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The Registered Letters, under the new ystem, which went into effect June 1st, are wery safe means of sending small sums of money where P. O. Money Orders cannot be easily obtained. Observe, the Restary jee, as well as postage, must be paid in stamps at the office where the letter is mailed, or it will be liable to be sent to the Dead Letter Office. Buy and affix the stamps both for postage and registry, put in the money and seal the letter in the presence of the post-master and take his receipt for it. Letters out to us in this way are at our risk.

The subscription price of the WEER LY STAR is as follows: Single Copy 1 year, postage paid, \$1.50

THE STATE DEET.

The settlement of the debt of th State of North Carolina has been de ferred far too long for the good of all concerned. The Legislatures have appeared too willing heretofore to postpone the matter, and to leave it for their successors to grapple as best they could. No evil grows less by delaying its oure. Sooner or later the question of indebtedness must be met in some way. As long as no scheme or plan is resorted to by all parties-creditors and debtors-may know how the matter stands-whether the State will make an effort to meet its just obligations, or resort to the damaging course of repudiation, the doubt and fears engendered of such unnecessary delay and indecision but enhances the evil increases the difficulties, damages the character of our people abroad, obstructs immigration and the influx of foreign capital, and retards seri ously the prosperity of the State The debt, as long as it remains in its present unsatisfactory and anomalous condition, is a positive incubns upon the people at large and a sad brake upon the wheels of industry. How can enterprises, requiring investments from abroad of capital and labor, be invited or begun until the State debt has been adjusted in some manner that will be just and equitable—that will to some extent relieve the people and satisfy those who hold the bonds?

The STAR has never favored re pudiation of the fair and houest portion of the debt. It will never be a party to any plan that will in any way bring reproach upon the good name of North Carolina. It is very certain that a considerable part of the State debt is founded in justice, and we hold that it is the duty of the present Legislature to take some steps to arrange the matter with the creditors upon a just and equitable basis at the earliest possible moment.

We are no friends of repudiation under any of its forms or guises. We can see no reason why a State should. repudiate an honest debt any more than an individual. No person can refuse to pay what he honestly owes without serious damage to his character, if he has the ability to do so. No State can refuse to meet its legal and just obligation without fixing a deep stain upon its escutcheon, when it has the ability to do otherwise. 2011/

We say, then, let North Carolina pay what it can-something at least. The bondholders, on the other hand, should consider the depressed and impoverished condition of the people, burdened already with operous taxes, and show a spirit of liberality and magnanimity. When both are willing to be just and tiberal, there must be a good chance of effecting a satisfactory compromise. We trust the Legislature will take prompt and decisive measures in the premises

of South Carolina, has written a "He said to the President that while he letter in reply to the statements of "A Tilden Democrat." in which he contradicts nearly every statement, that he knew of his own personal observation that the negroes had voted the Democrat. The cold will be contradicts nearly every statement, that he knew of his own personal observation that the negroes had voted the Democrat. The cold were at once accepted by that unverselous writer, catic ticket in large numbers. In his own three of the Cape Pear.

It is said that Earl Dudley, of England, who is sixty years old, has offered to bet \$25,000 to \$25 that the son of Napoleon III. will be officially proclaimed Emperor of France during the Earl's lifetion that the negroes had voted the Democrat. In his own capted by the Prince of Wales and by the Prince of Wales and by three other persons. the Democratic Executive Committee | thus:

WILMINGTON, N.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1877.

PORT OF THE JOINT erday we bad the great

of bearing to our readers glad tidings of great joy. The Joint Committee of fourteen, appointed by the Senate and House, after patient discussion and consultation, after applying "the utmost practicable study and deliberation to the subject," agreed upon a bill, the provisions of which appear to contain "the best attainable disposition of the difficult problems and disputed theories arising out of the late election." such we accept it, preferring a peaceable to a violent solution of serious

The readers of the STAR have oubtless that the provisions of the bill with great interest and care. They saw that the President of the Senate is to preside merely, his duties being strictly ministerial. He is to open certificates of election and lay them before the two Houses. After the result has been ascertained. it will be handed him, and then he

and threatening complications.

will announce it. He has no power to withhold or suppress any certifi-All disputed electoral votes, because of conflicting returns, disqualfications, &c., are to be referred to tribunal to consist of five members of the Senate, to be elected viva voce (all of whom can be of one party); five members of the House, to be elected viva voce (all of whom can be of one party); and five Justices of the Supreme Court, to be taken from the First, Third, Eighth and Ninth Circuits, who shall select auother Associate Justice to complete

lect the fifth. Judge Chifford is the only Democrat, we believe. We do not know whether the four ustices in selecting the fifth will avoid the States from which there are candidates, as there is nothing said about it in the bill. If this rule should govern them, as is very probable, as the four named in the bill are not from either of the States in which the candidates reside, then the choice will be sarrowed down to Judge Davis, of Illinois, and Judge Bradley, of New Jersey. Of course we prefer Judge Davis, who is known to be fair and moderate. He is s Greeley Republican, not a Morton

the number. Justices Field. Clif-

ford, Miller and Strong are the four

Justices chosen, and these will se-

Republican. We suppose that the Senate will choose three Republicans and two Democrats, just as it did in appointing the seven members of the joint committee, although there is nothing relative to it in the bill reported. I would be more in accordance with a genuine spirit of compromise and fairness to make such a selection than to choose all from one party. The House will be probably governed by the spirit or policy that governs the Senate. We should be glad to see both parties represented in both committees, although the result will not he affected one way or the other, as the actual number representing the two parties in Congress in the tripar tite tribunal will be the same-five

The tribunal will have charge of all the evidence and papers in disputed cases, will examine carefully the whole subject and render a decision to the two Houses, stating which is the true and lawful electoral vote of such contested cases. For the particulars of the bill we refer the reader to the bill itself. We understand that the decision of the tripartite tribunal as to which is the true and lawful electoral vote is final-unless

overruled by the concurrent vote of We believe the Democrats will go was really greatly devoted to him and he before this novel tribunal with much to her. Their several years of married life the best case at the same time the the best case, at the same time the affection, and the latter became warmer political complexion of the same is not in itself such as to excite very strong hopes of a favorable decision for the The publication of the Journal, Democrats. But we shall not be which was suspended about four willing to believe, in advance of eviresponsibilities, or that Judges who its various departments, and we re- have solemnly sworn that they " will impartially examine and consider al questions submitted" to them, and Col. A. C. Haskell, Chairman of Baltimore Sun reports the interview expressed when he issued the first "a true judgment give thereon agreeably to the Constitution and the law," will be betrayed into mere partisanship, and prostitute the ermine and assail their own good name. The court will probably stand nine Republicans and six Democrats, although it is possible it may stand days with her son.

eight and seven. We trust all of them will be animated and controlled by a high sense of justice, honor and right. Tast is agreefull the

If the Senate should select Conkling and Edmunds, we may hope that they will be goided by the Constitution and the law. We hope Morton will not be selected, for he has already prejudged the whole subject, and refused to sign the bill as reported. Indeed, it is reported that he has manifested opposition to anything and everything discussed by the Joint Committee that promised good, and a happy solution of the vexed questions. Our own able Senator Ransom is of the Senate ommittee, and signed the bill. He is singularly astute, thoroughly posted and cautious, and we are quite disposed to believe that the report is the best that could be devised under the circumstances, masmuch as he signed it without reservation.

Let us all hope for the best. We reathe freer. We now feel quite sure there will be no war and tumults, but all will be settled amicably, and we hope justly and satisfactorily. Let as believe in the statements of the thirteen gentlemen who sign the

"The committee regard it as of far greater moment that the will of the people should be legally carried out, than the question of who shall be President for a prescribed time. They therefore endeavored to frame a fair and impartial measure. The legislative and judiciary are represented in the tribunal in equal proportions.

The composition of the judicial part of the commission looks to a selection from different parts of the republic, while it is supposed to be free from any preponderance or supposable bias, and the addition in order to obtain an uneven numof any existing attainable one. It would be difficult, if not impossible, the commit-tee think, to establish a tribunal that could be less the subject of party criticism, than

The report of the joint committee will have to be acted upon, and although it will meet with strong opposition in both Houses, we feel quite certain that it will be adopted as the best possible solution of a very knotty problem. Men of extreme views -men who would not hesitate to bring on a war for an abstractionmen who are invincibly opposed to all compromises, will not accept the proposed scheme for settling the disturbing questions, but we are confident that enough moderate, conservative, peace-loving men will be found in both bodies to accept this proposed adjustment. Whilst the plan is not all that we or any decided supporter of Tilden and Hendricks sould desire, we believe, without surrendering any great principles of right and justice, it may be indorsed by fair-minded men of both parties and every section, and will at least allay the gathering tempest that threatens to sweep over the land carrying desolation and ruin and death, if it does not secure the cise result that each one may have anxiously wished and expected. The committee say they have done the best they could under the delicate and perplexing circumstances—let us trust them, and then urge the tribunal to dare do right and fear none but God. We must agree to this reort, for how can we rely upon the Northern Democrats to resist wrong, when they declare in advance that they prefer Hayes to war, So it is either this report or -nothing. OUR SAY.

As it is a long time before the present Judges of the Supreme Court will "step down and out," we think it rather premature to be nominating candidates for their places. Death may come to some who are named and then all the fine eulogies will be misplaced. North Carolina has sev eral lawyers who would grace the ermine and wear the robes with honor, dignity and ability. We believe that when the time shall come to elect a new bench that three qualities or qualifications should be considered-the purest character, the highest capacity, and the soundest legal at- is as plain as two and two are four. tainments. The first quality men. Read only these two, and then shut tioned is simply indispensable. The your eyes and guess what the troops men who are placed upon the bench must be men of sabriety, integrity must be men of sobriety, integrity and virtue. They ought to be really very able men, if such can be found. Without profound legal erudition they cannot command the respect of they cannot command the respect of those who practice in their courts. Get the best men, say we the men in whom are combined the qualifica-

The Tarboro Southerner says:

Mrs. Dortch, the mother of Hon. W. T.

Dortch, of Goldsboro, aged ninety-three years, who has all her life resided in Nash county, about five miles from Rocky Mount, was removed to Goldsboro on Wednesday, and will spend the remainder of her days with her son.

tions specified. Such is our view.

NO. 13

NEW HAMPSHIRK SPEAKS. The New Hampshire Democrats have fired up their engine at last They held a State Convention on the 17th, in which they very properly and vigorously denounce Grant' usurpation, and, waxing warm, they call upon the people to inaugurate Tilden at all hazards. They say, whilst counselling moderation, it is the paramount duty of all to defend the Constitution to the last resort. We believe the New Hampshire Democrats in 1861 promised to shoulder muskets in behalf of the South, but they fell into ranks on the other side when the war drum beat its fearful revielle. Franklin Pierce wrote Jefferson Davis that all New Hampshire would become one vast military camp if the North attempted to coerce the South. It did become a military camp, but all the soldiers wore the "blue," and none wore the "gray." Let us try the report of the Comtite Tribunal of Fifteen before we unchain the fierce dogs of war.

Connecticut, too, was going ight on the side of the South, somehow, the Democrats of 'Nutmeg State" forgot their first love when Lincoln blew his bugle, and tens of thousands of the "unterrifled" rallied around the stars and stripes, and marched against their Southern friends, who were trying to aphold their rights, and defend civil liberty itself.

We hope all peaceable ends wil be exhausted first. The South has was once encouraged by her North ern allies to rush into war. knows what came of it. She has not forgotten 1861, and what followed. She remembers how all Yankeedom became furious for her destruction She will first try the report of the joint committee, and then, after she sees that the Northern Democrats are really in earnest in demanding Tilden's inauguration, supposing the report fails of adoption, and that they are marching forth in serried array "to defend the Constitution to the last resort," it will be time enough for the South to take such steps as may appear right and honor-

able and patriotic. But let the report THE STATE DEBT AGAIN. By the settlement which the holders of North Carolina bonds propose there will be a debt created of some ten millions of dollars. We do not know whether the Sta able to pay that much additional tax or not, but it is quite certain that some compromise or settlement ought to be vigorously pushed. If the State honestly and justly owes ten millions of dollars to these holders of bonds, then the best efforts of the people should be made to meet the indebtedness. Now is the best time to endeavor to retrieve our lost credit. The prospect ahead is that our political troubles will be settled amicably, and with our new State Government is operation, a new era should dawn upon us.

When we remember that nearly all of the Republican papers insist that the President of the Senate has the sole right to count the votes, we may appreciate the more the necessity of accepting the Report of the Committee of Fourteen. The last Philadelphia Press says :

"We believe with General Dix, the ve-teran soldier and statesman, in his fine let-ter to Congressman Kasson, dated January 13, 1877, in the exclusive power of the Pre sident of the Senate to count the electora vote, and also in his striking suggestion that while the Constitution forbids a Sen ator or Representative from acting as an elector, these bodies cannot now clothe themselves with powers to overrule the acion of the Electoral College."

In the light which old Zach Chandler's dispatches emit how easy it to understand why Grant hurried his troops to Florida and Louisiana. meant:

"We are absolutely certain of one hun-

"Don't give up your State until remotest returns come in. Hayes is elected by one majority if we have carried Florida, Oregon and Louisiana. Meet your friends at depot.

"The mercury is getting so far

Bounett Affair Two Colored Men the Principals-A Disappointment,

We learn from Mr. I. M. Powell, Register of Deeds of Columbus county, who was

on a brief visit to the city yesterday, that there was considerable excitement in and about Fair Bluff, in that county, on Friday, caused by the fact that two colored individuals from South Carolina were expected to engage in a duel in that neighborhood, which is on or near the line between the two States. It seems that a colored Democrat and a firm and unflinching supporter of Gov. Hampton, by the name of Nevels, living at or near Mullins' Depot, in Marion county, had been challenged to fight by a man named Moody, a Republican and a strict adherent to the cause of Chamberlain, living near the same place. It was aderstood that the parties were to fight with bowie knives and a lively and interesting struggle was expected. Intelligence of the expected fight had got mooted about and quite a crowd had collected to witness it, among whom were many Democrats, both white and colored, who wanted to see fair play. Nevels and his party were on hand at the appointed spot in good time. where they waited in vain for Moody, the challenging party, who, however, failed to put in his appearance, and thus the crowd were disappointed in witnessing what must have proved, to say the least of it, a very discreditable affair, which might have resulted in the death of at least one of the parties, with the possibility of causing an exhibition of bad blood on the part of the spectators. The difficulty grew mittee of Fourteen and the Tripar- out of some political misunderstanding. Nevels is represented to be a tall, robust individual, weighing about two hundred pounds, of quite a respectable appearance, and evidently abundantly able to take care of himself, which might have had its influence in deterring Moody from presenting himself to engage in the deadly conflict. BINGSTATER TO Since writing the above, we hear that the proposed duel actually took place, the in-

formation coming to us in such a shape as to leave no doubt of the fact. A reliable Conductor on the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta Railroad says that the Democratic principal and his party of three seconds returned to South Carolina on his train, the seconds getting off at Mullins' depot and the principal at Marion. The seconds were questions, intimated that the affair did not come off on account of the non-appearance of the principal on the other side. In fact the railroad agent at Fair Bluff had been misled in the same manner, which, of course; was the case with our informant in the first instance, Mr. Powell. After the seconds left the train, however, the Conductor went into the car occupied by the principal, and, noticing that he had his right hand in his bosom, as if it had been wounded, he asked if there was anything the matter with it. Nevels (which is understood to be the name of the Democratic principal) replied that he had been shot. his bosom, disclosing a bloody sleeve, and in the arm. He was then asked if the reported duel really took place, when Nevels replied that it certainly did; that they met on the ground near Fair Bluff, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning; that they exchanged four shots, he (Nevels) receiving one wound in the pistol arm and his antagonist three separate wounds, one on each side of the chest (high up) and one in the left arm. He said the agreement was that they were to fight until one or the other party should cry "enough," but that when his competitor received his last shot he dropped and could not stand up further to "face the music." Nevels stated that the "d-d Radical" had challenged him to fight two or three times before, but he had told him

that he didn't want to shoot him. The seconds were armed with double barrelled shot-guns, and their appearance suggested the idea that they were a party returning from a hunting expedition. They were very calm and collected, as was the principal, exhibiting no evidences of undue excitement, and when the latter left the train at Marion he walked off very de liberately, with his hand in his bosom and his appearance excited no remark or attention. In fact, our informant states that, for a duelling party, returning fresh from the field, both principal and seconds

The Republican principal, Moody, with his party, remained behind, the impression being that he was too badly wounded to be emoved to his home.

The pistol used by Nevels, which was exnibited to our informant, was one of the Smith & Wessons liver-mounted patent the distance between combatants being fifteen

This affair throws the Bennett-May flasce ntirely in the shade, and shows that Southern chivalry, "without regard to race, color or previous condition," is not to be

Death of a Prominent Citizen the announcement of the death in this city yesterday morning of Silas N. Martin, Esq. 49th year of his age. Mr. Martin had been a resident of this city from his boyhood, energetic and shrewd business men having amassed a considerable fortune through his connection with steam mills and other enterprises. He retired from the more active pursuits of life about ten years ago, since which period he has filled the position of Mayor of the city, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, President of a Bank, &c. He has been in declining health for some time past. His funeral will take place this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from his late residence on Market street.

- Tarboro Southerner: "We were glad to be seen in such pious company, and promised to preserve the moral time of the Southerner." That reminds us of what below 'Cairo,'" says the Glasgow Times, "that it will get down as low as the Louisiana Returning Board, if it doesn't look sharp." There is not much danger of that.

Long before the mercury gets that low it will do just as the Returning Board itself ought to do—freeze.—Courier-Journal.

The Southerner." That reminds us of what the Southerner." The

was thought to favor the nomination of the former. We quote from the kell says he knows that Gen. Hampton did write and receive a very agreeable reply from Mr. Manton Marble, containing an ample explanation from Mr. Tilden for his iusion that the proposition to withdraw se Democratic ticket in the State was not rise or proper, and rejected it. Mr. Til-len and the National Democratic Execu-

stion from Col. Haakell, coincided with im and with Gen. Hampton on this subset, and assured them that they were not abarrassing, but aiding the national cause, he proposition was thus, says Col. Hassell, finally settled. The policy pursued Governor Hampton throughout the camigo was the perfection of the wishes of a Democratic Convention, and of the ate Executive Committee."

CAMBRON AND CHRISTIANO These two Senators were on the mmittee sent to South Carolina to examine into the election matters. Before they left Columbia Gen. M. C. Butler addressed them a letter to allow him "to introduce testimony to Subscription Price. disprove" the "statements" made before them by certain colored witnesses from Edgefield. Gen. Butler

in his letter characterized some of their statements as so "remarkable and so monstrous" that he felt constrained to apply to be allowed to introduce counter testimony. He said to them:

ter to Mr. Tilden, Col. Has-

"I do this as a citizen of Edgefield on behalf of the good people of that county, and on my own behalf, whose character has been so wantonly assailed by these "I make this request in no caption

improper spirit, but in the interest of com-mon justice and fairness." To this the committee, through its chairman, Angus Cameron, replied that they had "determined" to take "no further testimony in reference to Edgefield county,"-that if they allowed him to introduce testimony, they must allow others, and that if they are to open to Edgefield they must open to other counties, and to do that "would require several months, and our sub-committee would not be able to report during the present session of Congress."

Gov. Hampton and the other highest officers of the State, together with several of the leading citizens of the State, then addressed them a respectful letter urging them to protract their sessions and make their investigations as complete and exhaustive as the public exigencies require." They say:

"So much may be said in the public prints, and elsewhere, about the intimida-tion and fraud alleged to have been prac-ticed by the Democracy of the State in the he purview of your inquiry, as we are ind), that we insist that your sub-committee, composed, as it is, of a majority of Republican members, shall allow the fullest opportunity to the public to present their ases to the country, and in making this request we deem it proper to say that we are satisfied we represent the wishes of the good people of the State."

To this the committee did not make any reply. Mr. Cameron and Mr. Christiancy managed the matter without letting Judge Merrimon know anything of the correspondence and the requests, and hewas first informed by outside persons after the committee had adjourned sine die, of what had been done by them.

Who can expect from such men fair, judicial report of the matters investigated, or that ought to have been investigated? How can men who exhibit throughout the spirit of partisans do fustice to the other side, and that, too, when engaged in investigation, demanding the utmost fairness and candor? The country can only expect from such men the most one-sided, unjust report. They have evidently worked in the interests of party and not in the interests of truth and justice, if we may trust some foreshadowings we have seen of the body of their report. It is said they will exhibit a fearful cataogue of negro intimidation by clubs and so on and so on.

In contrast to such ex purte statements read the following account of Senator Robertson's interview with the President and what he said. Senator Robertson is a native South Carolina, and was a consistent Union man during the war, and has been an unswerving Republican ever since the war. The well informed Washington correspondent of the

roes toward those of their own ce who had shown indications of Demostic prochvities. He also brought to the attention of the President the statement of the colored legislator, Hamilton, that three thousand illegal Republican votes had been polled in Beaufort county, at which polled in Beautors county, beautors resident seemed to be somewhat sur-

d. He said that the Returning Board outh Carolina would have thrown out counties beside Edgefield and Lauable them to figure up a majority for Chamberlain, and that there would have een just as much justification in throwing counties as the two named. In bbeville and Barnwell counties, for inthere was also a large Democratic colored vote which was no more untran-melled than the colored vote of Edgefield

and Laurens This was on the 14th inst. How much impression it made upon the Bulldozer remains to be seen, but we fear, but little.

VANDERBILT GOSSIP.

The public mind is about surfeited with the May-Bennett flasco, and the Vauderbilt will, and the old Commodore himself. In saying this, however, we except the New York papers and their city readers, for they appear to never weary of any opie, however nauseous and stale and unprofitable. Witness how long the press of Gotham hung over the Plymouth cesspool, and kept fishing in the foul waters for more human putrescence and nastiness. But people do get tired elsewhere of ever scandal and filth.

Our apology for copying anything further that concerns Vanderbilt is there is reference to Dr. Deems, Southern clergyman who long resided in North Carolina, who has hosts of friends among the best Methodis people of the State, and who is really one of the most gifted clergymen in the United States, and we say thi after having heard many of the leading divines from Albany to the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Deems has been rather ridiculed for saving that the old Commodore died in the hope of blessed hereafter. Whilst the old gentleman was living, we heard another distinguished divine who had visited him state that he thought he was a changed man and had a firm faith in the merits of the Son of God. Who shall then say, if this was true that even the old sinner was no

But as to the gossip. There much dissatisfaction among the heirs William H. gets most of the vast pro perty, valued at from forty to eighty millions. A New York letter says: "The Commodore leaves eight daughters. all married, and two of them widows, and wo sons, also married. Each of the daugh ters is perfectly comfortable as to means, but six of them get \$500,000 each by the will, one \$400,000, and one \$300,000. The bequest to the second son, Cornelius, is only \$200,000, while the eldest son gets probaly \$70,000,000. And Cornelius' portion s so tied up by positive stipulation that he however, is easily understood here, wher iis misfortune is very well known. He has been for years afflicted with a mild form o which, while not seriously affecting his health, renders him incapable of visely managing his own affairs. Gossin ays that the Rev. Dr. Deems expected nore than the \$20,000 which the Commo dore left him. But the income from \$20, 000 is \$1,400, and there are some preachers York who have to work pretty

ard all the year round for less than that I believe Dr. Deems has a salary of \$5,000 "But Dr. Deems has no right to complain. Besides the \$20,000 and his regular salary he gets pin money, and something over, from Frank Leslie, for editing the Sunday Magazine, Reports are already circulated with what foundation I cannot say, that the Commodore's widow is not quite satis fied with the portion given to her. Yet for. Previous to the marriage she had en tered into a contract to accept \$500,000 and waive all claim on the Commodors' ment was as specific and business-like as anything of the kind could be. The sum plated is now directed to be paid over to her, and she receives, besides, real estate personal property to the value of

\$200,000. Her fortune is certainly a comortable one, and it would seem that she She married Mr. Vanderbilt seven years when he was seventy-five and she was about thirty, and he provided for her every comfort and luxury she could desire. Notwithstanding the great disparity in age, s ars of mutual confidence and true

toward the end." mont cofing had a THE JOURNAL. months since, was resumed yesterday | dence, that a tribunal thus formed by Mr. C. W. Harris. The paper will be unfaithful to their solemn presents a very good appearance in peat the cordial good wishes for Mr. Harris' success which we so recently

number of the Cape Fear