The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

VOL. 2. RALEIGH, N. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1868. NO. 72.

THE SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, PROPRIETOR.

THE ALABAMA CONSTITUTION.

It is fully reported by telegraph, on yesterday as having been introduced by Senator Sherman, of Ohio, with reference to the Alabama Constitution, is a virtual admission of the failure of Congressional reconstruction as provided for by the Act of March 2nd, 1867 and the Acts supplementary thereto.

Are we prepared that a majority of registered voters should be necessary to the adoption or rejection of the State Constitution? In Alabama, there has been a fair trial of the instrument, and an *ex post facto* law is brought forward to cover up the failure of the Radical plans. It is in perfect keeping with the perfidy of Congress, that this iniquitous law be passed, and will surprise no one.

The question arises: Since all opposition amounting to the rejection of the *bogus* constitutions, adopted by these mongrel and unconstitutional Conventions, is futile, inasmuch as it is the purpose of Congress to override them, whether they receive few votes or many, is it worth while to organize further defeat? We reply, *yes*. Let it be the object of forcing an odious constitution, upon an unwilling people, and congress. Let it not be alleged, to the disgrace, now and hereafter, that we tamely bowed our heads to receive the degrading yoke which was prepared for us, let us not commit self destruction, because we are threatened with a violent death.

Let us add nothing to the catastrophe guilt of the dead of memory. Let us vindicate our self respect, pride of character, and love of liberty, by throwing from us the responsibility upon our own agency, the proposed thing. Let us assert, while we have opportunity left us of doing so, our right to declare for ourselves what shall be the nature of our own organic law, independently of dictation or coercion from any quarter. It is now high time to ourselves through the Congress of the United States to take to its own stipulations, pertinent to its obligations and tyrannical in its complexities.

Besides, our experience in the late canvass on the question of Convention, should furnish us of the danger of any division in our plans of action, or any indifference as to their execution. If lukewarmness is counselled or felt in the matter of voting on the infamous Constitution which is being cooked up by the so-called Convention, now in session, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to induce the people to come out and vote for or against candidates for the various offices which are to be filled, and for which a horde of greedy cormorants, Yankee, negro, and native mean white, are clamoring. Even if a rejected Constitution is forced upon us, we may at least disappoint the calculations of the greedy sharpers, who are already, in anticipation, feasting upon the spoils. It will, at least, for the present, and until things take a better turn, be some consolation for an odious Constitution, that the power of making its letter more oppressive and galling may be wrested from the hands of its unscrupulous and malevolent authors. We can at least, *if we will*, save a *part* of the character of North Carolina, by preventing its government from falling into the hands of such creatures. SHALL WE NOT DO IT? From the seaboard to the mountains, there will be but one response among the true white men of the State. Catching the spirit which animated the late glorious Convention, they will organize for the great work before them, with a brave determination. *That* is all that is necessary to success.

YESTERDAY.—We have ceased to feel any interest, if we ever felt any, in the deliberations of the so called Convention. It is patent that it will be as offensive and iniquitous as Radical ingenuity can devise, and that is saying enough.

We wish, however, simply to call attention to yesterday's proceedings. It will be seen that the concern manufactured a *lawyer* out of every man, white or black, however illiterate, who can bolster up a character and pay a small tax-fee. Negro Judges will come next.

That part of the report of the Committee on the Legislature, apportioning the Senatorial Districts, was adopted. It divides the State into fifty Districts, arranged apparently with no regard to convenience or homogeneousness, bases representation exclusively on population, and breaks down the property qualification of the Senator.—Thus roll on the wheels of crazy "progress," crushing all that is wise, venerable and good.

We have been asked why we do not publish the reports of the various Committees. For the reason that the whole of the proposed Constitution is at present in a state of confusion that is almost inextricable.—When the whole instrument shall be "perfected," we shall publish it, and our readers will then be able to take in, at one broad survey, the whole of the meditated mischief and ruin.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.—The Conservatives of Wayne County will meet in Goldsboro, on Tuesday next, for the purpose of organizing for the approaching campaign, and to ratify the proceedings of the late State Conservative Convention. We hope to see this excellent example imitated throughout the State. Close and compact organization, among the true white men of the State, is all that is necessary to preserve us from the horrors of negro supremacy.

GRANT AND SHERMAN.

The awkward and unfortunate position in which Gen. Grant has placed himself before the country, and the severe condemnation which falls upon him from the lips of honorable men every where, shall not deter us from doing him justice. Nothing is more common, in the conduct of a war, than that real merit should be overslaughed, and the credit, which is due to those who occupy subordinate positions, given to others in higher station. This was true repeatedly during the late war in both armies, and nothing has been more so since the war, than to give credit to those who were entitled to praise, account of other acts, for acts which were peculiarly meritorious in others.

The position of Gen. Grant necessarily secured to him the credit of bringing the war to a triumphant issue. Yet, we presume, there is not an intelligent man in the South who does not know, that no man or army in the union is to be the back bone of our cause as Gen Sherman and his army. It has been generally supposed that Sherman's campaign through Georgia, and South and North Carolina, was devised and planned by brain, though executed by Sherman. The press correct, shows that Gen. Grant was opposed to that movement. It was Sherman's campaign that first aroused the Southern people to the certainty of defeat. It was that movement that opened our eyes to the possibility of having all the supplies cut off from Gen. Lee, with no sufficient force to contest the ground with Sherman, that filled the South with paleness and dread, and that caused our troops to desert by thousands, and to go home, convinced that the cause was lost.

The following statement of facts, to the *National Intelligencer*, will be sustained by the intelligent people of the South, who can never forget the terror which Sherman's advance through the country produced:

"Nobody denies that Gen. Grant did his duty as a soldier faithfully, but he did it no better than thousands of others who proscribed by Radicalism, are to exist from their proper position and those who now lie meandering in unremembered graves, while his praises are loudly chanted, and honors until lately crowded upon his acceptance. He was the fortunate commander when Gen. Lee surrendered seven thousand muskets to a grand army of veterans, equal in numbers, efficiency, and courage to any upon which the sun had ever shown in actual life and death struggle. But the backbone of the rebellion had been broken long before Gen Grant, after a year's delay, began the final march upon Richmond, for the memorable campaign of General Sherman through Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas. This campaign was made, as the public documents prove, against the advice and policy of Gen. Grant, and it was the sieve of the fate of the rebellion. And if Gen. Grant had obeyed a little longer for Gen Sherman to come up, or even had taken another direction than he did take, Lee would have been forced to surrender without a blow, and 50,000 heroes would now be alive, who fell in that terrible march, in the course of which, as at Cold Harbor, naked infantry were buried unsupported against impregnable works."

PRIVILEGES AND EXEMPTIONS.—This Committee, in the so-called Convention, have manifested due diligence in ascertaining whether the seats of such Conservatives as Mr. Williams, of Surrey, and Mr. Marler, of Yadkin, are properly held by those gentlemen. We do not object to any fair investigation of the claims of any Conservative. Should truth require that the seat of every Conservative should be contested, we should not complain. But ought not the rule to work both ways? We have heard no inquiry into the right by which any Radical holds his seat. Are Mr C. J. Cowles, the President, Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, Mr. Rodman, of Beaufort, and others that might be named, entitled to seats, according to the Reconstruction Acts? We have heard the question mooted as to the right of several of the Radical delegates, and yet, on this point, the Committee on Privileges and Elections slumber.

Mr. Cowles, the President of the Convention, we understand, convinced of his disloyalty under President Johnson's proclamation, applied for and obtained a pardon, because he came under the first exception. We are told that the Registers of his County refused to register his name, and yet he became a candidate and was elected to the Convention. Were these facts presented to Gen. Canby, and did he, knowing them, determine that Mr. Cowles was entitled to his seat? We doubt it. What will Congress think of the acts of a body, whose deliberations are presided over by one, who, according to its own test of loyalty, is still a "rebel," setting aside the Executive pardon? Mr. Cowles was a Union man, no doubt, but not half as good a Union man as many others who are not recognised by the Radical party as being now loyal, because they do not support the Radical programme.

ARKANSAS IN THE LEAD.—The telegraph announces that Arkansas has made quicker work, in making a Constitution, than any of the Southern States. Her Convention has been in session but a short time, yet they have completed the Constitution, which goes a step beyond any of the so called. It goes in for general suffrage to the negroes and to the women of the State, but disfranchises all men disfranchised by the Reconstruction Acts and also those who oppose the Constitution. What delectable Republican Governments the Southern States must have, under Radical rule, when the white men, capable of administering government, are generally disfranchised, and when the negroes, *man and woman*, all vote! Call you this Republican?

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

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12, 1868.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Eppes, (negro.)

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, &C.

Mr. Forkner, a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary report an article for the Constitution, permitting the citizens of this State to practice in the Courts on proving a good moral character and paying the fees. Passed.

Mr. Frank, an ordinance in favor of E. B. Rice, Sheriff of Wake county. Laid over.

Mr. Boyce, an ordinance in favor of all Sheriffs and which, after some discussion, was laid over.

Mr. Jones, of Lenoir, was opposed to the passage of bodies in mass.

Mr. Gilliam, of Orange, favored it.

Mr. Tourgee moved to amend by allowing collected taxes prior to 61.

Mr. Welker accused Mr. Tourgee of amendment.

Mr. Moore, opposed it.

Gilliam, in explanation of his remarks, stated that the Sheriff of Buncombe had asked an increase, and, besides, he was an advocate of [illegible] that certain knowledge prevented people from registering and voting.

Mr. Hodnett was opposed to the whole matter. He could not approve of the course of indulging Sheriffs in general in the careless and negligent manner. Besides, the ignorant people could be imposed on.

Mr. Hare explained the intention of the measure. It was only intending time for collecting taxes, and he hoped the gentlemen on this floor, who had been so prompt to relief, would lend some relief by extending time to men who have paid moneys out of their own pockets in payment of the taxes, and now wish to be relieved.

Galloway, (negro,) withdrew his amendment.

The ordinance, as it originally stood, was then adopted.

Mr. Sweet moved that the Report of the Committee on Legislature be made the special order for Monday next, at 11 o'clock. Agreed to.

The hour of 12 having arrived, the Chair announced that the report of the Committee on Suffrage was the special order.

The Chairman of that Committee being unwell, Mr. Rodman moved to postpone until Tuesday next.

Mr. Candler moved to amend by making it Saturday next. Lost.

Mr. Rodman's motion was put to a vote and sustained.

EXPENDITURE OF TAXES.

The Report of the Committee on the Judiciary, containing two resolutions in regard to the disposition of moneys arising at Law and suits in Equity, [illegible] the sense of this Convention was, that all moneys arising from actions at Law and suits in Equity, and that the terms of all such actions and suits shall be published, and there is not [illegible] of civil action.

2nd. That the disposition of such actions at Law and suits in Equity now existing should not be abolished.

While Mr. Tourgee was speaking, adjournment was moved, which was carried, and Mr. Cantwell was announced. He was escorted with the usual honor. The President welcomed him in a short speech, to which the General very briefly and appropriately replied.

A recess was taken, and the delegates were introduced.

Mr. Tourgee resumed, stating that as he was the youngest man in the House, of the legal profession, and was now advocating a radical change, therefore, he was placed in rather an embarrassing situation. In regard to the cry that innovation was dangerous to the liberties of the people, he cited the case of Sir Thomas More, against whom a hue and cry was raised, when he introduced what was called the "vulgar tongue," and now, to-day, the same howls were heard, whenever there was a change proposed. He next alluded to the charge that had been uttered, upon this floor, that they were trying to incorporate measures into the Constitution, merely to catch the popular vote, regardless of right, justice, wisdom and prudence. Those assertions were made by a certain class of men, who wished only to embarrass the Convention and bring it into odium. In relation to the matter more immediately under discussion, he stated that in seventeen States of this Union, civilization and common sense had overridden the prejudices and bigotry of by-gone years.—The rights and wrongs of their citizens were enforced in the same Court and by the same process. The present jumble of Saxon, French and bad Latin, used in our law books, taken from the English system, illustrated the axiom of Talleyrand, that language was given to conceal our thoughts, not to express them. He was sorry that a report had been circulated that this measure would increase costs. The reverse was the very reason that this measure was adopted in the other States, to which he had alluded. It had been said that he (Tourgee) had said that it was a fine thing for lawyers but a bad thing for those who were not. He repeated the assertion, for he alluded to pettifoggers—a class of men whom he despised above all other reptiles, (!) &c., &c.

Mr. Rodman said it was rather singular that a member of the profession should insinuate to such an intelligent (!) body as this, that all the rest of the bar were devoted to insatiate greed of money, excepting himself. Mr. R. was not willing to put into this Constitution things that were repulsive and odious to the people. He wished to produce a good and wise Constitution, that the people would ratify, as it was the only and the shortest way of getting back into the Union. He would oppose the incorporation of such a measure into the Constitution: 1st, because it did not belong there, but to an act of the Legislature; and, 2nd, because he did not think it right of itself. He alluded to the high standing of the bar of North Carolina, and their universal willingness to assist, with aid and counsel, those who were too poor to pay for the services of a lawyer.

Mr. R. next argued the objections he had raised, at some length. In regard to the [illegible] of lawyers of this State and New York, he had been informed, by good authority, that a small case here, probably costing from 15 to 30 dollars, would cost there fully $200. A gentleman had told him that, for merely asking information in regard to affixing a stamp, he had to pay $10 for the information. He perfectly agreed with Mr. Tourgee in wishing to accelerate the actions of the Courts of justice, but he could not see how the [illegible] would accomplish that end. It would create confusion, among the people, and he (Mr. R.) would oppose it in creating anything into the Constitution to fatally demoralizing to our whole system, that has worked so well and to its elevated the praise of the bar of the whole country, and with which our people are perfectly well satisfied.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, claimed to know as much about the sentiments of the people of North Carolina as the gentleman from Guilford, (Mr. T.) That gentleman seemed to have a mania to fix upon the people of this State certain customs, simply because the Northern States had seen fit to establish them. He protested against this whole-sale butchery of all of our time honored and universally believed and revered Judicial system. Our people have steered clear of the foolish sentimentalism that had overrun some of the Northern States.

Mr. Abbott said he would move the indefinite postponement of this matter, as he did not think they should deal with this matter in the Constitution. To do it, would lay an embargo upon the Legislature in considering the matter. He was in favor of some distinction in the practice in this State, but did not see how the abolishment of the distinction between the Courts would materially affect the cheapness or celerity of justice. He thought they should be very cautious how they tampered with such institutions. He did not array himself against the measure, and, at the same time, he did not sympathize with the remarks of the gentleman from Guilford. He was not afraid of improvement or innovation, but this was too grave a matter to step into with such foolishness as the gentleman from Guilford would have us. He wished to leave the coming Legislature free and untrammelled. They had enough legitimate business to occupy their time.

Mr. Tourgee said to postpone the matter would be to leave it just where it stood, and when the report came up again, all this would have to be gone over with anew.

Mr. Abbott, at the request of the Chairman of the Committee, in order to get at a direct vote, withdrew his motion to postpone.

Mr. Welker saw the matter through the same spec with Mr. Tourgee.

Hood, (negro,) did not see the propriety of making the proposed change now. They were taking up time in discussing this measure that should be devoted to things that more immediately concerned them.

Galloway, (negro,) said that it was an unheard of thing, that a Committee should come before a body, asking instructions.—Why did they not do, as other Committees, in producing a majority and a minority report. Men were too afraid of risking their chances of future office and emoluments, to risk an honest and straight out opinion.—The discussion, yesterday and to-day, was a mere matter of nothing, as the whole ground would have to be gone over with again, when the Committee presented their final report. All of this debate was expending the people's money, merely to give *certain* men (!) prominence. He (Galloway, negro,) was on the Judiciary Committee, or knew no more about the report than what was in Heaven, and, God knows, he was not in the right road to know what that was! He thought there was an evident disposition, on the part of the Committee, *to ramble* certain members of it.

He moved to recommit, but withdrew the motion, to allow Mr. King, of Lenoir, to make a few remarks.

Mr. King said he wished the Judiciary should remain unchanged, with the exception of electing magistrates, and he hoped Galloway (negro) would withdraw his motion to recommit. In order to get at a vote, Galloway (negro) wouldn't, and called the previous question.

The call was sustained.

The question was upon the 1st resolution abolishing the distinction between Courts of Law and Courts of Equity. The yeas and nays were called and resulted, yeas 50, nays 38.

Galloway (negro) moved to take a recess until half past seven this evening. Lost.

Harris, of Wake, (negro,) called up his resolution, of yesterday, limiting speeches to 15 minutes, without permission of the House, and that no one shall speak more than once upon the same subject, unless by permission of the House.

The Chair decided it was an amendment to the rules and required a majority of all the members.

Harris said he would appeal from that decision.

The Chair said he would see how many voted in favor of it, and if there was not a sufficient number, then Harris (negro) could appeal.

The question was then put and there was not a sufficient number voting, under the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. King, of Lenoir, did not think the resolution was an amendment to the rules or that it came in conflict with them.

After a good deal of explanation and wrangling, Harris, of Wake, (negro,) said that he had been convinced as to the error of his position and would withdraw his appeal.

On motion, the House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, Feb. 13, 1868.

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

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

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Galloway (negro) presented a letter from the "Republican Committee," of New Hanover county, instructing their delegates to vote against all propositions for a general amnesty. Referred to the Committee on Suffrage.

Mr. Candler, a petition for divorce, from Matilda Anderson, of Madison county. Referred.

The President presented an anonymous communication from Philadelphia, in regard to money loaned the State by Northern men,—praying that the Convention will take some measures to pay interest to those holding bonds of the State. Went under the table.

RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, &C.

Mr. Sweet, an ordinance in relation to collections for the city of Newbern. Referred.

Mr. Rich, an ordinance for establishing a Land and Immigration agency in New York, said agency to have at its head a Commissioner, who shall hold his office for four years, with a salary of $2500 a year.—Referred.

Mr. Tourgee, by consent, presented a petition from Randolph county, which was referred.

Leaves of absence were granted to Hyman, (negro,) Eppes, (negro,) and Mr. Moore.

Mr. Stilly, a resolution requesting Congress to reduce the tax on distilled spirits other than from grain. Referred.

Mr. Rodman, an ordinance on Relief. Ordered to be printed.

CALENDAR.

Mr. Abbott's resolution, in regard to the use of the Previous Question, offered some days ago, was considered and adopted.

Mr. Tourgee's resolution, providing for two sessions, on and after Friday, the 14th, at 10 A. M., and 7½ P. M., was adopted.

Mr. Forkner's ordinance, instructing the Judiciary Committee to report an article allowing citizens to practice and plead in the Courts of this State, upon establishing a good moral character and upon payment of the fees, was next taken up.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, said that as the law stood now, a man could plead his own cause in Court; but he who did it, without any knowledge of law whatever, generally found out that he had a fool for a client.

Mr. Jones, of Washington, was also opposed to it. He did not wish to offer a bonus to ignorance.

Mr Forkner said that, by an ordinance recently passed, men from other States could come here, and, proving a good character and paying the fees, be admitted to the bar. He wished to place our citizens on an equal footing.

Mr. Abbott favored it, likewise.

The vote being taken, the ordinance was adopted.

Mr. Watts introduced an ordinance, by permission, for the relief of the people, which went over, under the rules.

SPECIAL ORDER—PREAMBLE AND BILL OF RIGHTS.

Mr. Sweet said that the Chairman was sick and moved to postpone it, until to-morrow, at 11 o'clock. Agreed to.

Mr. Sweet then moved to take into consideration the report of the Committee on Legislature, which was recommitted to them some days ago, and also the substitute for section 4th, regulating the apportionment of Senatorial Districts.

Sections 1, 2 and 3, of the majority report were then adopted.

Section 4th: Mr. Graham, of Orange, moved to amend, by apportioning the Senate according to the apportionment of the Convention of 1865, requiring a property qualification for a seat in that body. Mr. G. said:

The substitute I propose makes numbers the basis of representation for the House of Commons, and the taxes paid into the public Treasury the basis for the Senate. I believe that there should be some protection for those Counties which pay the largest portion of our taxes, against that wild system of expenditures which will no doubt ensue under the new *regime*. Some of the delegates seem to think the question of suffrage is before us, and that a freehold qualification is proposed. I will state, (and in this all the Conservatives agree with me,) that I am opposed to any freehold or property qualification for any person that I would allow to vote in North Carolina. The Almighty has, for some wise purpose of his own, made a distinction between the white and black races, and that distinction I am opposed to abolishing at the ballot box.—That, however, is not the matter before us, but the question is simply whether you will not give to a County, or District, paying a large amount of taxes, some restraint upon other Counties which, with large populations, pay but a small amount of taxes.—This is the check allowed by our present Constitution, but as its destruction has been determined by this Convention, it is needless for me to argue against it.

Mr. Sweet opposed the amendment. It was anti-Republican, (the usual cry.) &c.

Mr. McDonald, of Chatham, expatiated at some length, and, during his discourse, took occasion to resent Mr. Pool's allusion to him some days ago. [The aforesaid allusion being in the nature of a reflection upon Mr. McD's legal attainments.]

Mr. Congleton said all such notions about property qualification should be buried here, to-day.

Mr. French, of Chowan, said it was an infamous doctrine, handed down from the dark ages. Only three States now cling to it, and to-day we will make the number less by one. He wanted population only to be the basis.

Mr. Hodnett favored the property qualification for the Senate, and alluded to his resolution to that effect, introduced some time ago. (Mr. H's. able remarks will appear hereafter.)

Hood (negro) opposed the amendment.

So, also, did Mr. French, of Bladen.

Mr. Graham, of Orange, said the gentlemen were trying to place him in a false position. He did not propose to require a freehold for everything, but he thought some property qualification necessary, in at least one branch of the General Assembly. The gentleman's (Mr. French, of Chowan,) expression, in his allusion to the great Pacific Railroad, exactly illustrated his ideas of the course we should pursue towards the Radicals upon this floor. Let them have a full swing and clear course, and they will "either run to h— or California."

Mr. Marler agreed with Mr. G. and thought if any other course was pursued, the tax payer and property holder would not have sufficient protection.

After a great deal of debate, and innumerable amendments and propositions in regard to the apportionment of the Districts, contained in the supplementary report as to the fourth section of the original majority report, the whole supplementary report, as regards that section, was, on motion of Mr. Jones, of Washington, finally adopted.

Sections 9 to 26, inclusive, of the majority report, were adopted.

Section 27 was amended, by striking out, after the word "affirmation," in the 2d line, down to the word "and," in the 6th line, and inserting "that he will support the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution of the State of North Carolina."

Section 29 was adopted making the time for holding elections the 1st Thursday in August.

Mr. Rodman moved, as an amendment, the following addition, which was carried: "But the General Assembly may change the time of holding the elections. The first election shall be held when the vote shall be taken on the adoption of this Constitution by the voters of the State and the General Assembly, then elected, shall meet on the 30th day after the approval thereof by the Congress of the United States, if it fall not on a Sunday; but if it should so fall, then on the day after. And the members then elected shall hold their seats until their successors are elected at a regular election."

On motion, the House then adjourned.

For the Sentinel.

Our glorious Convention are a little puzzled to know what sort of an oath they must ventrole up, to exclude gentlemen from participation in a government which declares in its very first article that all are born free and equal. It does not much matter what the oath is, it will be sure to disfranchise nearly all the honest worth and talent in the land. But there will be plenty found willing to forswear themselves, among the 30,000 now claimed by the 'loluts'—enough at least to fill all the offices. Their "consciences will give them but little trouble, judging by the readiness which some of our high civil officers have already evinced to swallow iron clad oaths for bread. They seem to digest it well—and look very serene. Whether they find thorns, in their pillows at night, is only known to themselves. All that men have will they give—sometimes for the means of living.

In these reformed times when swearing is made so easy and killing is no murder, (save in *exceptional cases*,) we find old history pretty well repeated. Several ages ago there was a race of hard, cross-grained fanatics, who got temporary possession of the British government, and played some very fantastic tricks. They are said to have adopted a new code on swearing, by which oaths, official and otherwise, could be taken to great advantage. "What signifies the kissing of a book," said one of these precious saints, "with a calf-skin cover, and a pasteboard stiffening, betwixt a man's lips and the text?"

"They," says Bishop Sanderson, "rest secure, absolving themselves from all guilt and fear of perjury, and think they have excellently provided for themselves and consciences, if, during the act of swearing, they can make any shift to defend themselves, either with some equivocation or mental reservation, or by forcing upon the words some subtle interpretation; or, after they are sworn, they can find some loophole or artificial evasion whereby such art may be used with the oath that, the words remaining, the meaning may be eluded with sophism, and the sense utterly lost."

Cowley makes mention of "an equivocation office, where all manner of evasions, shifts, distinctions, explanations and double entendres were *exposed to sale!*"

Foules, in his history of Wicked Plots, "that the swearer is obliged neither to the meaning of the prescriber of the oath, nor to his own meaning, but as *the authority* shall afterwards interpret it."

In the "Vicar of Bray" some one is made to say, "no wonder they should impose new oaths, when they had broken all the old."

> "I took so many oaths before,
> That now without remorse
> I take all oaths the State can make,
> As merely things of course."

A poet of that age puts this in their record:

> "Oaths are but words, and words but wind,
> Too feeble implements to bind,
> And hold with deeds proportion, so
> As shadows to a substance do.
> Then when they strive for place, 'tis fit
> The weaker vessel should submit.
> We're not commanded to *forbear*
> Indefinitely, at all, to *swear*,
> But to *swear idly*, and in vain,
> *Without self-interest or gain*;
> For breaking of an oath, and lying
> Is but a kind of self-denying—
> A saint-like virtue, and from hence
> Some have broken oaths—by Providence;
> Some to the glory of the Lord,
> Perjured themselves, and broke their word;
> And this the constant rule and practice
> Of all our late apostles' (Qu. apostates?) acts is."

L'Estrange tells the following apposite story: "A gentleman that had a suit in Chancery was called on by his counsel to put in his answer, for fear of incurring a contempt. 'Well,' says the Cavalier, 'and why is not my answer put in there?' How should I draw your answer, quoth the lawyer, without knowing what you can swear? Plague on your scruples, says the client again, 'pray do you the part of a lawyer, and draw me a sufficient answer; and let me alone to do the part of a gentleman, and swear it.'"

Should any of our hard-swearers feel troubled in their tender consciences, and fancy that they have "fouled their souls" by taking the [illegible] oath—for office—they are respectfully recommended, for consolation, to the new Gospel dispensation above quoted. Let them only continue to be *truly loil*, and the loaves and fishes will continue to come.

X. P. G.

BUTLER'S WAR AGAINST GRANT.—There is no doubt but the intention of Gen. Butler in looking up the evidence in proof of Gen. Grant's reported public exhibitions of inebriety is to wage a relentless war upon the reputation of the General-in-Chief, whenever he shall be presented to the people as the republican candidate for President. It is asserted by those who profess to know the views of Butler, that if Grant should be the republican nominee, Butler will be found working in the interest of the Conservative party, as, it is said, his animosity to Grant is so inveterate that the party rallying cry of "principles, not men," will be reversed in his political creed, and he will manifest a greater degree of solicitude in regard to the candidate than to the principles, which he may represent. Some of the more zealous republicans are expressing not a little concern about these reported movements of Butler, and they seem to think that his influence against Grant will be chiefly exerted among the citizens of African descent in the Southern States. It has even been suggested that, in case Butler should undertake to injure Grant in the estimation of the negroes, Gen. Howard will be called on to counteract Butler's influence, by the promulgation of a series of circulars, in parod with a view to instructing the freedmen how to exercise, in a way beneficial to themselves, the privileges of the elective franchise.—*Wash. Cor. N. Y. Herald.*

JOHN K. GRAHAM, ESQ.—Through some inadvertence on the part of the Secretaries in making out the proceedings of the Conservative Convention at Raleigh last week, we observe that the name of this gentleman, as one the delegates from Rowan, is omitted in the printed report. This is doubtless a matter of very little consequence to Mr. Graham, but we think it due to the people that they should know who have devoted their time and means to their service in these late trying times. There is no truer and better Conservative, and no more patriotic citizen in the county than Mr. Graham. He will do good service as one of the canvassers of this county in the approaching campaign.—*Old North State.*

It has been officially announced by Count Bismarck that negotiations for a commercial treaty between the United States and the North German Confederation have been commenced with a fair prospect of a satisfactory conclusion.

GEN. CANBY'S ORDER.

The following order has been issued by Gen. Canby and has been laid before the Public Treasurer. Acting in accordance with his own judgment, and the counsel of others whose opinions he respects, we learn that the Public Treasurer will obey Gen. Canby's order.

HDQR'S 2nd. MILITARY DISTRICT,
CHARLESTON, S. C.,
Feb. 12th, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 20. }

The Constitutional Convention assembled in North Carolina, under the authority of the laws of the United States, having, in conformity with the eighth Section of the law of March 23, 1867, (supplementary to the law of March 2, 1867, "To provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States,") by an Ordinance adopted in Convention on the sixth day of February, 1868, provided for the levy and collection of a tax of one twentieth of one per cent. on the real and personal property in the State, to raise monies to pay the expenses of said Convention; and having directed that the tax so provided for shall be paid into the Treasury of the State in reimbursement for advances made from the said Treasury, for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the Convention, the payment of its officers, members and contingent accounts: It is ordered,

First. That the assessors of taxes in the State of North Carolina shall add to the assessments already made or about to be made for the year 1868, under the authority of the laws of the State, the tax levied under the ordinance before cited, and the collectors of taxes will proceed to collect the same at the time and in the manner prescribed by the laws of the State for State taxes, and pay the same into the Treasury of the State.

Second. That the Treasurer of the State is hereby authorized and directed to pay the *per diem* and mileage of the delegates, the compensation of the officers, and the contingent expenses of the Convention, upon the warrants of the President, in the usual form.

By command of Bvt. Maj. Gen. E. R. S. CANBY:

LOUIS V. CAZIARC,
Aide-de-Camp, A. A. A. G.

NEGROES IN CONGRESS.

Apropos of the refusal of Senator Sumner to designate a negro for a clerkship within his gift in the United States Senate, we quote from the Mobile *Advertiser and Register* as follows:

"The Radicals in and out of Congress are dreadfully alarmed lest some negro member from the South slips into Congress. They do not want any of his company there. A cushioned chair in the magnificent halls of Congress, with $5,000 a year salary, and mileage sufficient to make his yearly pay $8,000, is altogether too good, in Radical opinion, for the "colored man and brother." So anxious are they on this subject, that an intelligent correspondent of the Charleston *Courier* informs us that they are prepared to buy off any black man who sets up for a candidate to Congress. Now, here is the best speculation "out" for smart and enterprising negroes who belong to "Leagues," and who do not choose to give up all the fat places to the "carpet-baggers."

Look at the figures, you ambitious colored men!

The Congress is elected for two years. The pay is $8,000 a year, or $16,000 per term. Now, if the candidate can be elected, (and he *can be*, if he will get his own people to vote for him, for lots of white folks will stand up to him in preference to any carpet-bagger, whether he be named Kellogg or Coon) he pockets $16,000 of Uncle Sam's money. If he makes a fair showing for an election and wants to sell out, then the Radicals will come down with the price. And what should the price be? Just $16,000, which it is worth to a cent, and which he could get if he went to Congress. It ought to be worth a little more, because if the black candidate made the trade he would lose all the glory and fun of being a Congressman, of dining with Sumner and sleeping with old Thad. Stevens.

Here then we offer a chance for a fortune to an ambitious colored man in the "Loyal Leagues." The correspondent referred to says:

"The National Radical Executive Committee have this matter in hand, and are using all their power in the South to keep down negro representation for the present, and till after the Presidential election. They will buy off the negro aspirants, and we learn from good authority that the funds are now being raised for that purpose. Any negro nominee for Congress can sell out his chance for a handsome fortune, because even if a single negro should take his seat in the House prior to the election of President, the Radical candidate will certainly be defeated."

From the New York World.

GRANT.

Gen. Grant accomplished everything by numbers, nothing by skill. Out of the army, he has never given the slightest evidence of abilities. In his native town nobody knew him. In civil life he made no mark. He is dull in conversation; he has no dignity of bearing; he has no geniality and popular warmth of manners to compensate for his want of dignity; he has little political knowledge; he has no capacity to enjoy works of genius; he is, in short, a cold, narrow, common-place, unattractive man, remarkable for nothing but a stolid force of will. His moral qualities are of the same vulgar stamp. He has changed his political principles from motives of ambition. He has treated his superior officer with insolence to ingratiate himself with a faction, and has tarnished his personal honor by unmanly duplicity. Nobody ever heard that Gen. Grant is a model of sobriety. Nobody ever heard of his being inside a place of worship. No instance or anecdote was ever told of his kindness to a sick or wounded soldier. He was never known to manifest a spontaneous interest in benevolent institutions. He never gave utterance to an elevated sentiment, or made an inspiring address to his soldiers. Even the generous ardor of patriotic youth, away from their homes, exposing their lives under heroic leadership, never, with the smallest tendency to hero-worship, regarded him as a man with affection. Not even his political hospitality at his approach. No State, not even that of sterling character, nominally presented him when he came in view of the nomination. Nobody ever felt that he was "a man to be loved."

Informers in New Orleans do a good business by setting up cheap distilleries, pointing them out to the detectives, and pocketing the $300 reward.