#### WILMINGTON, N. C., NOV. 11, 1875.

THE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL. We yield all of our editorial space toaddress of Hon. John Manning and Dr. W. F. Stroud, delegates from Chatham county in the recent Constitutional Convention, to their constituents, as we find it in the Raleigh News. It is an able and. lucid synopsis of the amendments adopted by the Convention and is so clear and comprehensive in its explanations that a child could read and understand it. We urge upon our readers to give it a careful and close perusal:

FROM MESSRS, JOHN MANNING AND W.

F. STROUD. To our Fellow Citizens of Chatham Coun-

The undersigned having been elected as

Executive Committee of the Republican motion of the interests of the farmer. party and reiterated by Republican ora-

party was to disfranchise large numbers of the soil." of voters. This was not done nor attempted.

overrule the decisions of that Court, as and suggestive. applied to aid debts.

visions of the present constitution was introduced by a Democrat; one was introduced by a Republican, but it was prompt-

3d. That the Democratic party would amendments are proposed, viz: discriminate in property exempt from taxation against the poor man and in favor of lawyers' and other professional men. No alteration was made in the provisions of the present Constitution on that subject.

4th. That the Democratic party, in order to reduce the blacks to a degraded position, would legislate against their own race by annexing or requiring property qualifications for voters.

was required either for office or for a 5th. That the restrictions of the con-

vention act would not be obeyed. There is no pretence from any quarter that these restrictions were not faithfully observed and this in spite of the protests from the Republicans:

1st. That the Legislature had no right to impose the restrictions; and 2d, against the eath required by the act to be administered to the delegates and against its binding effect in law.

6th. That "the plotters," meaning the Democratic party, would restore the county courts, do away with the townships, cripple or abolish the common school system, and convene the Legislature in an extra session.

None of these things have been done or attempted.

7th. That "the plotters" would create life offices, taking from the people the power to choose their own rulers. The terms of officers and the mode of

their election remain the same. 8th. The sessions of the General As-

sembly would be prolonged and the expense increased: The sessions of the General Assembly

have been shortened, and the expense diminished mere than one half. 9th. That the Convention would cost

\$500,000 It has not cost \$32,000.

10th. That the amendments would not be submitted to the people for their ratification, or if so, but 30 days notice would be given.

The convention has submitted the proposed amendments to the people, and has given over twelve months in which the amendments can be examined and discussed, and has provided for a more liberal and intelligent distribution of them than was ever before practiced in this State.

the republican party of being false prophets, and ought to shake the confidence of the people, either in their intelligence or their sincerity, for accusations so groundless should come home to roost.

Now as to what the convention did. Two amendments are proposed to Article 1, of the constitution—sections 24 and 25, the first condemning the practice of carrying concealed weapons, and giving the dangerous to the liberties of a free people, other States of the Union. and should not be tolerated. These

Sections 4 and 8 are obsolete and were abrogated.

Section 27 is proposed to be amended, so as to make the terms of office for Sena-

time of their election.

diem and mileage. By this amendment fifty thousand dollars is saved, and the weight of taxes proportionally lightened.

To article III., two amendments are proposed, viz: Section 3 is changed so as to imit the patronage and appointing power of the Governor to officers, whose offices are established by this constitution, and not otherwise provided for in the constitution. This amendment is in harmony with day to the publication of the following the Democratic principles of our government, nips the rapidly growing and dangerous perogative of the Governor, and turns over to the people's representatives, the management, supervision and control of the railroads, and charitable and penal institutions of the State, and will no doubt promote fidelity and economy in their management,

Sec. 17 is abrogated, and the following inserted in its stead: "The General Assembly shall establish a department of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics, under such regulations as may best promote the agricultural interests of the State, AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHATHAM | and shall enact laws for the adequate protection and encouragement of sheep hus-

This wise and much needed amendment s, of course, principally in the interest of the farmer, and for the first time in the delegates to the Convention from Chatham | history of the State, agriculture is dignicounty, deem it eminently proper and fied by a constitutional department, for it right that they should render an account is made the duty of the General Assembly of their stewardship to their constituents. Ito establish a department to be devoted to It was charged during the campaign the dissemination of useful information, for the Convention in the address of the the improvement of labor, and the pro-

The address of the Republican Executors and papers:

1st That the object of the Democratic denouncing them as the "haughty lords tive Committee insulted the farmers by

The Democratic Convention of '75, acknowledging their independence upon, 2d. That the Democratic party was un- and their gratitude to the farmers, enfriendly to the homestead and personal deavors to improve their condition, to enproperty exemptions, and if control was courage their occupation and to aid them obtained of the Supreme Court they would in their work. The contrast is striking

No article in the constitution is of No ordinance or resolution interfering greater concern to the people of the State or proposing to interfere with these pre- than the fourth, known as the Judicial Article. It is of prime importance, because it meets us at every turn, goes into every business transaction, affects every ly decided that it came within the restric- relation in life, and administers every right tions of the act calling the convention, of person and of property; and to this and was never allowed to pass its second | the convention addressed itself patriotically, wisely and zealously, and thirteen

Sec. 4 is amended by striking out the words "special courts," and inserting "and such other courts inferior to the supreme court as may be established by law." By this amendment power is given the General Assembly to establish inferior courts when necessary, for example: in Wilmington, Newbern, Baleigh, Charlotte and elsewhere; where, from the crowded condition of the docket of the superior court, civil actions are very rarely tried No property qualification of any sort and justice unreasonably delayed. It was also thought that under this provision, it necessary, the General A.sembly might establish courts with a limited civil and criminal jurisdiction, which might take the place of the present system of probate courts, and besides try certain classes of criminals more speedily, deliver the jails more expeditiously, and thus save a large expenditure by the different counties.

Sec. 8 is amended so as to reduce the number of supreme court judges to three, and thus save \$5,000 per annum, without diminishing the efficiency of the court.

Sec. 9 continues the session of the supreme court at Raleigh until otherwise provided by the General Assembly, thus anticipating and providing for the growth in population, wealth and business of Western North Carolina.

Sec. 10, as it now stands, is an anomaly, not to be found in the constitutions of other States, and is amended so as to give the supreme court the same jurisdiction over "questions of fact and issues of fact" that it exercised before the adoption of the Constitution of 1868.

The great production this change will afford to the people in matters of account and in the settlement of estates will be readily seen and appreciated by the members of the bar.

Sec. 12 reduces the number of superior court judges to nine, thus saving \$9,500 per annum; provides instead of a two week's term in each county that the court shall continue in each county for such time as may be prescribed by law; in other woods, accommodates the term of stead of the inconsiderable income is the court to the business, and saves much to be appropriated to common school purncedless expense.

Sec. 14 is amended 'so as to provide for the rotation of the judges. Every lover of justice, every friend of the impartial administration of the law will acknowl-This statement convicts the leaders of edge the propriety of this amendment.

Sections 15, 16 and 17 are abrogated and one section inserted in their stead by which the jurisdiction of the courts below the supreme court is to be allotted to the several courts by the General Assembly. This was necessary to give to such inferior courts their proper jurisdiction, to preserve harmony and to make the courts ions, to farm out all persons imprisoned more flexible and to adapt them to the for crime, except those under sentence for changing circumstances, wants and con- murder, manslaughter, rape, attempt to General Assembly power to enact penal dition of the people without the necessity commit rape and arson. This will lessen statutes against said practice; the second of constitutional amendment, and is in the expense of the Penitentiary and other declares that secret political societies are harmony with the constitutions of the

amendments are in the interest of good another section inserted, providing for the to its completion. morals, and of the public peace and safety. | election of judges of the supreme court by To Article II, six amendments are pro- the qualified voters of the State, and that posed, viz: To section 2, altering the they shall hold their offices for eight time of the meeting of the General Assem- years. The judges of the superior court bly to the first Wednesday after the first elected under this amendment shall Monday in January next after their elec- be elected in like manner and shall hold tion, thus getting rid of the Christmas hol- their offices for eight years, but at sucidays, and the delay and expense incident | ceeding elections the General Assembly may provide that they shall be elected by

the voters of the respective districts. Sec. 31 is stricken out and another section inserted providing that all vacancies occurring in the offices provided for by tors and Representatives commence at the this article, shall be filled by appointment of the Governor, unless otherwise provi- election, and if ratified by a majarity of Section 29. The latter clause being obsolete, so much of said section is abrogation and the appointees shall hold the qualified voters shall become a part of the constitution."

FAIR WEEK IN WILMINGTON tion for members of the General Assem-An additional section is proposed to this bly when elections shall be held to fill article, by which the sessions of the Gen- such offices. By this amendment appointeral Assembly are restricted to sixty days, ees of the Governor hold only until the the per diem to \$4, the mileage to 10 people have an opportunity to fill the vacents per mile, and the limit of an extra cancies themselves by an election, and not

if not in defiance of the popular will.

Sec. 33 is amended so as to give appeals in all trials before Justices of the Peace to the Superior Court in term time; gives Justices of the Peace jurisdiction of actions of tort where the property does not excced in value \$50. This is an important amendment enlarging the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace, and enabling the Justice to try civil actions, other than those founded on contract when the property in controversy does not exceed in value \$50. This of course expedites trials and lessens the costs.

An additional section is proposed carrying out the restrictions of the Act calling the convention in regard to vacating

Two additional sections are proposedthe first is an exact copy of a section in the constitution before 1868, and provides that a judge of any of the courts may be removed from office for mental or physical inability, upon a concurrent resolution of two-thirds of both houses of the General Assembly, and requires a reasonable, notice to be given to the judge against whom proceedings are instituted. -The second section provides that the clerk of any court may be removed by the judge of said court, for like reasons, and requires a Which will be sold at very LOW PRICES. like notice. These sections enable the people to get rid of incompetent officers without the cost of an impeachment.

An additional section is proposed providing, "In case the General Assembly shall establish other courts inferior to the supreme court, the présiding officers and clerks thereof shall be elected in such manner as the General Assembly may from time to time prescribe, and they shall hold their offices for a term not exceeding eight years." This amendment is proposed to prevent life tenures. The General Assembly may elect the presiding officers and clerks, or it may direct how it shall be done. This is necessary to protect the white men of Eastern North Carolina, and to insure competent officers.

Art. VI. Suffrage.—Section 1 is amended so as to require 90 days residence in a county instead of 30 as a qualification for a voter, "But no person, who; upon conand hereafter committed, shall be deemed an elector, unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a mode prescribed by law." This is the only change in the qualification of a voter, and in a government where intelligence and virtue are the chief corner stones, and the ballot the only weapon this intelligence and virtue can wield, the Convention could not have done less than to give to the honest, patriotic and upright citizens this protection against the dishonest and the vicious.

Art VII. A Section is added to this Article as follows; "The General Assembly shall have full power by statute to modify, change or abrogate any and all of the provisions of this Article and substitute others in their place, except sections seven, nine and thirteen." This amendment gives the General Assembly entire control of the county government and the election of Justices of the Peace; that is the General Assembly may continue these provisions as they are now, or chauge them as they may be instructed by the people, thus abolishing many useless offices, county Treasurer for instance, and saving to the people about \$75,000 a year; and better than all, giving a door of escape to our white bretheren of the East from negre despotism, without injury to ourselves.

Art. IX Two amendments are proposed. One to section one by adding the following words: "And the children of the white race and the children of the colored race shall be taught in separate public schools, but there shall be no discrimination made in favor of or to the prejudice of either race." This amendment and the one proposed to article XIV, viz: the addition of a section prohibiting marriages between a white person and a negrosettles the question of social equality, and this without injury to the colored people; it only protects and preserves the white

Art. IX is proposed to be further amended by striking out section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof two sections. By the first a general fund is created for purposes of education, the whole of which inposes. By the second all property belonging to a county school fund, proceeds of estrays, penalties, forfeitures and fines &c shall belong to and remain in the several counties, where collected, instead of being paid into the State Treasury and then distributed back to the several counties. These provisions are just, will materially increase the school fund, and must commend themselves to all.

Art. XI is amended by adding to sec tion 1 a provision authorizing the general Assembly, under certain humane restrictprisons fully one half, say \$70,000, and still leave a sufficient number of convicts Sections 26 and 27 are stricken out and in the penitentiary to carry on the work

Article XIII is proposed to be amended by striking out all the present provisions upon the subject of amendment of the constitution and inserting two sections. The first, "that no convention of the people shall be called except the proposition, convention or no convention, shall be first submitted to the people, at the next general election, and a majority shall vote in favor of convention.

The second section provides, "that the General Assembly by a three-fifths vote of each House may submit amendments to be ratified by the people at the next general

These provisions render a convention unnecessary and give a speedy, cheap and satisfactory way of amendment, in striking contrast to the tedious, costly and most unsatisfactory modes now in force.

The difference in the expense under our session to twenty days, with the same per as now the appointees of the Governor present constitution and the constitution

holding for the full term and in spite of, as proposed to be amended, it is thought will be as follows, viz:

Present Constitution. Gen. Assem'y pr an'm...\$45,000.00 \$22,320.00 Supreme Court Judges, 12,500.00 7,500.00 Superior Court Judges, 30,000.00 22,500.00 Co. Gov't, Co. Treasurer, 75,000.00

Total.....\$271,500.00\$102,320.00 The saving in money will be \$169.180 per annum in favor of the amendments. Earnestly hoping that the work of the

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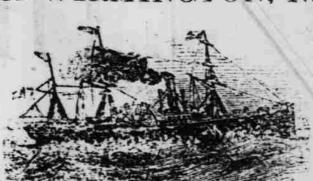
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