

VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

Saturday, November 7.

The President communicated to the Convention the following letter of resignation from Gen. Taylor.

Sir: Many of my constituents have instructed me to support the proposed plan of apportioning representation with regard to white population and taxation combined; and I have reason to believe that a large majority of the people of my district concur in the desire expressed in those instructions.

It is due to myself to prevent all misconception of my official conduct. I was elected to this body with the full knowledge of my constituents that I favored reforms in the existing Constitution. I came here untrammelled by instructions, and restrained by no pledges. I am unfortunate, indeed, in this, that my opinion does not harmonize with those of my constituents; but I have disappointed no expectation, violated no engagement, violated no trust.

Having always believed and maintained that the nature of representative government mainly depends on the principle, that representation is only a means whereby the deliberate will of the constituent body is to be expressed and effectuated—no act of mine shall ever impair the principle. Had my constituents instructed me on some matter of mere expediency, or required me to perform any thing which was possible, it would have afforded me pleasure to testify with how cheerful a submission I would give effect to their opinions rather than my own. But they ask what is impossible. They require me to violate my conscience, and the sentiments of filial devotion which I owe to my country.

Behaving as I conscientiously do, that the measure I am instructed to support is hostile to free institutions, destructive of equality of right among our citizens, and inductive of a principle that a minority on account of superior wealth shall rule the majority of the qualified voters of the State, I should be guilty of moral treason against the liberty of my native land, if I allowed myself to be the instrument by which this measure is effected. In this state of mind, by executing the wishes of my constituents, I should justly subject myself to their reproaches for my baseness; and to the more unscrupulous reproaches of my own conscience.

One mode only remains to reconcile my duty to my constituents, to the higher and more sacred duties I owe to myself and my country. It is to resign the office which they conferred on me, and thereby to enable my colleagues to select a successor, who, more fortunate than I am may give effect to their wishes without violating any sentiment of private or public duty.

Allow me to ask that this letter may have a place on your journal. Forgive the feeling which prompts this request. If any eye shall hereafter read my humble name, I wish the same page which records my retirement from your service, may also record the motive (mistaken, but not unworthy,) which occasioned it.

I leave the Convention, sir, with sentiments of profound respect and veneration for the weight of talent which embelle and advance it.

My heart will attend your councils, and I shall not cease to supplicate the Almighty that he may so guide and conduct them that Virginia may be regenerated, united, free, and happy.

I have the honor to be, your obt. s. sv't.

ROBERT B. TAYLOR.

Jas. Monroe, Esq. President.

On motion of Mr. Mercer the letter was laid on the table.

Mr. Tazewell then stated, that, at the request of his remaining colleagues, he informed the Committee that they had agreed on Hugh Blair Grigg-by, of Norfolk as a successor to Gen. Taylor, who would be notified of his election.

The Convention then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Mr. Powell in the Chair.

Mr. Scott, Mr. Green, and Mr. Moore, made a few remarks in explanation and reply to observations in which they had been misunderstood.

The question being then about to be put, Mr. Leigh moved that the committee rise in order to give an opportunity of addressing the Committee to his colleague (Governor Giles,) who wished to express his views, but was prevented from doing it at this time by indisposition, aggravated by the state of the weather. He expressed his readiness to withdraw the motion if any gentleman desired to address the committee.

After a few remarks from Mr. Doddridge, who expressed a belief that other gentlemen intended to explain their views; and if so, the hope that they would occupy the floor, without suffering the day to be lost, the motion that the committee rise was carried in the affirmative. The committee then rose and the Convention adjourned till Monday.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

On the day following the meeting of the Georgia Legislature, the returns from the several counties for the election of Governor, were opened, and published in presence of both Houses, when it appeared that George R. Gilmer, after deducting the informal returns from fourteen counties, had a majority of more than fourteen thousand votes over his opponent Joel Crawford, and was declared duly elected. Before taking the oath of office, and the ceremonies of the inauguration, Mr. Gilmer rose and addressed the Assembly in the following terms:

Fellow Citizens:—I am unable to convey to you in appropriate language, the deep sense of gratitude I feel for the high honor you have conferred upon me. But for the favorable opinion which you have rewarded every exertion which I have hitherto made to serve the State, my ambition could never have aspired to the more distinguished office in your gift. The manner in which you have bestowed it, humbles me with the sense of my own unworthiness. I know that I shall stand in need of your most liberal support, in discharging the duties of my station. I am very sensible of the weight of this responsibility. Having however no selfish wish

to gratify, and every motive to devote myself wholly to the service of the State, I cannot but hope, that my want of ability, may be in some measure, supplied, by faithful labor and correct intentions.

Permit me to express the desire, that the violent state of party excitement, arising from the quarrels or ambition of individuals, which has so long distracted the councils of the State, and embittered the feelings of its people, may soon subside altogether; and that our divisions may hereafter be confined to differences of opinion in relation to the principles and policy of the government. Surely the energies of our people ought not to be wasted in contests about men or office, when our right of sovereignty over the persons and soil within the limits of the State, is assailed from every part of the Union; & when the General Government has assumed the power of controlling and directing the labor of the people and expending their wealth according to its own will. The integrity of the Constitution, the continuance of the Union, and the preservation of liberty, may essentially depend, upon our firm and united defence of the rights of the State, and the interest of the people, against federal encroachment.

I have but a word to say about the administration of the Executive Department. I consider myself the Chief Magistrate of the State, and not of a party. In all the appointments which it becomes my duty to make, I shall attempt to be governed by no other consideration than the public service. It will be my endeavor to give employment, to integrity, talents, and industry. I will not know the preference expressed by any citizen for my highly respectable opponent in the late election. I shall attempt to do the utmost of my ability to discharge all the duties of my office. The reward hoped for, is the approbation of the people and my own conscience.

IMPEACHMENT OF JUDGE WILLIAMS.

By the last Western mail, we learn that the House of Representatives of Tennessee have adopted the resolutions reported by their committee, charging Judge Williams with high crimes and misdemeanors, and have appointed a committee of seven to conduct his impeachment before the Senate. Two circumstances connected with these incipient proceedings, strike us as somewhat extraordinary. The first is, that the House should have refused to listen to the evidence on which it was impossible they could know whether those charges were true or false. The second is, that they should shut the door in the face of Judge Williams, and refuse to receive his Memorial! This last act is in direct violation of the constitutional right of petition, & conflicts with the precedent established in the case of Judge Chase before the Senate of the U. States. We do not intend to pronounce judgment on the motives which dictated this illiberal, harsh and unprecedented course of procedure; but we think it denotes a "foregone conclusion" to condemn the accused.

Judge Williams has published his Memorial, in which he repels the imputation of guilt; traces his impeachment to his personal enemies in and out of the Legislature, whom he calls a "set of reckless slanderers," capable of the most vile and mischievous arts; and declares that their allegations cannot be sustained by the testimony of credible witnesses; and avers that the committee which reported the resolutions on which the impeachment is predicated, was composed of his bitterest enemies, who put the charges against him in the attitude best calculated to injure his character and prejudice his cause. Such men, animated by such motives, may, as Judge Williams says, detect, in twenty years public life, "errors, and indiscretions and follies." But "he defies the combined malice of his enemies, and all the exertions of which they are capable, to convince an honest or impartial mind that he has been guilty of fraud or corruption, either officially or otherwise, by testimony which should be, under all the circumstances, entitled to belief. He feels assured that in regard to his reputation he has nothing to fear from an impeachment." For, (he continues,) "a Judge can only be removed for corruption in his official capacity; and it is hoped the day is yet far distant when the principle thus secured shall be made subservient to the incendiary purposes of noisy and designing demagogues, thrown by the temporary convulsions of the times on the surface of the elements, like the worthless drift that floats upon the swollen and turbid stream.—Lynchburg Virginian.

FROM EUROPE.

Our correspondents of the New-York Mercantile Advertiser, under date of the 8th inst. 2 o'clock P. M. transmit by proof-slip the following:

Highly important if true.—Captain Thompson, of the Atlantic, left Trapani, (island of Sicily,) on the 24th September, and states that there was a report in circulation, which was believed, that the British and French had taken possession of the Ports upon the Dardanelles, and that the British fleet had passed through into the Black Sea. Cap. T. after leaving Trapani, spoke a British brig from Smyrna, who confirmed the above report.

Nat. Intel.

FROM MEXICO.

From the Mercantile Advertiser. We are obligingly favored with a Vera Cruz paper of Sept. 26th received by a house in this city by way of Havana.—It contains the correspondence between Barrados and St. Anna, previous to the capitulation, and the articles of the capitulation as already published. Gen. St. Anna had arrived at Vera Cruz, where he was received and entertained with the highest honors.

We subjoin the proclamation of St. Anna, announcing the result of the invasion.

PROCLAMATION OF GEN. SANTA ANNA. The General-in-Chief of the Army of Operations to the troops under his command. Companions in arms!—The happy moment has at length arrived in which we desired to see the inveterate enemies of our country yielding, and humiliated. Our country is free forever, thanks to your magnanimous exertions. Her independence has been firmly established.—thanks to the

consistency and valor you have exhibited. Your efforts have been great; my voice is not powerful enough to express my admiration. They are it is true, the productions of that love of country which animates your hearts; for it, in the hour of battle, you showed a heroism most worthy of praise, and despising the enemy's forces and their entrenchments, you advanced calmly on to claim the victory.

My friends!—What sacrifices you have made—how much blood has been shed by your comrades! But they have been necessary, that we may secure the important object that we propose in honor of the republic; the magnitude of the triumph also required it. The country is this conquerer by herself alone, and will reap the fruit which you have sown with your blood. Finally, you have concluded the war; future generations will bless you—the present will bear you the tenderest affection in their hearts.

Soldiers!—In the name of the nation, and especially in my own, receive the most cordial and unreserved thanks, for all your ardent exertions for the good order you have so strictly preserved. Be assured that the republic, and the whole world, will be deeply impressed with your prowess, and the civic virtues which distinguish you; by the former you have made your enemies admire you—by the latter you have acquired days of glory and happiness for the country, which your friend and General will ever cherish in his memory.

Head Quarters, Pueblo Viejo, Sept. 12, 1829.

ANTONIO LOPEZ SANTA ANNA.

RALEIGH REGISTER.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1829.

The Legislature of the State will convene in this city to-day. Most of the Members have arrived. There is no doubt that a quorum will take their seats. The late Speaker of the Senate having been elected a Representative in Congress, and the late Speaker of the House of Commons, not being in the Legislature, there are two new Speakers to be elected. We have heard the names of several gentlemen mentioned as candidates, but we cannot hazard a conjecture as to the result. The late Clerk of the Senate having been called to fill an office under the General Government, there are several candidates also for his situation.

JOHN LONG, Jun. of Randolph county, and ABRAHAM RENCHER, of Chatham, are candidates for Congress in the Salisbury District, in the place of JOHN GILES, Esq. resigned.

EDWARD B. DUDLEY is elected without opposition, the Representative to Congress from the Wilmington District, vice GABRIEL HOLMES, deceased.

We cannot but express our gratification at the passage of a bill by the Legislature of Tennessee to establish a Penitentiary in that State. The act provides for the erection of a Penitentiary within two miles of Nashville, and for the election of Commissioners to superintend, with the aid and concurrence of the Governor, the plan and construction of the edifice.

That member of the North-Carolina Legislature, by whose efforts a Penitentiary shall be established and a new era be thereby introduced into our criminal jurisprudence, will be entitled to imperishable laurels.

The Nashville Banner states, that the Senate of Tennessee has been organized into a Court of Impeachment, Newton Cannon, Esq. President and Benj. Reynolds Sergeant at Arms, for the trial of Nathaniel W. Williams, one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of that State. The charges and specifications are drawn out at considerable length and with technical minuteness and precision. They substantially accuse the Judge of culpable neglect of official duty in sleeping at different times on the bench during the arguing of causes—being influenced by prejudice and partiality in his judicial decisions, and especially of improper conduct in relation to the private examination of Mrs. Taul, respecting her signature to a deed for the conveyance of a lot of land in Nashville. The respondent has asked for indulgence till he can prepare his answer, and it is supposed that the summoning of witnesses and collecting testimony will occupy a considerable time, so that the trial will not probably commence for some weeks to come.

John Forsythe, late Governor of Georgia, has been elected Senator to Congress by the Legislature of that State, in place of Judge Berrien, without any regular opposition. The votes were, for Forsythe 148, Scattering 57.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.—It is stated in one of the Georgia papers, that an application will be made to the Legislature, of that State now in session for a charter to incorporate a Rail Road Company, with the privilege of constructing a Rail Road from Augusta to Columbus, passing through Milledgeville and Macon. In the application, the State will be petitioned to loan a certain sum of sums of money, at intervals, as the work may be completed, or to subscribe for a certain number of shares at stipulated prices. It is computed that two millions nine hundred thousand dollars will complete the work.

Roman Catholic Council.—A provincial council of the Roman Catholic Clergy in the United States, was recently held in the city of Baltimore, which was attended by one Archbishop, five Bishops, a Vicar Apostolic, and twelve Divines—three Bishops being absent. Much business of importance to the Church is said to have been transacted by the council; which will hereafter hold regular triennial sessions.—The number of Roman Catholics in this country is estimated at about half a million of souls.

Dinner to Mr. Brown.—A very splendid and sumptuous entertainment was given, on Friday last, at the City Hotel, New-York, to the Hon. James Brown, our late Minister to France. Upwards of two hundred gentlemen were present.—Among the guests, besides Mr. Brown, were the Russian and Brazilian Ministers, his Honor Judge Betts, the Hon. Daniel Webster, of Massachusetts, the Rev. Doctors Matthews and Wainwright, Capt. Nicholson of the Navy, Col. Morgan, of the Army, his Honor the Mayor of New-York, and Messrs. Cambreleng and Verplanck, of the House of Representatives. Gov. Barbour, recently returned from the Court of St. James, was invited to partake of the festivities of the occasion, but circumstances which required his return forthwith to Virginia, compelled him to decline the invitation. A number of toasts were drunk, and Mr. Brown and Mr. Webster addressed the company.

A correspondence has taken place between the Agricultural Society of South Carolina, and the Secretary of the Navy, relative to the greater use of rice in the service. The correspondence has been submitted to the Navy Commissioners, who report unfavorably. Their objections however, rest principally upon the idle prejudices of the sailors. Commodore Rogers seems to think, that in a season of active operations, the quantity of water necessarily consumed, in boiling Rice, would form a serious objection.—The Secretary of the Navy, however, assures the Society that the experiment shall be made, and the validity of these objections fairly tested.

Tobacco and Cotton.—A commercial friend furnishes the Norfolk Beacon with a letter from a first rate source in Liverpool, dated October 1. By the subjoined extract from it, it will be seen that both articles are improving:

"We have this month experienced a revival in the demand for Tobacco, the total sales amounting to 735 lbs.

"The strips taken on speculation were principally of a good description, at 4 1/2 a 5; and some purchases were made for Ireland and the home trade, at 5 1/4 a 5 1/2, which prices are now generally asked for good and fine parcels.

"A small importation of new leaf, sampled at the beginning of the month, turned out defective in condition, and partly heated, but of good color and quality: and it was sold in parcels at 3 1/4, 3 1/2, and 4d.

"Cotton has been in very good demand throughout the whole of the month, and the inquiry increased so much to-day, that 6000 bales changed hands—two-thirds American at an advance of 1/2 a 1/4 on the prices of last week: such qualities of Uplands being most in request as were before selling at 6 1/2.

"Flour, in bond, quoted at 25 a 26, and duty paid 35; but there is little sale for either."

Fayetteville, Nov. 12.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in this town convened their sessions in this town on Tuesday evening last. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Graham of Granville. The Reverend Mr. John Willis son of Mecklenburg, was chosen Moderator, the Rev. Mr. McIver of Fayetteville, Stated Clerk, and the Rev. Mr. Gay of Wilkesborough, Temporary Clerk.—Observer.

On Wednesday of the Superior Court for Ireddell county, held last week, came on the trial of Merrill, charged with the murder of Hoover. The mother of the deceased, being the material witness for the State, deposed that she was present at a Still House, when a quarrel took place between her son and the prisoner, and some abusive words having passed between them, the prisoner took up a wooden shovel and struck the deceased on the head. The surgeon who was called to the assistance of the deceased, stated that he had a wound on his head directly over the left eye, where his skull was fractured, which wound he believed to be the cause of his death, five or six days after it was inflicted. The prisoner's counsel attempted to discredit the first witness, and eloquently urged the jury for a verdict of manslaughter; the State's counsel, with equal eloquence, insisted that it was a case of wilful murder. Judge Martin charged the jury, that striking in anger with a dangerous weapon, was a sufficient indication of malice shown by the prisoner, to warrant them in finding him guilty. The jury retired for about fifteen minutes and then returned their verdict, that they found the prisoner, Merrill, guilty in manner

ment. The parties belonged to Lincoln county, where the felony was committed, and from whence the suit had been removed. We understand the prisoner's counsel have taken an appeal to the Supreme Court.—Catawba Journal.

We stated in our last, that we had seen a stock of Cane, from the garden of Jos. Dozman, Esq. of this town, which had ten complete joints; since which time Mr. B. has shown us another stock, which has thirteen joints and seems to be as fully matured as the first. We argue that ere long, we shall see the manufacture of Sugar, in as successful operation in this State as in many other States.—Ed. Gazette.

Joseph N. Hoskins, Esq. of this county killed a Deer on the 5th inst. that weighed one hundred and fifty pounds.—Ed.

The present state of Virginia.—Mr. Mercer, in his Speech in favor of basing Representation in the House of Delegates on white population alone, & opposing the proposition for considering property as affording a proper basis, observed that "Wealth in all countries, would be found too tickle a basis of representation for a distribution of political power, designed to balance the interests of individuals, or indistinct portions of the same community.—Individual wealth? who can fix it? He, who can stop the ever revolving wheel of fortune. National wealth is subject, though not in the same degree, to the same uncertainty. Of what does that of Virginia consist? Chiefly of land and slaves. No estimate of the value of the 450,000 slaves of Virginia accompanies the Auditor's Report. The lands of the Commonwealth were valued in the year 1817 at 206,000,000 of dollars. What are they now worth? Half that sum? He had carefully sought, throughout the Convention, for information to correct the results of his own observations, within late years, as to the change of the value of lands in Virginia. After all his enquiries, he believed they had fallen to two-fifths of their former estimated value; and could not, now, be computed, at more than 80, or at most, than 90 millions. Next, as to slaves.—A gentleman sitting near him, had, at the passage of the equalizing land law, sold 85 slaves, in families, at 300 dollars round. He had been assured by him and other gentlemen, equally well informed, from other portions of the Commonwealth, that 150 dollars for each slave, taking them in families, would be a fair price at the present moment.—This description of labour, then, has fallen one half, and lands, more than a half, in very little more than ten years. In the estimate of the last, the tables supplied by the Auditor, comprehended \$26,509. 00 for the city and town lots; chiefly, for the value of those in Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, and Fredericksburg.—A value dependent on the fluctuations of domestic and foreign trade. What was once its extent in this city, the metropolis of the Commonwealth, we all remember. What it is now I know not; since commerce, that inconstant handmaid of fortune, has turned her helm from our ports to the favored harbor of New-York.—Wealth attracts wealth.—Fortune notoriously withdraws her gifts from those who fail to use them: taking from those who have little, that which they cannot spare, to pour it into the lap of abundance.—While we have been quarrelling about Internal Improvement, New-York has swallowed up the commerce of America.—Driven from us by our unkindness, it has gone where it was invited by wiser councils."

We present our readers with the following remarks of B. Watkins Leigh, Esquire, one of the most talented members of the Virginia Convention, made before a committee of that body on the question of extending the Right of Suffrage. The practice of "paying the" tax for the poor man that he may be qualified "to vote has long been laid aside as neither answering the spirit of the Constitution of the letter of the law—the concluding compliment coming from so great a man is, indeed, praise.—Halifax Mirror.

"In North Carolina we have approached pretty nearly to the exercise of universal suffrage.—(I believe there is the payment of some tax required)—and what is the consequence? Why, sir, I am told that it is a part of the regular system of electioneering, to pay the tax for the poor man, that he may be qualified. I do not vouch for this statement—but I have it from respectable sources. Remember, sir, I do not say the poor man is corrupted—he honestly means to vote, but his tax is paid merely to put it in his power to do so. And yet I know, sir, that in intelligence, in public and private virtue, North Carolina yields to no State in this country; there is a degree of sobriety, moderation, and of moral quiet there, which is not to be surpassed in the Union."

Our respected Fellow-citizen, James Barbour, late Minister of the U. States to Great Britain, arrived in this City yesterday, from New-York, in excellent health. His family has preceded him in their journey to his seat in Virginia.—Nat. Int.

Indian Shrewdness.—"I am glad," said the Rev. Dr. Y. to the chief of the Little Ojibwas, "that you do not drink whiskey, but it grieves me to find that your people use so much of it." "Aye, yes," said the chief, "as he fixed his keen eye upon the Doctor, which commanded the respect before he uttered it, "I do not drink it."