts the cooler and drinks ice-water." such temperance prig is the Wilmington reach. He takes sugar in his'n and at least thirteen times a day.-His ancestors came from Brooklyn, MINI L LENE

Mr. McMasters, of the Freeman Journal, is not much disconcerted by the incredulity with which his re lation of the Porto Rican plot been received. He manfully asser the genuineness of the correspondence between Admiral Polo and the Spanish Government published by him, but cautiously refuses to submit it to the State Department, There is more in this matter than is commonly supposed. Mr. Fish's touchiness ind cates that there is something of truth in the statements of the Irish editor. But it is incumbent on McMasters to submit his evidence to the public.

OPERA AND DRAMA IN NEW Correspondence Charleston News and

Courier. THE OPERA. The Strakosch Brothers have definitely changed their plans in reference to the next opera season. They have resolved to try the experiment of doing away with expensive prima donne and tenore and spending the money that is saved on a larger orchestra, a better drilled chorus and more elaborate mise en scene. Hither-Lucca have devoured the greater part of the receipts. The public have grumbled that at very high prices the operas have been poorly put on the stage. The Strakosches will test the public desire for first-class renditions, and see whether it is the good music or the notorious prima donna that draws them to the opera house. The new stock company at the Academy will be com posed of the best material of the kind to be had. The reportoire of promroom for a greater variety than when a prima donna occupied the season with her five or six pieces. So we shall have no Nilssou this year, and no other great singer, unless Maretzek imports one. He may do it since the Strakosches have left the field to him. Patti has induced her brotherin-law to cancel her engagement for an American season this year.

TOOLE. The debut of the London comedian at Wallack's on Monday night was a pleasant occasion. Everybody of distinction in literature and art, in town during the dog days, was there. Toole is a good low comedian. He has a grotesque face and figure, and the laughter of the audience follows naturally upon his utterances. But ne is not an artiste like Jefferson. It is very doubtful if he has the power to draw tears and smiles at the same moment as the great American has. In the broadest farce he is clever .in peril. Let no Convention be called A critic likens him to Burton. His opening character is a barrister in trouble. There is a court scene, which is very ludicrous. He is underlined for "Paul Pry" which is said to be his best impersonation. The most extraordinary dramatic announcement of the day is that of a new spectacle to be presented at Niblo's founded on the incidents in

NOAH'S DELUGE. The idea is French, of course. The properties and costumes to be used in "The Deluge" have been imported from the Parisian theatre, in which it was for a long time a sensation. There will be a corps de ballet. I am curious to learn where figurantes with short skirts and pink legs can be rung in connection with Noah's enterprise. I can understand the use of the menagerie-

"In they entered, two and two,
"The big Giraffe and the Kangaroo," But the ballet girls are a puzzle. Possibly upon the clearing up of the rain storm and the landing of Noah expressive of general joy and sun-shine will be formed. The patriarch will kneel on one knee in the centre, supporting on the other the toe-tip of an outstretched beauty in gauze, while the corps will strike various ravishing attitudes about him. The audacity of the French stage is amazing. A few years ago in Paris they had a dramatic version of the events in the Garden of Eden, and introduced all the actors, including the

Fell Dead at the King's Feet. Dr. Hayes' Faroe Islands Letter to N. Y

Herald.] Why, only yesterday the Lord he was only addressing a man like himself, although, no doubt, much handsomer. The dramatic incident took place almost beneath an arch which the loyal Farvere had erected upon its front, peeping out from among green moss, in the brightest colored flowers, "Welcome." The arch is there to-day; but the poor Amptmann was not equal to the mighty event, and his heart burst at the very feet of his royal master. It was too bad of him to spoil a ceremony in such a fashion, and the good people recognized its impropriety by still keeping their flags fluttering in is not expected of the Legislature. It the air, as if it were no less a holliday would be hazardous to attempt it and that their head man was dead.

Colonel J. B. Walton, of Louisiana, who commanded the far-famed artillery battery during the war died a few days since in New Orleans.

following papers have de clared in favor of a Constitutiona invention: Wilmington Journa Charlotte Observer, Tarboro Enquirer-Southerner, Hillsboro Recorder, Hickory Press, Salisbury Watchman. These papers are op posed to having a Convention th year: Raleigh News, Golasboro Messenger, Wilson Advance, Wilson Plain Dealer, Greensboro Patriot, Concord Sun and Wilmington Morn-ING STAR. The Statesville Landmark and Newton Vindicator and Watchman are not fully decided, The Charlotte Democrat sehms to optracts from some of the articles on in the State. It answered that purthe subject that have reached us:

CONVENTION. [Tarboro Enquirer-Southerner.] What is to be the result of this great victory? Shall it be simply to place men of higher character power, or shall it go deeper and change the organic law of the State so that she will be forever guarded against the evils that have afflicted her? The first is a noble purpose, but our victory would be almost void of good results if we do not call a Convention and change our Constitution. However able our Legislature may be, it is powerless for good as long as it remains hampered by the present Constitution of the State. We do not advocate just now rad-

ical alterations in the Constitution, except the expunging of a large mass of matter which properly belongs to the Legislature and in no part of the organic law. The Constitution should contain nothing but a few fundamental laws in regard to the preservation of life, liberty and property, the detail being left to the Legislature. We only now mention two suggestions affecting the question of suffrage: No man should be allowed to vote who does not show his tax receipt, if demanded by any elector so to do, nor should any person be entitled to vote who has been convicted of an infamous crime. These laws would not only be right in themselves, but would do much towards collecting the pub-

|Hillsboro Recorder.]

The vote against a Convention in 1871 was not a fair test of popular wish or feeling. It was wanted, and the Constitution of 1868 did call for sweeping reform, even from the Republicans. If the popular voice had been free to express itself, if it had not been suppressed by the fears of being brought in collision with the general government, if threats to suppress the Convention had not been made, and if promises of aid from the government had not been believed in, the public sentiment would have been expressed unmistakeably.

The time has past for those bugbears to operate. The government has become wiser, it has better learned to trust the people. It has learned more to distrust its own partizans. It recognizes now, what it should have done then, the right of the people to rectify their own internal

NO CONVENTION.

[Raleigh News.]

We have yet to see a native North Carolinian, one to whom the honor of his State is dear, who has any love for the Constitution framed by Tourgee and his coadjutors, and forced by the bayonets of Canby upon an un-willing people. * * But we feel obliged to say that the agitation of the question of calling a Convention by the Legislature which is about to assemble, by some of our contemporaries, is, in our opinion, premature and unwise. However desirable a convention may be, it will be impossible to secure such a unsomity of opinion among the Conservative members of the Legislature as to obtain the requisite two-thirds vote. Members who have recently overcome the Radical majorities in their counties for the first time, by the aid of voters hitherto Republican, will be loath to advocate a measure which would inevitably reverse the political status of their newly-redeemed constituents .-The result in such counties as Davidson, Chatham, Wake, Greene, and a host of others, would be the loss of all that we have with so much labor Mayor, or Amptmann, I believe as he gained. For this and other reasons, is or was called, fell down dead after among them the easily excited fears he had delivered a formal speech of debtors, who tremble for their of welcome to the King, so much so homesteads, however unreasonably, it was he overcome by seeing that, in will be impossible to obtain a two-addressing royalty for the first time, thirds vote in the House (if not, inthirds vote in the House (if not, indeed, in the Senate) and further agitation can do no good.

The larger portion of the evils we have suffered arise more from the officers who administered the Constituabove the landing, and had inserted tion, than from the Constitution itself, bad as it is.

[Wilson Advance.] It will not do to presume upon our overwhelming victory and endanger our future success by the introduction of new issues. We are sorry to see the subject of a State Convention already mooted. Let that question rest. The people have not called for it-it was no issue in the campaign, and it would be hazardous to attempt it and we have no idea such a proposition will be seriously entertained. All will admit that there are serious objections to the present Constitution, and they will be remedied in due time. The recent amendments, adopted by Legislative enactment, will do for Dr. Fiske, of Providence, R. I., Legislative enactment, will be rather than die of consumption shot the present. When the State debt has been compromised and arranged that are

voted against Radicalism and social negro equality, and in favor of an economical and honest administration New York and Wilmington of their State affairs. This is all they demanded this all they expect.

[Wilson Plain Dealer |

With due respect, we must say that in our opinion the Legislature

should not for one moment think of such a thing. After the experience of a few years since, it seems, to us that it would be reckless in the party holding the majority in the Legisla-ture to take the advice of the Recorder. If the State Constitution must be further amended let it be done in the same way by which the late amendments were made, that is by the Legislative mode, without a Convention. * * We are thoroughly convinced that no better plan could well be devised to lessen the power pose Convention. We present ex- of the Democratic-Conservative party pose very effectually once and would no doubt be equally efficacious again. | Concord Sun.]

We have achieved a most glorious victory, and we not think we ought to risk anything on another convention. Many Republicans voted with us in the last campaign, and the agitation of the convention would stir up all manner of strife and contention. We speak for the people of Cabarrus when we say, "Let the Convention question alone." We admit there are many gross defects in the present Constitution, and they should be rem-died, but it should be remembered that we have a majority in the Legislature and they can pass the needed amendments, and then let them be submitted to the people for ratification. This is the only safe and proper mode for us at this time. Our voice is for "No Convention."

[Greensboro Patriot] We believe in letting well enough alone and not risking the State again in another Convention call. With our present majority in the Legislature there will be no difficulty in passing amendments and submitting them to the people, as the last were submitted.

> NOT DECIDED. |Statesville Landmark.]

The great necessity for a change in the organic law of our State every lie dues and for the prevention of one readily concedes. The policy of making that change now, presents a grave question we are not prepared to discuss at this time. - Constitutions are grave things.

[And Convention calls are grave things.-EDS. STAR.

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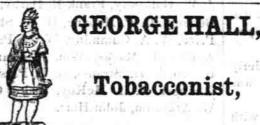
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