The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

VOL. 2. RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1868. NO. 70.

THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

THE CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

It has been many years since we have witnessed such an assemblage of the true men of North Carolina as convened in this city, on Saturday, at Tucker Hall. The recent bad weather, and the excessive scarcity of money among the people, led us to fear that a full attend possibly attend; but the intense interest which the situation excites, and the importance of the issues now pending, brought together, from all parts of the State, one of the most intelligent, substantial and reliable bodies of men which has assembled together for years. For position, county and public usefulness, from the venerable sage, to the young strong men of the land, the Conservative Convention, now in session, will compare favorably with any body which has, at any time, met in this City.

So far as we can judge, public meetings had been held in about seventy Counties of the State, and perhaps six hundred delegates have been appointed, yet, under all the disadvantages surrounding them, about fifty Counties are represented by nearly three hundred delegates. The spirit of the Convention is of the best character. Whatever differences of opinion may have here tofore divided them, the delegates are now all in the great object of securing constitutional liberty and maintaining intact the Constitution of the United States and the Union under the Constitution. They are for moving in doing full justice to the colored race, but determined to use every legitimate effort to maintain the supremacy of the white race in all matters of government. The few speeches made were in the deliberation, and the impromptu speech of Gov. Graham, on being called to the chair, has seldom been surpassed.

THE CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

The Convention on yesterday was largely attended by an increase of delegates and a number of citizens. The report of the Committee on organization will be found to be simple in its details, but a very effective one, if carried out with energy and promptness. The platform, or resolutions, will be unanimously approved, meeting the issues of the day, frankly, and to the point.

The speech of Gov. Vance has seldom been excelled by himself, in force, aptness of illustration and humor. The audience was electrified throughout the entire speech, and when he closed many seemed so fully unburdened they could hold no more. Col. Green, of Warren, and other gentlemen, then highly addressed the Convention. The business being brought to a close, Governor Graham, on rising to adjourn the Convention, made a most appropriate and touching address to the body.

Perhaps, it is not saying too much, when we remark, that no Convention ever assembled in this city of greater ability and worth, and possessing in a higher degree the confidence of the people of North Carolina. It has been a proud occasion for the cause of Conservatism, and the delegates return to their homes with higher hopes and with a firmer resolve to do their duty, than when they came. May Heaven grant them the health, and the courage, and the self sacrifice, and the endurance, to win in a contest so fraught with danger to the dearest interests of the present and future generations.

THE "CONSTITUTIONAL" CONVENTION.

This body succeeded in passing the tax bill, on yesterday, authorized by the reconstruction acts, to pay the *per diem* and mileage of the members. A resolution was also passed, requesting Gen. Canby to issue an order to prevent the sale and the sacrifice of property on executions already issued. The articles on the Governor and State Executive officers was amended so as to require the election for the term of four years.—The Convention having gotten back to the Constitution, it is hoped it will continue it to completion.

THE RELIEF QUESTION.

After two or three days' discussion of Mr. Rodman's ordinance for the relief of the people, it was passed, as it came from the committee, on yesterday. This subject has consumed the time of the "Constitutional" Convention, to the exclusion of other matters. We have heretofore given our readers a summary of the ordinance, but will publish it when we have space, for the better information of our readers.

APOLOGY.—The confusion in our office, incident to the last two days, and the pressure on our columns, created by the publication of the proceedings, in the same issue, of the great Conservative Convention, and of the little "so called," must be our apology for the lack of variety in the *Sentinel*, to-day. We will bring everything "up square," however, to-morrow.

The suicide of Rev. Mr. Brush, of Delaware, Ohio, was committed on Sunday morning, while his congregation were quietly awaiting his appearance to conduct the opening exercises of the regular quarterly meeting. The members having waited some time after the usual hour of commencing service, dispatched one of their number to ascertain the cause of his delay, and he was found hanging dead in his barn. Another clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Ryan, at Marysville, in the county adjoining Delaware, also committed suicide the same Sunday afternoon, by cutting his throat. Insanity is alleged in both cases, and in the last named it had been for some time apparent.

The "Constitutional Convention," (So-called.)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5, 1868.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. May, of the Convention.

Mr. Patrick presented a memorial from a colored man of his county, praying for a divorce. Referred.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, submitted two reports, from the Committee on Corporations, viz:

On an ordinance in regard to Bank issues, introduced by Mr. Tourger, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration. So ordered.

On an ordinance in relation to a living law; as the matter had been settled, asking to be discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. Rich, a resolution that the Finance Committee be instructed to negotiate a loan of $500 for contingent expenses, which shall be included in the tax.

Rules suspended, on motion of Mr. Rich, in order that the resolution might go at once to the Committee. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. Rodman, a resolution in favor of J. S. Snow, Sheriff of Halifax. Lies over.

Mr. Sweet requested that the report of the Committee on Legislature be recommitted to that Committee. No objection.

Mr. Forkner moved the reference of the report of Gen. Canby, in relation to the returns of the late election, to the Committee on Elections and Privileges. Agreed to.

Mr. Jones, of Caldwell, moved that the report of the Committee on Homesteads be recommitted to that Committee for revision. Agreed to.

Mr. Ellis wished to call up his resolution, offered a few days ago, in regard to memoralizing Congress to aid the President of the United States in testing the constitutionality of the Reconstruction acts.

Mr. King, of Lenoir, objected.

Mr. Congleton wished to dispose of the Relief Bill, before anything else was done.

Mr. Ellis moved to suspend the rules, in order to take up his resolution.

Mr. Tourgee raised a point of order, that the rules cannot be suspended, unless by a resolution offered the day previous, which point was sustained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS—THE RELIEF ORDINANCE.

The question recurred upon Hood's (negro) motion, made yesterday, to postpone the matter until the report of the Committee on Homesteads was disposed of.

Mr. Tourgee objected to the postponement.

Harris, of Wake, (negro) favored it.

Mr. Tourgee again urged his objections to the postponement of the question.

Mr. Watts objected to the postponement. He thought that gentlemen were trying to dodge the issue and stave off the question. Why not adopt the ordinance, as amended by Mr. Tourger? That would meet the demands of the case.

Hood (negro,) interrupted Mr. Watts, by stating that he withdrew the motion.

Mr. Rich said he would renew the motion, for the reason that he wished to hear from the various Sheriffs, as to the amount of executions levied in their Counties, in accordance with his resolution passed some days ago.

Galloway, (negro,) wished to reply to Mr. Watts, in order that his speech, of yesterday, might not be misrepresented, but was ruled out of order.

Mr. Jones, of Caldwell, stated that he was authorized to say, in behalf of the Committee on Homesteads, that the Committee would report a prospective Homestead law.

Mr. Welker was opposed to any postponement.

Mr. Congleton objected to postpone until the Sheriffs could be heard from.

Mr. May thought the house unprepared to act wisely in the matter; therefore he was in favor of postponement.

Mr. Rodman thought there would be some propriety in postponing, if there was any probability of any thing suggesting itself to suit the ideas of the majority; but there was such a diversity of opinion, that he thought they had better come to a test vote at once.

Mr. Heaton thought that Mr. Rodman's bill was only temporary, and did not aim at the violation of private contracts, but only pointed out the remedy. But when the time came and the gentleman asked him to incorporate such a thing into the Constitution, he would oppose it with all his power.

The motion to postpone until Monday next, and make it the special order, at 12 o'clock, was put and lost.

Mr. King, of Lenoir, spoke against the ordinance. He said the gentlemen advocating the measure had admitted that it was in some measure repudiative. Such action was unjust, dishonest and unconstitutional. Mr. K. thought Mr. Graham's substitute was the fairest proposition yet offered, and even that he thought in some measure objectionable. He was for staying executions for a time, but the idea of suspending the functions of the Courts was unconstitutional and a dangerous piece of legislation.

Mr. Abbott wished to settle the matter to-day. He would support the ordinance of Mr. Rodman, as amended by Mr. Tourgee.

The vote was next taken on Mr. Graham's substitute. The yeas and nays being called for, resulted yeas 18, nays 88.

The substitute of Mr. Jones, of Washington, was next taken up, when, the yeas and nays being called, it was lost—yeas 27, nays 69.

Mr. Tourgee then wished to offer his amendment.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, arose to a point of order. He said that, in accordance with a resolution recently passed, the house should go into the Committee of the Whole at this hour, (12,) to consider the Constitution.

The Chair refused to sustain the point.

Mr. Tourgee was then allowed to offer his amendment.

Mr. Heaton was opposed to the amendment of Mr. Tourgee, and hoped it would be voted down.

Mr. Welker withdrew his amendment, offered last Saturday, as Mr. Tourgee's covered the whole ground.

Mr. Heaton could not vote for Mr. Rodman's measure, as amended by Mr. Tourgee's amendment.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, again urged his objection both to the amendment and to the original. It was a monstrosity.

Mr. King, of Lincoln, thought that if this measure was passed, at the very next Legislature there would come up a clamor from the same men for utter repudiation.—He hoped that every honest man would vote against the measure.

Mr. Heaton thought there should be a call of the House.

Harris, of Wake, (negro,) said the Sergeant at arms should come forward and see that members were in their seats.

The President ordered the Secretary to make a call of the House.

The question upon the amendment was then put. The yeas and nays having been called for, resulted, yeas 39, nays 67.

The question recurred on the original ordinance.

Mr. Pool offered an amendment, which was accepted by Mr. Rodman.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, again, in a speech of some length, gave his reasons for objecting to the whole matter. His objections were materially the same as given in his remarks on Saturday last.

Mr. Tourgee moved to lay the ordinance on the table. The yeas and nays being called, resulted, yeas 14, nays 58.

Mr. Watts moved to strike out the amendment offered by Mr. Pool.

Mr. Tourgee moved a substitute.

Mr. Heaton said the substitute was offered in ridicule, and therefore, could not be entertained.

Mr. Watts insisted upon his motion, which, after some debate, was adopted.

Galloway (negro) called for the previous question upon the original ordinance.

The call was sustained, and the yeas and nays were called, and the vote stood, yeas 57, nays 39.

The ordinance, as reported from the Committee, was then declared adopted.—[The ordinance has heretofore been published.]

Mr. Ladin said that as he was requested by one of the Conservative members of this Convention, to ask the use of the Hall for the Conservative Convention this evening, (Tucker Hall being used by a Theatrical Company,) he therefore moved that this Hall be tendered to that body.

Mr. Candler moved to lay the motion on the table, but withdrew it, on being remonstrated with by Hood (negro) and a good many others.

Mr. Fullings moved to amend by "granting the request," but not "to tender."

The motion, as amended, was carried.

On motion of Mr. Heaton, the article of the Constitution, as reported by the Committee of the Whole, in regard to Governor and Executive Officers, was next taken up.

Mr. Heaton moved to strike out "2 years," as the term of office, and insert "3."

Mr. Watts favored four.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, was speaking upon the subject, when

Harris, of Wake, (negro,) stated there was a question as to whether there was a quorum in their seats, and suggested the propriety of calling on the Serpeant-at-arms to see that the members take their seats.

Mr. Tourgee called him to order, stating that an attendance could not be enforced, except when a vote was being taken.

Harris, (negro,) said he was not out of order. His was only a suggestion.

Mr. Jones resumed, saying that since the announcement that the mileage would be paid to day, that there could be observed a disposition, on the part of the House, to let alone everything connected with Constitution-making, and to proceed, at once, TO REPLENISH THEIR POCKETS.—He saw it was the temper of the House to adjourn, and he would yield to a motion of that kind.

The resolution to adjourn, being made by Mr. Turner, was seconded and carried.

THURSDAY, Feb. 6, 1868.

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. H. T. Hudson, of the city.

Mr. Tourgee arose to a question of privilege and offered the following protest, and asked to have it spread upon the record:

Whereas, We consider the ordinance entitled an ordinance for the relief of debtors, passed by vote of this Convention, yesterday, as entirely inadequate to the wants of the people, invidious and unjust in its distinctions between debtors, affording no relief for unfortunate debtors, where old debts have been renewed since May, 1865, and others, whose present condition is equally deplorable and equally the result of the war, and that it also opens the door to unlimited fraud: We respectfully protest against this action of the Convention, and ask that this protest be spread upon the Journal.

A. W. TOURGEE,
J. J. MOORE,
G. W. WELKER,
J. W. PETERSON,
J. A. McDONALD, of Chatham.

Galloway, (negro,) objected.

Messrs. Ing and Congleton, wished their names appended to the protest.

Harris, of Wake, (negro,) moved to lay it on the table.

Mr. Tourgee denied that a motion could be made to that effect.

[Quite a lively little quarrel here sprung up, when Mr. Abbott said it was time to stop such disreputable proceedings, and asked that the protest be entered. The Chair then decided to that effect.]

Mr. Ray, a memorial from Eliza C. Wagner, praying for divorce. Referred.

Mr. Abbott submitted a report from the Committee on Finance, unfavorable to the resolution of Mr. French, of Chowan, in regard to negotiating a loan of 10,000 dollars, and asked to be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

By the same, another report upon the ordinance relating to bank liabilities—unfavorably.

Also, upon the resolution, asking Congress to loan the State $3,000,000—without recommendation.

Also, on a resolution to negotiate a loan of $500 for contingent expenses—favorably.

[The bills for contingent expenses, properly vouched for, will be cashed at the First National Bank.]

Also, the following ordinance to levy a tax to meet the expenses of this Convention:

Be it ordained by the people of North Carolina in Convention assembled, That for the purpose of raising monies, to pay the expenses of this Convention, according to the acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, a tax of one twentieth of one per cent. should be levied on the land, in North Carolina, according to its valuation in the year 1860, subject to such changes therein as have been since made by law, and on the personal property within said State, according to the valuation thereof, to be made in 1868. This tax shall be collected, paid and accounted for, at the Treasury of the State, at the times when, and in the same manner as other State taxes are by law required to be. The collecting officers shall be subject to the same penalties for failure to collect, pay and account for the taxes hereby laid, as they now are for such taxes in respect to other taxes. The said collecting officers shall receive the like compensation for the collection of other taxes.

This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage.

Mr. Abbott moved to suspend the rules, and proceed at once to consider the ordinance; which was done.

Mr. Heaton moved the adoption of the ordinance, and called the yeas and nays. The roll being called, the vote stood, yeas 62, nays 13.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, a report from the Committee on Corporations. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ragland, a resolution instructing the Committee, appointed to confer with Gen. Canby, to ask him to prevent the sacrifice of property. Rules suspended.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, thought that the relief question had been settled yesterday; he had hoped some breathing time would be allowed, and their work upon the Constitution not interfered with. He thought the various harangues indulged in lately, and the finely spun ideas given vent to, on relief, were amounting to child's play.

Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, favored the proposition. He was a relief man.

Hood, (negro,) said that, step by step, the repudiationists were advancing to attain their object, and he was opposed to any measure that tended to that. He moved the indefinite postponement of the matter.

On demand, the yeas and nays were called, and the House refused to postpone, yeas 44, nays 56.

Galloway (negro,) moved the adoption of the resolution, and called the previous question.

The resolution was then put to a vote and adopted.

Mr. French, of Bladen, a resolution, instructing the Committee on Governor and other Executive officers to report an additional section, fixing the salaries of the different officers.

Mr. French withdrew it, with an understanding that he would renew it at the proper time.

Mr. Turner, an ordinance that no act of this Convention, appropriating monies, shall be valid, until this Constitution is ratified by the people. Lies over.

CALENDAR.

The resolution of Mr. King, of Lenoir, amending the rules of order, giving the Convention a right to suspend the rules, whenever they think proper, was adopted.

Mr. Rodman's resolution, appropriating $3,000 from the Treasury, to meet the contingent expenses of this Convention, was next taken up. Laid over.

Mr. Mullican's ordinance, declaring that contracts should be held inviolate, was taken up.

Mr. Tourger moved to postpone it indefinitely. Carried.

Mr. Gunter's resolution, voiding all contracts, the consideration of which was Confederate money, and also all contracts, the consideration of which was slaves, was referred to the Committee on Relief.

Mr. Laflin's resolution, in regard to outstanding State bonds, was laid over until the Bill of Rights is considered.

Mr. Reed's resolution, in favor of two sessions daily, was adopted.

Mr. Parker's resolution, adjourning this Convention by the 25th of February, came up.

Mr. Abbott moved to lay it on the table. Carried.

Mr. Ellis's resolution, asking this Convention to petition Congress to aid the President of the United States, in testing before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the Reconstruction Acts, was next taken up.

Mr. Ellis addressed the Convention at some length, and with ability, in favor of his resolution. His remarks will appear hereafter. Before he concluded, the President informed Mr. E. that, the hour of 12 having arrived, the Suffrage Bill was the special order for that hour.

Mr. Pool moved that the consideration of that question be postponed until Monday next. Agreed to.

Mr. Ellis continued.

Mr. French, of Bladen, renewed his motion to lay on the table, which was carried.

The Report of the Committee of the Whole, upon the Report of the Committee on Governor and other Executive officers, came up.

The question was upon Mr. Heaton's motion, to strike out "2" and insert "3" years, as the term of office.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, moved to insert "four" years.

Mr. Jones, of Caldwell, favored the report, as adopted by the Committee of the Whole. He thought two years long enough.

Mr. Forkner called for the yeas and nays on the amendment of Mr. Jones, of Washington, making the term four years. The roll being called, the vote stood yeas, 62, nays 36.

The 1st section of the Report, as amended, was then adopted.

In the 2d section, Mr. Tourgee moved to amend, by striking out "six," and inserting "eight." The section, as thus amended, was put on its passage and adopted.

Section 3rd was adopted, without debate.

Section 4th, after being somewhat amended, was adopted.

Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 were adopted without discussion.

Mr. Ashley moved that this article be made the special order for Saturday next, at 12 o'clock, for final action. Carried.

The Report of the Committee on Militia, as reported upon by the Committee of the Whole, was next taken up.

The various sections were adopted without debate.

The same disposition was made of it, as the Report on Governor and other Executive officers.

Harris, of Wake, (negro,) called up a memorial in reference to a divorce between one Ann Underdew and her husband, Gilliam Underdew. He moved that it be referred to a select Committee of three.

Mr. Tourgee moved to lay the motion on the table. Rejected.

Harris, (negro,) proceeded to state the merits of the case.

Mr. Ashley hoped the matter would be referred to a Committee; it would save time.

Mr. King, of Lenoir, thought that the Superior Court was the proper place to be applied to in such cases. We did not come here to consider such matters. He moved the indefinite postponment of the whole matter, and called the yeas and nays upon the question.

Harris, (negro,) hoped the gentleman would allow the matter to go before the Committee; he would pledge himself not to trouble the Convention with it again; that it was nonsense for colored people to apply to the Legislature or the Courts.

The House refused to have the yeas and nays, and the question upon the motion to postpone was put and lost. The reference to the select Committee of three was then ordered.

On motion of Mr. Heaton, the Report of the Committee on Bill of Rights was made the special order for Saturday next, at 12 o'clock.

The Resolution by Mr. Teague, instructing the Committee of three, appointed to confer with Gen. Canby, to ascertain how far he would recognize legislation on the part of this Convention, was laid on the table.

An ordinance, by Mr. Duckworth, in favor of the Sheriff of Henderson County, was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the House adjourned.

TO THE U. H. O. A. IN NORTH CAROLINA.

BELOVED BROTHERS: Again you are called on for a final rally. Your past action has placed your names high on the roll of patriotism. You have voted just as we wished. You have immortalized your intelligence. You have honored your hearts. You have helped the brethren. When you have seen one in want, you have relieved his distress. You have shown him where unsuspecting chanticleers crowed. You have told him whose hogs were fat. You have even stretched out your honest arm and helped him. You have also clothed the naked. If locks proved too strong, you have kindly led him to the Blessed Bureau, and covered his shame. You have cheered the despondent, and spoken words of encouragement to his broken spirit. And your doors have been always open—or if you had no doors of your own, you have opened the doors of others, and kindly asked him in.

Unsophisticated Heroes of Africa! Listen to the words of wisdom. You have done well. But there is yet a great work before you. Another election is near, and you must now put forth every energy to secure the result. A new Constitution will soon be made, and it must be ratified. Loyal men must be, in all cases, chosen. Nominations will soon be made. The names of the nominees will be sent you in due time. Then is your time for action. Every unsophisticated Hero must put his shoulder to the wheel. Then, with a long push, a strong push, and a last push we will roll on the wagon of the Old North State, with all its precious freight of Heroes and Patriots.

And the Star Bangled Spanner in triumph shall wave
Over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Unsophisticated Heroes! Ye have much yet to do. *You must ratify the new Constitution*, which will soon be finished. You must put to utter rout the enemies of Reconstruction, and declare, in unmistakable terms, that LOYAL MEN MUST GOVERN. But to make sure of this result, thorough organization is necessary. Hold frequent meetings. Prepare yourselves for the various nominations to be made for office, and when they are made, stand up to them, like men, and unsophisticated heroes, never stir. We expect you to have no strife or wrangling among yourselves for office. You are not ready for office yet. But you have the inestimable privilege of voting for those who are ready. So, "don't make fools of yourselves, and be laughed at." Your time may come by and bye, and you must possess your unsophisticated souls in patience.

Have your councils at every county seat, and let Heroic odors radiate throughout every neighborhood. Organize! organize! organize! If there be only two or three of you, organize them. If you are alone, why organize yourself—and work! work! work! Not in the fields. You did enough of that when slaves. In high patriotic times like these, all servile labor, as well as all vain recreations, are abandoned. Do not ask wherewithal you shall be fed and clothed, without labor. Be ye not of so little faith. Ye shall be as the lilies of the field. Work for your country—and your country will feed you and clothe you. Go to the Blessed Bureau, and ye shall lack for nothing. Only work! work! work! in the glorious cause of Africanization, and all will be well. Ay, be ready several days before election for the work to be done on that day. Let committees or precinct men, with the necessary tickets, pervade every neighborhood; and let every unsophisticated Hero of Africa *work, work, work*, and *vote, vote, vote*, up to the last moment of the last day of voting.

Brothers! Our mission is a noble one. *We must ratify the Constitution and put loyal men in power.* We have much to do. There is a loyal Governor to be chosen. Rome had but one Cæsar. You know the rest. Stand by your loyal friends, we beseech you, or every noble hope born in their souls of the sacred fire of Freedom will be forever quenched in midnight darkness. Be ye Heroes indeed! Gird up your loins. And gird on your swords. Remember the three little words in five little letters—FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT. There is more blood ahead. There is a *libel conclave* here in session this day, and a more reckless or desperate set of conspirators never looked in each other's faces. They sit brooding upon this distressed and unpoverished people as a most fatal incubus. They are hatching *awful* treason. They are a set of redemptionless rascals, who have shot and hung conscripts, who have whipped women and put their thumbs under the fence, or justified or ordered it, who have run down panting deserters with blood hounds, who have opened smokehouses and corn cribs, and impressed the last dust of meal and last pound of bacon; who have preached Liberty and Independence with their lying tongues, and illustrated it with hucking, gagging, the torture, hand cuffs, starvation and murder. Over this diabolical conclave is now presiding that arch traitor, William A. Graham, and at his side is sitting a hoary headed old sinner, called Weldon N. Edwards, and they have been seen conferring with that awful reprobate, W. E. Pell! Are these men still to rule this people? Forbid it humanity! Forbid it Heaven!

Fraternally yours,

X. P. G., Head Centre of U. H. O. A.
HAMPTON LOCKE, 1st. Tall Sentinel.
WINDY BILLY, 2nd. T. C.

Done at the City of Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 6th, 1868.

George Francis Train remarks, in a letter written at sea; "Shipboard is the place to read character; all there is in a man pops out when he is sea-sick."

TELEGRAPHIC.

THE PRESIDENT AND GEN. GRANT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, M.

Gen. Grant and Stanton have had neither written or personal intercourse since August 12th. The President's letter to Grant, dated Jan. 31st, contains this paragraph: "You in [illegible] at our first conference, that the President was desirous of keeping Mr. Stanton out of office, whether sustained in his suspension or not. You know what reasons had induced the President to ask from you a promise. You also knew that, in case your views of duty did not accord with his own convictions, it was his purpose to fill your place by another appointment. Even ignoring the existence of a positive understanding between us, these conclusions were plainly deducible from our various conversations. It is certain, however, that, even under these circumstances, you did not offer to return the place to my possession, but, according to your own statements, placed yourself in a position where, could I have anticipated your action, I would have been compelled to ask of you your resignation, or else to resort to the more disagreeable expedient of suspending you by a succeeding order."

Grant's letter of Feb. 3d., alluding to the President's letter of Jan. 31st., and newspaper articles, says: "I find it only to be but a reiteration, only going but more in detail, of the many and gross misrepresentations contained in these articles, and which my statement of the facts, set forth in my letter of the 28th. ult., was intended to correct. Here I re-assert the correctness of my statements in that letter, anything in yours, in reply, to the contrary notwithstanding."

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, P. M.

Eleven more set speeches are to be made on Reconstruction.

The Reconstruction Committee will report favorably on the bill removing Gov. Patton's disabilities.

The Grant-President correspondence was received, but action was deferred.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, P. M.

HOUSE. Beatty, elected from Ohio, sworn in. The bill forfeiting Southern Railroad lands, after being amended to except the Nashville and Decatur Road, passed—yeas 86, nays 73.

The bill declares forfeited to the United States all public lands granted in 1856 in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, to aid in building Railroads, and declares such land open to Homestead entry and settlement under the law of 1862.

A joint resolution, authorizing the Secretary of War to employ counsel to defend Grant, Meade, Hancock, and any other officer or person entrusted with the enforcement of the Reconstruction Acts, against any suit or proceeding in any Court, in regard to official acts, passed.

SENATE. A resolution, authorizing the Secretary of War to employ counsel to defend Reconstruction officials, passed.

Reconstruction was resumed.

The Bill forfeiting Southern Railroad lands was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.

CHARLESTON, Feb 5, P. M.

In the Convention, to-day, the Bill of Rights was read the first time. It is liberal in its provisions. The right of suffrage is asserted without qualification. The Judiciary, with few exceptions, to be elected by the people, for various terms, varying from one to four years.

The Constitution provides for a school system on a compulsory attendance for twenty-four months. Children, between six and sixteen, to be admitted. All schools and Colleges, supported by public funds, to be open to all, irrespective of race or color.

ALABAMA ELECTION.

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 5, P. M.

Eleven hundred votes polled, to-day. Six white men voted—four of them candidates. The election progressing quietly.

GEORGIA CONVENTION.

ATLANTA, Feb. 5, P. M.

The Convention passed the relief clause to-day, yeas 82, nays 49. It denies jurisdiction to the Courts over all debts contracted prior to the surrender, but leaves it discretionary with a majority of the Legislature to confer jurisdiction in all cases, except as to the purchase of slaves.

NEW YORK RADICAL CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, M.

The Syracuse Republican State Convention instructed delegates to vote as a unit for Grant and Fenton. The resolutions are very Radical.

THE MARYLAND SENATORSHIP.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, M.

The Maryland Legislature has unanimously adopted a resolution, authorizing the Governor to issue a certificate to Mr. Hamilton, to succeed Reverdy Johnson. Gov. Swann has heretofore withheld the certificate, under the law giving one U. S. Senator to Eastern Shore. Attorney-Gen. Jones sustains the validity of Hamilton's election.

FROM WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, P. M.

The President's reply to Grant's letter of the 3d, was transmitted to Grant, to-day. Its publication is expected in a few days.

The Paymaster General's Circular fixes the commutation of a ration at thirty cents.

A special to the New York *World*, from Montgomery, considers the defeat of the Constitution certain. It says the heaviest part of the vote is polled, but the same ratio for the two remaining days would defeat the Constitution by twenty-five thousand votes.

The new British Minister will be presented to the President to-morrow. Those who anticipate any allusion to the Alabama claims, in the respective addresses, will be disappointed, as only the usual official compliments, exchanged on such occasions, will be made.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, P. M.

HOUSE.—The bill relative to American citizens abroad was resumed.

An army appropriation bill of $33,000,000 was reported. The discussion developed the fact that the total appropriations for the fiscal year of 1868-9, were about $275,000,000 including $25,000,000 for soldiers and sailors.

The Military Academy appropriation was considered. An amendment that no portion shall be paid to any cadet, appointed for a State of which the cadet is not a resident, was defeated. The bill passed.

The Civil Appropriation Bill was resumed, without action, the House adjourned.

SENATE.—A memorial from the Arkansas Convention, asking power to remove State officers, stating that the "high-toned" were enemies to the country, was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

A petition from Charles Snyder, and a hundred and fifty other colored men of North Carolina, asking aid to emigrate to Liberia, was referred to the Finance Committee.

Reconstruction was resumed.

GEORGIA CONVENTION.

ATLANTA, Feb. 6, P. M.

A motion to reconsider the vote taken yesterday on the relief clause was lost. The Constitution of 1865, with amendments, by Committee's report, were taken.

C. C. Bichardson, a delegate to the Convention from the Twenty-fourth District, who was shot on Monday, by Capt. Tinsley, died at 1.30 P. M. to-day.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 6, P. M.

The Convention, on yesterday, was occupied in discussing Bill of Rights. The first section passed.

VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

RICHMOND, Feb. 6, P. M.

The clause relating to the eligibility of the Governor, requiring him to be a citizen of the United States for 10 years and a citizen of Virginia for 3 years, was adopted.

An amendment, to declare ineligible to the office, any person who had aided the rebellion, was defeated by a decided majority. Another amendment, to insert the word *white* in the clause, was defeated.

From the Charleston Mercury.

MOBOCRACY.

Early in the afternoon of yesterday we were informed, through the attention of a military officer in person, that the military were in possession of facts which led them to apprehend that a serious attempt was in contemplation on the part of an armed negro mob, put forward by their white coadjutors, to assault with violence the office of the Charleston *Mercury*. Precautions were taken by the military to preserve order, and the city police were put upon the alert, and a force kept in readiness in case of need.

We state these things as facts; and we have a few remarks to make upon the subject.

We deprecate exceedingly a public disturbance, but if it is desired by the negroes or negroites in Charleston to have a row, they can have it, and a good one. The white men of Charleston are not all dead, and although they would avoid collision, if violence be inaugurated by Radicals and negroes, the responsibility of the consequences will rest with the latter.

In any event, we have but to say that the Charleston *Mercury* will pursue its course unmoved by the threats of ruffians or the demonstrations of negroes. We publish a WHITE MAN'S PAPER in a *white man's country*; and it is our intention to uphold the rights of white men and expound their oppressions, whether against the clamors of a revolutionary body of whites in Washington or an unconstitutional assembly of blacks in Charleston.

And we are much mistaken if there are not friends enough of the *Mercury* amongst the white men of Charleston effectually to protect this office, and with it their rights and the liberty of the press, against all the negroes and their instigators between the Ashley and the Cooper rivers.

SPIRIT OF THE REPUBLICAN PRESS.

The Rump Congress Radicals are driving their machine altogether too fast for even their own party. Thus, the Albany Evening *Journal* asks:

"Do the Republican leaders in Congress wish to justify the charge of the Democracy that they are bent upon usurpation and revolution? Have they become so indifferent to popular opinion that they are prepared to remove any obstacle which may be presented to their policy, regardless of every constitutional provision? We are not ready to believe this; yet we shall be compelled to do so if the purposes now announced are really carried into effect."

The Springfield *Republican* (unsuspectingly) says:

"The new Supreme Court bill is too narrow in its scope, and we suppose that it be amended so as to prohibit that court from meddling in any way with any act which this Congress may pass. In this way it will provide for all possible contingencies, and establish a precedent which will be of incalculable value to any party that may control Congress hereafter, and want to pass measures of unquestionable unconstitutionality. Each Congress can thus take care of itself.

The Nation is perfectly satisfied, by the declarations of the leading members of the Republican party, that they will "take no step backward;" but it fears their action will bring men into power who will take several "steps backwards," which will amount to about the same thing, so far as the welfare of the country is concerned."

HANCOCK AND THE RADICALS.—According to reliable intelligence received in this city within the last day or two, there is great uneasiness manifested by the leading radicals of the Louisiana Convention, owing to an impression which prevails among them that Gen. Hancock will not exert either authority or influence towards the election of the officers provided for by the Convention, when the constitution is presented to the people for ratification, and certain members of Congress of the radical persuasion have been appealed to by telegraph and by letter to do something, and that speedily, to tie the hands of Gen. Hancock. Some of them ask for special legislation in behalf of the Convention, and to substantially annul, in some respects, the power of the District Commander. Among others whose influence in Congress is solicited are Senators Wade, Morton and Wilson, and a number of Representatives. The information received here is to the effect that the Convention distrusts the Military Commander, and are anxious to have special instructions issued to him by Congress. The question seems to be surrounded with difficulties in the view of many members of Congress, as they are not altogether satisfied with regard to the effect of further legislation to aid in the work of reconstruction in Louisiana, where so many different measures are in operation to secure that object. The hope has been expressed, however, that by passing the bill now pending, placing the power over reconstruction in the hands of the General in Chief and the effective exercise of it by Grant according to the intention of Congress—which is, that he shall use it to provide for any and every contingency which may arise—that Gen. Hancock and all other district commanders who do not accord with the radical party will be forced to give their entire aid to the constitutional conventions in their efforts to reconstruct the States on a sound radical basis, or remain quiet and harmless spectators of their movements.—*Washington Correspondence N. Y. Herald.*