

The Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

VOL. 3.

RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1869.

NO. 100

THE SENTINEL.

THE STATE DEBT—OUR BONDS, &c.

Within twelve months, the Legislature of this State has increased the public debt about twenty million dollars, and the bonds of the State for this sum will soon be thrown upon the market. Indeed, it is rumored that eight or nine millions of bonds have already been issued since the adjournment of the Legislature. These bonds sell for less than fifty cents in the dollar, and yet they are being issued to the amount of millions! Can any people stand this state of things? What do the people of the State mean? Are they dead and dumb? Or are they entirely spiritless, and have they given way to absolute despair? Do they intend to let the profligate, irresponsible men in power thus enslave the State with debt and then squander it? We trust not. We trust the manhood and gallant spirit of North Carolina is not yet gone and dead. We hope there is life in the old land yet, and that those who once gave her character and standing and reputation abroad and everywhere, for sterling integrity and honor, will come to her rescue in this hour of her calamity.

Now we undertake to say that this matter of the bonds and this increased debt, is one that ought to be looked into at once. The people need not expect those in office to do so; they are against the people and the State, they are for this increased debt and for selling these bonds at any price. We know this by their conduct, and the people ought to go to work in their own behalf and that of the State. The people of the State without regard to party or color, ought to meet in Convention at the earliest possible day and determine what remedy may be adopted, and take such steps to save themselves and the credit and honor of the State as may be proper and lawful. Something ought to be done and that speedily. It is said that most of the appropriations are in violation of the Constitution. Let this be inquired into at once. But who will do so? Who will pay the expense of testing the matter? What one or two men are able to do so? Let the people, we repeat, irrespective of party or color, meet in Convention and see what may be done. Let them go into Convention and resolve that the honest, legitimate debt shall be paid, and that the dishonest debt shall not be paid, and take steps to save the credit and honor of the people and State. Such a step, in our judgment, would do more to give credit to our bonds than any other that could be adopted now. It would show that our people are awake and thinking of their responsibility to our public creditors, and the line between the honest debt and the dishonest debt may be kept before the country. This is not a matter in which a few men are concerned; every man who pays taxes and expects to live in the State and feels an interest in her prosperity and good name, is interested in it, and it is the duty of such men to look after it, no matter what his political principles may be, if he is honest and patriotic—do let the people, not a party, talk and think about it and take action, too.

Let no one hesitate in his course in this matter on account of what may be hypocritically called the *solena* action of the Legislature. There is no *solena* action of the Legislature, and, especially, in regard to the appropriations made. We do not say that the whole Legislature is corrupt, we do not so believe, but that a large portion of the Legislature are corrupt and extending ignorance, and that illot measures were used to secure appropriations to Railroad enterprises. We undertake to say, that the Railroad appropriations made by the present Legislature cost the State *ten and hundreds of thousands of dollars*, and these sums were used, in great part, to corrupt that body. We know what we say, and if any one feels himself aggrieved let him sue or indict us for libel, and we will make our words good in any Court of Justice. We defy any man who feels himself aggrieved to give us the opportunity to prove the charge we here make.

We intend to ventilate the action of this Legislature and the irresponsible men in power, and we intend to do it with firmness and without regard to consequences, and we cannot be deterred by malice or threats of open violence or assassination. In this we think we ought to be sustained by all good men, but we are going to do it.

CONSOLIDATION.—A meeting of the Stockholders of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company, and of the Columbia and Augusta Railroad Company, is called to be held in Columbia, S. C., on the 7th prox., to consider terms of consolidation of the two roads.

THE NEW REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.—The new Republican State Convention has been nominated Governor, Merrill for re-election, M. M. Wilson for Lieutenant Governor, and Judge Dillon for Judge of the Supreme Court.

FRIDAY EVENING.—A young man named Millard Demore, it is reported, was brought to death on Friday evening, June 5, at Coffin & Noyes's new establishment in Newport, N. B. He was standing in bed and overpowered by a lamp, setting fire to the bed clothes.

ANDREW JOHNSON.—On a recent attack of cholera at Gallatin, Tenn., on Monday night, his speech had to be postponed. He was well enough the next day to appear, and made a long and vigorous address. A very large audience was present, many being negroes.

FEATHERS.—The price of feathers at T. T. T. is now \$7 per pound in Cash County, Ky.

Only one company of U. S. Troops (white) are now stationed in Goldsboro.

SUPREME COURT AND THE "SOL- KNN PROTEST"

The great excitement of the city is the rule of the Supreme Court upon the bar for contempt in signing the protest against their political and social action.

The Court met at 9 o'clock, and the case of the protestants in contempt being called, Judge Fowle arose stating that, together with Judges Battle, Barnes, Person and Mr. W. N. H. Smith, represented the respondent. Judge Fowle was stopped by the Chief Justice who stated that no mediation of the bar would be received, Judge Fowle replied that an answer had been prepared, which was in the hands of Mr. Smith, who was not yet in Court.

The Chief Justice then ordered the following to be read: "In the matter of B. F. Moore, Esq., Attorney, &c.—As there seems to be some misapprehension in regard to the matter, which the Court is about to rule upon, it is proper to say the rule was made on the ground, that every member of the bar, whose name purports to be signed to the paper, referred to in the rule, did sign it and approve of its publication.

We are informed that there are about 600 members of the bar, and the Clerk reports that the names of 110 purport to be signed to the paper, one fifth of the whole number. He also reports that Willis H. Bagley, Esq., has filed a statement to the effect that he did not sign the paper or authorize any person to do so for him, and that he did not approve of its publication. The rule is therefore discharged as to said Willis Bagley, and it will be discharged as to all others who may file, with the Clerk, a like statement.

The Clerk further reports that 101 members of the bar had an appearance at the last term of the Court. Of these, 76 did not sign the paper. One name of 25 purport to be signed to it, one-fourth of the whole number.

For the purpose of showing that the Justices have no disposition to carry matters to an extreme, or to do more than what is, in their opinion, necessary to preserve the respect due to the Court, by its officers, and to prevent its usefulness from being impaired, they can do no less, without betraying the confidence reposed in them by the people of the State. And for the sake of avoiding useless costs, the Clerk was instructed to issue copies only to Mr. Moore, Mr. Bragg, and Mr. Haywood, and in their instance, with the hope that in their action in respect to others, might be more judiciously, otherwise copies will issue, and delay given to them.

The matter of B. F. Moore, Esq., will now be taken up. The Clerk will read the rule and the paper referred to in it.

The case was then deferred until 11 o'clock A. M., at which time the Chief Justice said that each respondent would be required to answer severally. Mr. Moore being first called. Case continued until 9 A. M. to morrow.

THE BENCH AND THE BAR.

The Charlotte *Times*, one of the most cautious, moderate and practically conducted papers in the State, has published the following in its issue of the 12th inst. in regard to the present difficulties between the Supreme Court Bench and the protesting members of the bar:

ATTORNEYS were called for the purpose of taking possession of a carriage upon the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, but the proprietors refused to do so, and the carriage was taken to the depot. The proprietors of the carriage were taken to the depot, and the proprietors of the carriage were taken to the depot.

From what we can glean from the statement accounts the difficulty originated as the following extract from the *Petersburg Index* will explain:

There is an understanding on Friday evening's *State Journal* which is a business and strictly business in nature. It is a business and strictly business in nature. It is a business and strictly business in nature.

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