The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

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THE SENTINEL.

SENTINEL OFFICE, Jan. 11, 1868.

Hon. Robert W. Lassiter:

DEAR SIR: I learn, from the Reporter of the *Sentinel*, that you said, on the floor of the Senate Chamber, that I "had not answered your letter, fully and fairly."

In justice to myself I should state, that my letter, in answer to yours, was hastily written, and without that thought and reflection which the importance of the subject demanded. When the door-keeper of the Senate, Mr. Ball, delivered your letter, he was importunate for my reply, and he demanded it in writing. I declined giving an immediate answer, as Mr. Ball will testify.

I told Major Gales, an old Editor but a young man, in consultation, that I would answer in time for you to publish the correspondence in Monday's paper. The Major said that notice of Editors of a personal character, involving truth and honor, demanded always prompt and decisive answer and action, and, reading your letter a second time, he said it demanded a publication, and that the answer should be made *instanter*, and for Saturday's issue, which was then nearly ready for the press. Under this pressure and in great haste, I answered you.

Now, you charge me with an indirect, ambiguous, evasive answer. You are to blame, yourself, Mr. Lassiter. In your hurry to get your "squirrel and kildees" to market, you hurried me into the hasty reply. You should remember, too, the astonishment I must have felt at seeing Mr. J. T. Ball, the doorkeeper, who knocked down the holy bully Whitson, at Republican Headquarters, enter my office and announce "a note from Senator Lassiter, Sir." Such an announcement, in such a way, by such a man, was enough to unsettle the nerves of John Brown or Pilgrim Ashley. If the Court had made their attack upon Pilgrim Ashley, under the lead of the brawny armed Ball, and he had delivered a few well directed Whitson blows upon the pericranium of the pious Pilgrim, he (the Pilgrim) would have been quickly brought to a proper understanding of the power, if not of the *dignity*, of the Court.

Reading your letter lessened my agitation and alarm, but increased my astonishment and wonder, as to what you *could* mean. Knowing your loudness for fun, I thought it a prelude to some trick. Then I said, you are trying to hurry me into some further imprudent attack upon the subject matters of our important correspondence, and when I was fully committed in writing, you would employ Senator Winstead to bring action at law against me, before Judge Tourgee, for slanderous words spoken against your "squirrels and kildees."

I knew that Senator wanted no encouragement to bring the suit. You will remember, just before Judge Dick and Gov. Holden signed the ordinance of secession, the suit in Person county, in which Senator Winstead appeared for the Plaintiff, and John W. Norwood and myself for the Defendant, McKee and Blacknel were the parties.

Blacknel unintentionally, and without knowing it, scratched McKee's hand, and walked off fifty yards to get another drink. When he returned, McKee was showing his bleeding hand. Blacknel asked who hurt him! Being told he did it, he denied it, and said if he (McKee) could prove it by any *three* men, he'd give him a hundred dollars. McKee proved by several witnesses that Blacknel scratched his hand, and upon this, you remember, a suit was brought by McKee to recover the hundred dollars! We record it to the credit of your brother Winstead, that he had half a victory over us, at the trial term. The Jury not being able to agree, there was a mistrial, and the cause went over for trial at the next term. At the next term, you remember the trial, the talk, the excitement, not among the parties and the bar only, but throughout the county.

This time the father of the Bar had the victory. Winstead and McKee, crest-fallen and beaten, left the Court, as that able-bodied jurist, Judge Cloud, would say, taking nothing for their motion but a heavy bill of costs. Remembering McKee *vs.* Blacknel, I feared you might be seeking to involve me in a law suit.

Now you say it is false; you have not sold your land. I have heard, time and again, that you *have* sold your land. I believe that you have. I have written to Oxford to get a report from the Register of Deeds as to whether or not you *have* sold, and the public will then see if I have made, as you say, a "false statement."

It has rained so, to-day, that I could not get to see Simon Hayes, a Granville man, whose name I have heretofore suppressed as one of my informants—suppressed, I say, for the fear of involving him in trouble.—Now keep that to yourself until I see Simon. If he objects to having published what he did say, I can assure you that he did not mean to reflect upon you, your land, your squirrels or your kildees. He passes my office every day. The last time he passed, a little dog was following him. The dog ran after and barked at a carpet bagger. Simon bid him cease. I said not a word. Now when I see Simon, I will ask him and report to you his dog's name, for I don't know whether it be *Bull* or *Bose!*

Now it seems to me, Mr. Lassiter, that you are not the man to be offended at my editorial.

When you sold the land, with it you sold the squirrels and kildees. Of this fact I can satisfy any man, unless it be the Chair-man of your Judiciary Committee, (and I could satisfy him, if he had not brought the suit of McKee *vs.* Blacknel,) Judge Watts, Judge Henry, Judge Cloud, Judge Jones or Judge Canaon.

"Land," says Blackstone, "hath, also, its legal signification—an indefinite extent upwards as well as downwards. *Cujus est solum, ejus est usque ad cœlum* is the maxim of the law; upwards, therefore, no man may erect any building, or the like, to overhang another's land; and downwards, whatever is in a direct line, between the surface of any land and the center of the earth, belongs to the owner of the surface, as fit every day's experience in mining countries. So the word "land" includes not only the face of the earth, but every thing under it or over it. And, therefore, if a man sells his lands, he sells thereby all his mines of metal and other fossils, his woods, his waters, and his houses, as well as his fields and meadows"—and let me add, Mr. Lassiter, his *squirrels and his kildees!*

The Latin maxim, "*Cujus est solum ejus est usque ad cœlum*," I now translate, for the benefit of the Lieut. Governor, who, as a boy, was as rich in spit at Latin, as he now is at Parliamentary law. The maxim being freely rendered is: When a man has land selling as high as heaven, as deep as hell, including mines, metals, mead-ws, hosses, fields, woods, squirrels, and kildees!

Now, Senator, adieu, until I see Simon, and learn the name of his dog.

JOSIAH TURNER, Jr.

THE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

We have heretofore spoken of it as the bill as the "book" of 42 pages. It might be called "Pilgrim's Progress" under the march of the "new civilization."

Section 34 of the bill declares that

"Each City, Town and Township shall make all needful provisions and arrangements concerning habitual truants, and as concerning children between the ages of eight and eighteen years wandering about in the streets or public places having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school and growing up in ignorance, and shall also make all such by-laws respecting such children, as shall be deemed most conducive to their welfare and to good order; and there shall be annexed to such by-laws suitable penalties not exceeding twenty dollars for any one breach: *Provided*, That said by-laws shall be approved by the Superior Court sitting in any county in the State."

Under this clause can be revived all the punishments inflicted upon children at Do-the-boys Hall. Yes, and the Pilgrim may give the little urchins soup made of tallow, but he will not do that; he may flog them not exceeding twenty dollars. This clause violates clearly the Constitution, by authorizing cruel and unusual punishments. Fining a vagabond child, eight years old, twenty dollars! Old Squeers, himself, never inflicted such punishment or imposed such penalties.

In lines 53 and 54 of Section 12, the power is given "to exclude from school, and from school libraries, all books, tracts, papers, or catechisms of a sectarian character.—" This looks like speculating in theology. When a boy, we were instructed in the Catechism of the Episcopal Church, by Bishop Green. We studied the shorter Catechism under the late Dr. Alexander Wilson, a pious, learned and good man, whose death was a loss to literature and the State. We have read the Catechism used by the Methodists and Baptists, and we see no evil in them. But, good as they are, dear as they are to all Christian people in North Carolina, they may be in the way of the establishment of what *New England* calls a "liberal Christianity." We are told that Pilgrim Ashley is a Congregationalist—one of your Harriet Beecher Stowe men.

We protest against the exclusion of all catechisms from our schools, and placing the schools under a Congregationalist Yankee, of whom we know nothing, except his following the army and teaching a negro school in Wilmington.

Hear what one of the most learned of the pilgrim preachers and teachers says of himself: "I was born in a Protestant community, of Protestant parents, and was brought up, so far as I was brought up at all, a Presbyterian. At the age of twenty-one, I passed from Presbyterianism to what is sometimes called Liberal Christianity, to which I remained attached, at first under the form of Universalism, afterwards under that of Unitarianism, till the age of 41, when I had the happiness of being received into the Catholic Church. Here is the sum total of my religious changes. I no doubt experienced difficulties in defending the doctrines I professed, and I shifted my ground of defence more than once, but not the doctrines themselves. I was during many years, no doubt, a Radical and a Socialist, but both after a fashion of my own."

The conclusion of the bill does not sound like the Pilgrim, as he, we think, left to himself, would have concluded, by assuring the General Assembly of his profound and lively gratitude for their kind encouragement and uniform support of his labors in the cause of Socialism and Radicalism!

We learn that the Rev. Mr. Hiden, of Wilmington, who has been preaching, with very great acceptance to the Baptist Church, during the past week, proposes to re-visit Raleigh, at an early day, to entertain our people with some of his admirable lectures and readings. From what the Wilmington papers say of his powers, our citizens may expect a rich treat, if he comes, for he is a speaker, not only of great originality of thought and expression, but a humorist of rare gifts.

Legislature of North Carolina.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 9, 1869.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Long presented a petition from certain Physicians of Lexington, praying the General Assembly to pass some law to enable that Profession to collect accounts, by giving them such action as is provided for laborers. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Graham, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably on the following bills, viz:

Bill to compel Executors and Administrators to discharge their duties, ordered to be printed.

Bill to create a Mechanics' and Laborers' Lien.

Mr. Smith, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances reported favorably on the following bills, viz:

Bill for the relief of Jesse R. Weaver;

Resolution for the relief of T. H. Alexander, of Tyrrell;

Resolution for the relief of A. J. Johnson, of Onslow.

Mr. Brogden, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the bill for the relief of the Sheriffs of Pasquotank and New Hanover.

Mr. Moore, of Carteret, from the Committee on Corporations, reported favorably on the bill to incorporate Beaufort Harbor Steam Ferry Company.

Mr. Barnes, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a substitute for the bill to allow Executors and Administrators to sell for cash. Placed on Calendar.

Mr. Graham, from the Committee on the Judiciary, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of a bill requiring Executors of deceased persons to give bond, this provision having been incorporated in another bill. Concurred in.

Mr. Graham, from the Committee on the Judiciary, asked to be discharged from the consideration of the bill concerning the listing of taxes in the several townships. Concurred in, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

SUNDRY BILLS.

By Mr. Shoffner: On a bill to establish the line between the counties of Alamance and Chatham, and between Alamance and Guilford.

By Mr. Robbins: Of a bill to enable plaintiffs to bring suit in the Superior Courts in their own counties, instead of the counties of Defendants, as now required.

By Mr. Bellamy: Of a bill to prevent obstructions to the passage of fish up the waters of Town Creek.

By Mr. Rich: Of a bill to construct a Branch Railroad from the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, to run through Onslow, Greene and other counties.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Rich: A bill to establish a Reform School for juvenile offenders. [This bill authorizes the Governor to appoint the Board of Commissioners, annually. Chairman of the Board to receive a stated salary; his Supervisors to receive $3 per diem and expenses. Said Board, with the assistance of the Superintendent of Public Works, are authorized to purchase a tract of land, in the county of Wake, not to exceed 200 acres, and to erect suitable buildings.] Referred to the Committee on Penal Institutions.

By Mr. Shoffner: A bill for the relief of Executors and Administrators, who have acted in their representative capacity. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Rich: A bill requiring the Officers of the Railroads, in which the State is interested, to make full and complete returns of the operations of said Road. Referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Martindale: A bill to change the time for holding the Courts in the counties of Hyde and Martin. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THIRD READING OF BILLS.

Bill to establish a Ferry across Neuse River, passed.

Bill to incorporate Lebanon Lodge, in the County of Columbus, passed.

Bill to amend an act concerning the government of Counties:

On motion of Mr. Barrow, it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Bill to incorporate the Woodlawn Manufacturing Company:

On motion of Mr. Respass, it was postponed until Thursday next.

Bill to incorporate the Madrine Mining Company. Postponed until the 18th of January, on motion of Mr. Welker.

Bill to incorporate Carolina Lodge, at Aspenville. On motion of Mr. Respass, postponed until the 18th of January.

Bill to incorporate Mt. Olive Lodge, in the county of Wayne, passed.

Bill to incorporate Kalina Lodge, at Wadesboro, passed.

Bill to incorporate the Hebrew Benevolent Association at Charlotte, passed.

On motion of Mr Forkner, the rules were suspended, and the resolutions authorizing the Treasurer to pay the necessary expenses of witnesses summoned before the committee on Corruption was taken up and passed its second reading.

Mr. Rich gave notice that he should introduce a substitute for the resolution to allow the witnesses the same pay as allowed by the Federal Court.

Mr. Davis presented a report from the Commissioners of Montgomery county.—Referred to the Committee on Townships.

A message was received from the House, transmitting the following resolutions:

Resolution proposing to raise a Joint Committee to investigate the purchase of the tract of land for the Penitentiary site;

Resolution requesting the Representatives in Congress from this State to use their influence to secure an appropriation to improve the Cape Fear navigation.—Adopted.

RATIFIED.

Bill to amend the charter of the city of Wilmington.

Resolution in favor of the Sheriff of Tyrrell county.

On motion of Mr. Bellamy, the Senate adjourned until Monday, 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, Jan. 9, 1869.

House called to order at 11 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Long, of Chatham, of the House.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Hinsdale, from the Committee on Enrolment, reported the bill to amend the charter of the city of Wilmington as being correctly enrolled. It was signed by the Speaker and transmitted to the Senate.

Leaves of absence were granted to Messrs. French and Renfrow.

Mr. Downing presented a memorial from his county Commissioners. Referred.

RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS.

By Mr. Ingram: A resolution that, from and after Monday next, this House shall hold eight sessions. Lies over.

By Mr. Malone: A bill declaring it a misdemeanor for county officers to speculate in county claims. Referred.

By Mr. Holmes: A bill to amend title 20, Civil Code of Procedure, and to satisfy writs of executions granted by Justices of the Peace in certain cases.

Mr. H said that he had called the attention of the Code Commissioners to this matter, and, at his request, they had reported this bill. They thought with him, that the bill should pass at once; therefore, he moved to suspend the rules and put the bill on its several readings.

Mr. Vest opposed the suspension of the rules. He thought no action on such a bill should be postponed until the decision is had with the Supreme Court decides in regard to the Homestead.

Mr. Holmes again urged the importance of the bill. He thought something should be done at once, to prevent the sacrifice of the property of the people. Their property was being levied upon and sold every day, for a mere song, &c.

The question recurred upon the motion to suspend the rules, which, being put to a vote, was carried, and the bill passed its several readings when

Mr. Estes moved to put said bill to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report on Tuesday next.

Mr. Malone said: An explanation of the bill, that it was merely a copy of the old stay law in regard to this matter.

After a lengthy debate, the motion to refer prevailed by a vote of yeas 71, nays 40.

By Mr. Ingram: A bill to authorize the Commissioners of Anson county to levy a special tax. Referred.

By Mr. McCaul: A bill for the relief of W. A. Gentry. Should be stricken out.

By Mr. Rountree: A bill to amend the County Commissioners Act of 1868, to release persons from the payment of Double taxes. Referred.

A message from the Senate was received, announcing the passage of the following bills, to wit:

Resolution asking our Representatives and Senators in Congress to use their influence to have all the old mail routes re-opened and revived;

Bill amending the charter of the city of Wilmington;

Resolution instructing the Code Commissioners to prepare and report compilation of charters, acts, &c.

They were ordered to be enrolled.

Mr. Estes presented the claim of Hardie Reynolds, which was referred to the appropriate Committee.

By Mr. Durham: A bill to amend an ordinance, entitled "an ordinance to change the jurisdiction of the Courts and rules of pleading therein, and ordinances and acts amendatory thereof." Referred.

By Mr. Robinson: A resolution giving the Superintendent of Public Instruction the West room, third story, of the Capitol, lately occupied by the Supreme Court.

On motion, the rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr Estes, the rules were suspended and House bill No. 37 was taken up, ordered to be reprinted, and referred to the Finance Committee and made the special order for Wednesday next, at 12 o'clock.

On motion of the same, the Revenue bill was made the special order for Wednesday next, at 1 o'clock, and every day thereafter, until disposed of.

CALENDAR.

The bill, incorporating Jonesville Lodge, No. 227, A. Y. M., in Yadkin County, was taken up and passed its several readings.

Senate bill appropriating $30,000 to the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum, was next reached and passed its third reading, by a vote of yeas 89, Nays 1.

House bill, No. 143, incorporating Lee Lodge, No. 252, A. Y. M., at Taylorsville, Alexander County, was taken up and passed its several readings.

Mr. Gunter's bill to prevent the distillation of grain, (unfavorably reported upon by Committee,) was taken up, and, on motion, the report of the Committee was concurred in.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the House then adjourned until Monday next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 11, 1869.

The Senate was called to order at 11 o'clock.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Lindsay, from the Committee on Claims, reported favorably on a claim against the Insane Asylum, in favor of Jas. H. Moore and Jno. Cas well, for $173.

Mr. Beasley presented a report from the Commissioners of Bertie county. Referred to the Committee on Townships.

NOTICE OF BILLS.

By Mr. Hayes: Of a bill in favor of Reuben King, late Sheriff of Robeson, which said sheriff settles with the County Treasurer.

By Mr. White: Of a bill providing for the registration of conveyances.

By Mr. Colgrove: Of a bill to charter a branch Road from some point on the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad to some point on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Bellamy: A bill to prevent obstruction to the passage of fish up Town Creek. Referred to the Committee on Fish eries.

By Mr. Cook: A bill to establish a standard weight of fish. Referred to the Committee on Fisheries.

THIRD READING OF BILLS.

Bill to incorporate Coble Lodge passed.

Bill to incorporate Eureka Lodge passed.

Bill to incorporate Beaver Dam Lodge passed.

Bill to incorporate Dennis' Rock Lodge passed.

Bill making an appropriation of $3,600 to provide for securing the Insane Asylum against fire passed.

Bill to prevent the felling of timber, or otherwise obstructing Rocafish Creek, passed.

Bill to amend an act concerning the government of counties, ratified the 14th day of August, 1868, after some debate, was amended, on motion of Mr. Love, and passed.

Resolution authorizing the Treasurer of the State to pay the necessary expenses incurred by witnesses summoned before the Committee on Bribery:

On motion of Mr. Sweet, it was amended by confining the travelling expenses within the limits of the State.

Mr Rich offered a substitute, which provides that said witnesses shall receive the same pay as provided for witnesses summoned before the Court House of the United States, and if said witnesses are not material, and reside with in the limits of the State, they shall receive no compensation whatever.

Mr. Sweet said that there were three objections to the substitute which ought to convince Senators that it should not be adopted; 1st. It provides that only material witnesses shall receive any compensation whatever; 2ndly. It provides that those witnesses who may reside out of the State, shall receive no pay; after having been compelled to attend here, they are regularly compelled to defray their own expenses and, thirdly, he thought the provision entirely inadequate to defray the necessary and actual expenses. He hoped the substitute would be voted down.

Mr Richard he thought the Senator had had enough experience in conferring great powers into the hands of Committees, and cited as an instance, the powers granted the Committee for Penitentiary. He was opposed to giving this Committee power to summon witnesses from any place they may choose, and probably, when they may arrive, they may know nothing. With the power they can saddle a debt of $100,000 on the State, without accomplishing anything, and the Democratic party will say "Republicans are responsible for it, turn them out and put Democrats in their places." He hoped the substitute would be adopted.

Mr. Holtzins said that there were some portions of the substitute that he was in favor of. The pay allowed witnesses summoned by the Federal Court he thought sufficient. He was in favor of conducting the investigation as economically as possible, but he was opposed to the word "mileage." It should be stricken out. To say that it depends on what manner a witness shall testify, whether he shall receive pay or not, is a dangerous precedent to be set.

Mr Graham said he did not know what amount was allowed witnesses summoned to appear at the Federal Court, but he was of the impression that the resolution, offered by Senator Sweet, was much the cheapest plan. The Legislature having established this Committee, it is but just and right that persons, who are compelled to leave their business to appear before this Committee, should have their actual and necessary expenses paid.

Mr Blythe said it occurred to his mind that considerable expense could be avoided by securing written affidavits, thereby saving the expense of bringing witnesses a great distance at an expense to the State.—The charge has been made on this floor by a Senator, that he could put his finger on the man who had sold his vote for dollars and cents. If he can do this, why go to the expense of summoning so many witnesses? Why don't the Senator put his finger on the man now?

Mr. Sweet said *he could prove what he had asserted in five minutes*, but the Committee desired to make but one report and that should be full and satisfactory, and it was the intention of the Committee, if possible, to secure additional facts, which they expected to do.

Mr Barrow said he had always been opposed to smelling Committees, and should have voted against the proposition to raise this Committee, but he asked at the time who made the charges of corruption and a respectable Senator on this floor had stated that he knew the fact that dollars and cents had been paid for votes. Now, sir, the honor of the General Assembly is at stake until this charge is cleared up, and if the expenses of the investigation should reach $500,000, it should be granted and nothing should be done which would even have the appearance of trammeling the Committee in this investigation. He regretted that the substitute had been offered, and hoped it would be withdrawn, in order to allow the Committee to pursue their own course. It was right and just that the witnesses summoned should have their necessary expenses paid.

On motion of Mr Cook, the previous question was called.

Mr. Rich's substitute was lost by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Bellamy, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eppes, colored, Gaither, colored, Hayes, Lassiter, Martindale, Moore, of Carteret, Purdie, Rich, Richardson, Smith, and Stephens.—17.

NAYS—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Beasley, Bell, Beeman, Eaves, Forkner, Graham, Harrington, Legg, Lindsay, Long, Love, Melchor, Osborne, Respass, Robbins, Scott, Shoffner, Sweet, Welker, White, Wynne, Winstead and Wilson—25.

And Mr. Sweet's resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Barrow, Barnes, Beasley, Bell, Beeman, Eaves, Etheridge, Forkner, Graham, Lassiter, Lindsay, Long, Love, Melchor, Osborne, Purdie, Respass, Robbins, Scott, Shoffner, Sweet, Welker, White, Wynne, Winstead and Wilson—26.

NAYS—Messrs. Bellamy, Blythe, Colgrove, Cook, Davis, Eppes, colored, Galloway, colored, Hayes, Harrington, Moore, of Carteret, Rich, Richardson, Smith and Stephens.—14.

CALENDAR.

The resolution proposing to raise a Joint Committee to investigate the facts connected with the present system of mailing of the North Carolina Railroad, after some discussion, on motion of Mr. Welker, was postponed until Thursday next, at twelve o'clock.

Bill to transfer the cases on the docket of the Criminal Court of Craven to the Superior Court passed its second reading.

A message was received from the House, transmitting a resolution providing for an office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on the third floor of the Capitol.

On motion of Mr. Barrow, the rules were suspended and the resolution passed its several readings.—Messrs. Bellamy, Hayes, Richardson, Stephens voting in the negative. Mr. Smith was excused from voting of his request.

Leave of absence was granted Messrs. Cook, Davis and Rich.

The Senate branch of the Committee to investigate the affairs of the Banks, in which the State has stock, are Messrs Respass and Hayes.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, Jan. 11, 1869.

House called to order at 11 o'clock.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Long, of Chatham, of the House.

Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Mr. Yost presented the report of the commissioners of his county. Referred.

Mr. Hendricks presented a memorial from the citizens of Surry county. Referred.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Mr. Dixon, from the Committee on Claims, reported favorably upon the bill in favor of F. M. Putnam. Placed on Calendar.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Effington: A resolution that all bills and resolutions of this House be printed in small pica type, with great printer lines between each line, and printed on flat-cap. Lies over.

By Mr. Blair: A joint resolution in regard to bills submitted by the Code Commission. Lies over.

BILLS.

By Mr. Sinclair: A bill in regard to the payment of debts. [This bill provides that every claim to recover money shall be barred in two years after the cause of action accrues, and no promise shall revive the same or take it out of the statute, unless it be made in writing with a specific promise to pay a specified sum and made after the passage of this act.] Referred.

By Mr. Candler: A bill to change the time of holding Courts in the 12th Judicial District. Referred.

J. H. Harris, (col'rd,) from the Committee on Proposition and Grievances, reported a bill in favor of Mark Williams, of Wake County. Lies over.

CALENDAR.

On motion of Mr. Blair, the rules were suspended, and his resolution in regard to bills submitted by the Code Commissioners was taken up and adopted.

House bill No. 75, in relation to Lake Phelps was next reached and passed its second reading.

The bill incorporating the Jonesville Lodge, No. 227, A. Y. M., in Yadkin county, was taken up, and passed its 3rd. reading.

House bill No. 143, incorporating Lee Lodge, A. Y. M., at Taylorsville, Alexander county, was taken up and passed its third reading.

The bill incorporating Atlantic Lodge, No. 238, Currituck Co., was next reached and passed its second reading.

House bill No. 75, in regard to modifying the stay law, (unfavorably reported upon by Committee:)

Mr. Seymour moved that the report be concurred in.

Mr. Effington moved to postpone the bill, until it could be printed.

This elicited quite a spicy debate.

Mr. Hudnett hoped the report of the Committee would be concurred in. He opposed, as a principle, all stay laws, but he thought, that now, as the law was in force, it would be disastrous to repeal it. He wanted it to go out that the State would neither increase or increase the operations of that law. He knew that some were building now on the hope that this Assembly would stay debts contracted since the close of the war.

J. H. Harris, of Wake, (colored,) moved to postpone for two weeks.

Mr. Stilley argued for sometime in favor of the postponement. Mr. Ferebee moved the *indefinite* postponement of the bill, and upon that motion called the yeas and nays. The call was sustained.

Pending further action in this matter, the hour for the special order, to-wit: The several Railroad bills reported by the Internal Improvement Committee, arrived.

Mr Laffin then moved to postpone the consideration of them until Tuesday, the 19th.

Mr. Ellis moved to indefinitely postpone all those bills.

Mr. E. entered into an able argument in relation to the various Railroad measures that are now pending, which will be published shortly.

Mr E had been speaking a short time, when Mr. Downing arose to a point of order, that the motion to indefinitely postpone was not debatable.

The Speaker refused to sustain the point, when

Mr. Downing appealed from the decision, and the House sustained the Chair.

Mr. Ellis resumed, and in the course of his remarks, said that the Penitentiary affair had swindled the State out of $100,000, and was proceeding with his speech, when—

Mr. Downing came to his seat and asked if the gentleman used that language in regard to the Penitentiary matter. He was a member of that Committee.

Mr. Ellis replied that such was his opinion.

Mr. Downing: Then, sir, I call the gentleman to order. He has no right to reflect upon the character of any member.

Mr Ellis said he mentioned this affair, merely as one of the reasons of his voting against these Railroad measures.

Mr. Ellis continued, when,

Mr Laffin arose to a point of order, saying that under the ruling of the Chair, the motion to indefinitely postpone was debatable only to a limited extent. Was not this an elaborate argument?

The Chair stated that the gentleman from Catawba (Mr. Ellis,) was only giving his reasons why he opposed these Railroad measures, and the debate would only fairly begin when the gentleman was replied to. As yet there was no debate, &c.

Mr Ellis then concluded without further interruption.

Mr Durham then arose to a point of order in regard to both the motion of Mr Eaves to indefinitely postpone, and Mr. Laffin's motion to postpone until the 19th inst., saying that each of the bills must be read, separately, at least by their titles, before such motions could be made. As yet, none of them were properly before the House.

The Chair sustained the point.

The Clerk then read the title of the bill to consolidate the North Carolina Railroad and the Atlantic and N. C. Railroad.

Mr. Ellis renewed his motion to indefinitely postpone, and Mr. Laffin his motion to postpone until Tuesday, the 19th inst., and make it the special order at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Ellis' motion was rejected and Mr. Laffin's adopted.

The following bills went through the same course and were disposed of in a like manner, to-wit:

Bill to amend the charter of the Oxford branch of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad;

Bills to amend the charters of the Atlantic, Ohio and Tennessee Railroad and the Williamston and Tarboro' Railroad;

Bill to amend the charter of the Western N. C. R. R., and the bill to separate and divide the Eastern and Western divisions of the Wilmington and Charlotte Railroad.

The special order for this hour, "The bill to incorporate the North Carolina Dental Association," was, on motion, postponed for two weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The bill to modify the stay law was resumed.

[While the Clerk was looking for the bill, Mr. Welch arose to a question of privilege. He said that, in looking over the certified copy of the bill recently passed by this Legislature to re-enact and confirm the issue of bonds to certain Railroad Companies in the Secretary of State's office, he found a mistake had been made in regard to the specific tax to be levied for the payment of the interest on the bonds appropriated to the Western N. C. R. R. The bill was made to levy a tax of 1.20 of one per cent. on the taxable property of the State, while it should be 1.8 of one per cent., as it appears in the original bill. He moved that the Committee on Enrollment proceed to the Secretary's office and make the necessary correction. Carried.]

The Clerk then read the bill modifying the stay law.

The question recurred upon Mr. Ferebee's motion to postpone indefinitely.

The yeas and nays having been previously ordered, the roll was called and the motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Allison, Armstrong, Ashworth, Banner, Blair, Boddie, Bowman, Candler, Cherry, colored, Clayton, of Transylvania, Davidson, Downing, Ellis, Ferebee, Grainger, Gibson, Gilbert, Graham, Green, Grier, Gunter, Hawkins, Hendricks, Hicks, High, Hinnant, Hodnett, Hoffman, Horney, Humphries, Jarvis, Justus, of Henderson, Justice, of Rutherford, Leary, colored, Long, of Chatham, Long, of Richmond, Malone, McMillan, Medenhall, Moring, Moore, Nicholson, Pearson, Proctor, Pruitt, Robinson, Seymour, Shavis, Siegrist, Sinclair, Smith, of Wayne, Stanton, Stevens, Stilley, Tate, colored, Thompson, Vystal, Yost, Waddup, Welch, Williams, of Harnett, Williams, of Sampson, and Wiswall—63.

NAYS—Messrs. Ames, Carson, Cawthorn, colored, Dixon, Estes, Foster, Harris, of Wake, colored, Hayes, colored, Hudgings, Ingram, Kelly, of Moore, Matheson, Morris, colored, Robbins, colored, Simonds, Snipes, Sweat, colored, Wilkie, and Williamson—19.

A message was received from the Senate, transmitting the several House bills and resolutions which had passed that body to-day. They were ordered to be enrolled.

By consent, Mr. —— introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings to provide the Auditor with a suitable office.

On motion the rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

On motion the House then adjourned until to-morrow, 11 o'clock.

[From the Baltimore Sun.]

A NEW COMPASS.

Since the introduction of iron vessels, a great difficulty has been experienced by navigators in avoiding the local attractions which have made the compass to some extent uncertain and insecure, and the interest of the public has been awakened to the necessity of providing some remedies against the evil. Among others who have turned their attention to the subject is Mr. Samuel Custer, of Roanoke county, Virginia, who is the inventor of a compass which is styled an automatic registering marine compass, and which he claims to fulfil the grand desideratum of navigation, in furnishing a needle which does not deviate from the magnetic meridian under the influence of local attraction, whether that attraction results from iron in the construction of the ship, or iron in the cargo, or any other source of local attraction. It professes to do four things: 1. To show the presence of a local attraction, (which no other compass does;) 2. To show the direction of the local attraction; 3. To show the extent of the local attraction; 4. To indicate, under all circumstances, the magnetic meridian as truly as does any other compass when under no local influence. This compass is entirely different in construction from any other compass hitherto used. If is patented, and therefore a slight description of its construction can be given, viz:

It consists of three systems of magnetized needles, arranged in different horizontal planes. The upper system is composed of two magnetized bars, connected with a graduated card, like an ordinary compass. The card needles are attached to an axle.—The two lower systems of magnetized needles are attached also to an axle—both to the same axle. The lowest system consists of about a dozen magnetized bars, arranged (with similar piles) in the same direction, and attached to a perpendicular (graduated) rod. The middle system of needles consists of two magnetized bars attached also to this perpendicular rod, and slides up and down this rod. When placed on board of an iron ship, for example, the middle system of needles is adjusted at a point on the rod which repels the upper needle back to the magnetic meridian. It is only necessary to adjust this middle system of needle with reference to the local attraction existing on board of that particular ship. No change in the direction of the ship makes any difference in the pointing of the upper needle, whilst the lower systems—which have a graduated card attached to the upper end of the axle to which they are attached, which card indicates the movements of the two lower systems of needles—traverse like an ordinary compass.

The compass and its operations were exhibited yesterday to an excursion of a number of gentlemen down the river in the United States revenue cutter James Guthrie, Capt. Hunter. The compass was subjected to tests which seemed to those present to establish what has been claimed for it. It is said to be the intention of the inventor to seek a trial of it by the United States naval authorities at Annapolis, which would seem to be the most satisfactory means of demonstrating its merits. The object which it claims to have accomplished is a great desideratum, second only in importance to the invention of the compass itself.

THE SIAMESE TWINS.—The Liverpool papers of the 23d ultimo announce the arrival there of the Siamese twins. The Liverpool *Post* says:

"After consulting with the most eminent surgeons of Edinburgh, they propose making a tour of the United Kingdom for the purpose of retrieving their fortunes, having lost all their property through the late American war, and will then proceed to Paris to have a surgical operation performed, which they have at last made up their minds to submit to."