...go and dis- ...ponsibility that ... you desire to per- ...e and transmit these privi- ...ges unimpared to your posterity. The democratic party in the action of the municipal affairs of this city is but the beginning of what they would love to do. They have become so accustomed to practice their fraudulent acts that it is a second nature to them. The hatred towards those who sustained the government in the hour of its darkest peril, and who have the manhood to plead for it now, is just as strong as ever. It is only sleeping and looking in hopes for future events to again place in their hands the means to accomplish their purposes and to carry their ends, There is nothing too contemptible for them to do. They robbed the government once and now they are trying to ruin it by resorting to every thing contemptible, using every unfair means, and the people know it. They have showed their hand plainly in the present Congress, and the uprising and determined action of the people in the Presidential election of this year will be one of the grandest the world ever witnessed, expressed through the ballot, in defense of this country and the Republican party; and let the voters of Raleigh take a lesson, and hereafter be ever watchful and vigilant.

The Democratic party, judging from their press, is one of the most pure of all organizations. They have, after a long time, come forward and say through the *News* that unless Pool can give a better explanation they will wash their hands of him. Has the long silence been in hopes that they might fix it up and be saved the humiliation of making the confession they have?

No one says the Republican party is perfection; it has its faults, but when the historian comes to write the history of the political parties of this country, theirs will be so pure that none will be so much admired by future ages as the Republican party. They seek to hide no fraud—they can spare all the thieves there is in their party. And when the *News* says that we want Pool to hide our own thieves they know it is not so. We would, for the sake of the schools of North Carolina, far rather their Superintendent could refute this charge. The Democratic party has enough to carry. Their stains can be made no deeper. Not even the history of Stephen D. Pool's misappropriation of the poor children's school fund of the Peabody gift to sustain the magazine known as "Our Living and our Dead," the only object of which was to perpetuate a hatred between the Union man and its haters, which we would prefer might be forgotten. If any one doubts that the Democrats of this country have not robbed it, it is an easy matter to produce figures. It is a rare thing to find a representative of the Democratic party with clean hands; and when they are found, the Republican party should try to encourage and honor them for in the end, they will be with the Republicans, for they will get disgusted with the pool of filth which has become so stagnant around which the Democrats hope to be refreshed. X.

"Montgomery & Co., have constantly on hand a full supply of postage stamps and postal cards. We hope every business house in the town will send off and get them and keep them. The Government can turn out a genial, clever gentleman who gave universal satisfaction, and appoint in his stead a sneaking negro Radical, but it cannot force us to buy his stamps and cards."—*Riedsville (N. C.) News, April* 15, 1876.

The above shows how Republicans are treated in the South. Here is an attempt to force a postmaster to give up his position. The "genial, clever gentleman who gave universal satisfaction" is a Ku-Klux Democrat. The "sneaking negro Radical," R. H. Wray, esq., is a gentleman who has been a true Republican since the party was organized in North Carolina. He has served as Probate Judge of his county, and held several other important positions of trust. He is a man of ability and property. There are few men in Riedsville his equal in point of respectability. In striking contrast with him is the man who edits the *News*. It has not been many months since he was arrested on a bench warrant issued by a United States judge, and held to bail to answer a charge, in the State of Virginia, of violating the United States revenue laws. He was a tobacco peddler, and as such forgot (?) to pay his tax. He don't like the Government and hates Republicans! Postmaster General Jewell should meet these attacks on his officers by giving them a good salary. Show the Southern Democrats they cannot starve out Republican postmasters by refusing to buy stamps and postal cards.—*Washington Republican.*

Lord Lyttleton has committed suicide.

...umns of the ...stitution:

...tor of the Constitution:

...beg leave to occupy a small ...ce in your paper to say a few words to the people of North Carolina. As I see the names of several gentlemen suggested to fill the different offices of the State, I as yet see no name spoken of to fill the place of Auditor. As one of the Republicans of Franklin county, I would suggest the name of Major B. F. BULLOCK, of Franklinton, as a candidate for Auditor. He is a true Republican, a lawyer of high standing, and with all, a gentleman. He has stood by us and with us through the heat of all onr battles, and has never been the man to ask for any position. Now the Republicans of Franklin county do hope to see his name on the State ticket as Auditor. REPUBLICAN.

A traveling correspondent of the New York Times misrepresents the colored people of Raleigh.

To the Editor of the Constitution:

The Daily *News*, of this city, under date 26th ult., contained a part of an article, credited to the traveling correspondent of the N. Y. *Times*, who was present at a baptizing that took place near this city on the 9th ult., and published in the *Times* of the 23d ult., that does great injustice to the colored population of this city, and especially the religious portion thereof. If he has been quoted correctly, a more unfounded story was never before more wantonly narrated to the injury of humanity and religion. That part of it which we have read is as complete a perversion of truth and facts as ever appeared in public print. For instance, he said, that the pastor who officiated on that occasion, spoke from the xi c., 28 v. of St. Matthew, when the subject of his discourse was taken from the iii c. 11 v. of St. Matthew, leaving him, as you see, without a scintilla of authority for such a prevarication, excepting the fact that it was taken from Matthew, which exception we charitably accord to him the benefit. The lingo or dialect in which he affirms this bogus text and imaginative sermon was spoken, has that which is ridiculous so bespattered with that which is sublime, that any person having the slightest acquaintance with the plantation vernacular, can readily see that it bears the impress of a would-be mimic, or a want-to-be buffoon, for a negro minstrel upon its face. No such ignoramus as he would have the readers of the *Times* believe the Reverend pastor and gentleman of St. Paul's A. M. E. Church to be, could fill that pulpit for so intelligent a congregation as assembles there from time to time. He characterized those young ladies who were baptized on that occasion as being "possessed with the strength of fiends." Naught save an arch-fiend would be guilty of offering so gross an insult to woman-kind, while in the very act of showing to the world that she desired to live a new and better life. No such pandemonium as he so romantically and ficticiously attempted to depict, was witnessed by any person present on that occasion except himself. And in the name of common justice, could such profanity and pusillanimity owe its origin to other than a diseased brain, that has been steeped in the whirlpool of dissipation?

No, the whole thing was gotten up for the purpose of creating a sensation among those persons in the North who are unacquainted with the habits and customs of the colored people in the South. And I believe I speak the sentiment of every colored person in the South when I say, we are growing tired of being made monkeys of for the benefit of newspapers. Our progress within the past decade, has convinced every impartial mind that we are neither heathens nor barbarians, but are civilized human beings. Sad would be the comitary of the colored man, if such falisties could possibly be verified, but it is impossible. And the libelous slander of the *Times* correspondent is without foundation or authority.

Respectfully,
O. H. Jr.

To the Editor of The Constitution:

With your permission I will address a few remarks to the readers of the *Constitution*. The time has come when every one interested in the affairs of this nation, must take his stand. That we are about to enter upon one of the most important elections that this country ever has seen, is evident to all. For this reason the Republican party should prepare itself to meet it. It is no time to sit upon the fence. The evidences of the past justify us in saying that the united and determined action of each Republican is necessary to save us as a nation. To save those institutions, which each one of us value so dearly; to save those blessings we have so long enjoyed—that have cost this country so much, and which every lover of them must feel, that, if at this time, when the hydra headed, Monster is trying so hard for new life, under the leader ship of Ben Hill and others of a similar stamp, to destroy all these privilege, that through the united and determined effort of the people, expressed though the Republican party, is safety, alone. Be not led astray from the path of duty. Let no fraudulent representation shake

North Carolina News.

Salem has ripe tomatoes.

A Prussion author recently visted Greensboro.

The mnnicipal elections throughout the State passed off quietly.

The Fayetteville Odd Fellows have a new hall.

Fayetteville is to have another paper, a daily.

The old Mayor of Charlotte was re-elected by a majority of 196.

The Wilmington *Review* calls upon S. D. Pool to resign.

Numerous burglaries and thefts are reported in Wilmington.

Dr. W. R. Harris, of Granville, died last Thursday.

A horse in Mitchel county sucks eggs.

The Christian Church of Graham had a Sunday school celebration and pic-nic Saturday.

Silver coin is slowly working its way into circulation in Wilmington.

Prohibition was carried by a large majority at the election in Greensboro Mohday.

J. L. Webb has withdrawn from the Shelby *Banner*, and W. C. Durham will take charge.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Kingsbury, of Oxford, celebrated their silver wedding on the 1st inst.

Richard Pettipher, a colored man living near New Berne, died recently, aged 118 years.

Judge Kerr sentenced four criminals to the Penitentiary from Wayne county last week.

Milton Graham, Esq., of Iredell county, has a deer horn which has 36 points.

A cat fish has been caught from a well on the Blue Ridge mountain.

Rev. Dr. Talmage, of New York, will preach at Trinity College on June 7th.

The widow of the late Rev. Wm. E. Pell will remove her residence from Lenoir to Greensboro.

The Salisbury Fair offers a special premium of a silver goblet for the finest baby under two years old.

A Greensboro liquor dealer draped his bar in mourning on learning that prohibition had been carried.

An eagle measuring six feet and seven inches across the wings was recently killed in Guilford county.

The Greensboro city clock has stopped work, and two hands are thrown out of employment in consequence.

Strange, of Wilmington, who was charged with the murder of Murray, in Haywood county last summer, has been acquitted.

The workshops of the Wilmington, Columbia & Augusta railroad are to be removed from Wilmington to Florence, S. C.

"Gone in his hole and pulled his hole in after him," is the way the *New North State* speaks of the recent license advocates.

A heavy snow was falling on Monday in Watauga and Caldwell counties.

Beaufort ladies contributed $20 for our centennial flag, and Fayetteville $35.

The thermometer dropped as low as 39 degrees in Wilmington Monday.

A reduction of rates of freight has been declared, and the people along the W. & W. R. R., who were dissatisfied, are now contented.

Hertford county sends a little white boy, 13 years old, to the penitentiary for 8 years for attempted arson.

Kate Giliam, a worthy young colored woman, died suddenly on Wednesday morning.—*Oxford Torchlight.*

Gen. John S. Preston, of South Carolina, will deliver the commencement address of the Carolina Military Institute in June.

Blue fish are destroying herrings by the million, and our eastern fishermen are alarmed and discouraged.

Dr. B. A. Sellers has sold his mill property on Haw River to Mr. George W. Swepson, and there will soon be started another cotton factory on that river.

At New Hanover Superior Court, last week, Thomas Weeks was sentenced to ten years in the Penitentiary for stealing a Bible.

The orphans at the Oxford Asylum were treated to a fishing excursion on May Day, and enjoyed it hugely, notwithstanding the bad weather.

The dwelling house of Capt. T. B. Lyon, of Durham, came near being burned last week by leaving a kerosene lamp burning in the room.

One day recently, Mr. G. M. Hardin killed in the stables of W. T. Blackwell & Co., 404 rats and was still killing them when last heard from.—*Durham Herald.*

It is said that the post-master of Grassy Creek, Mitchell county, abstracted drafts amounting to $2,400 from letters passing through his office, and has fled the country.

Geo. W. Price, a colored man of Wilmington, lectured in New-Berne on the subject of "The Negro, or the African American; his Past, Present and Future," on Wednesday last.

The liquor dealers of Greensboro are trying to obtain license to sell wine and beer, as the prohibatory liquor law does not provide for these beverages. But the City Commissioners have refused to grant them.

A colored man, by the name of Gullet committed suicide in his cabin at Gastonia, Gaston county, on Monday. He was found suspended by a chain to a rafter. His wife had left him a few weeks previous, which is the probable cause of his rash act.

We regret to learn that a little five-year old daughter of Capt. B. F. Beard of Watauga county was killed instantly last Saturday. The little girl had been under the house hunting for eggs and as she was coming out a heavy bench which was placed against the wall, fell upon her, causing instant death.—*Caldwell Messenger.*

In the municipal election on Monday, there was a tie in Ward No. 2, between John T. Schenck and Burwell Johnston, both colored, who were on the same ticket for Aldermen, each receiving 159 votes. Sheriff Alexander, yesterday morning, decided the tie by casting his vote for Burwell Johnston.—*Charlotte Observer.*

Last summer New Berne languished for a city government. Now the old berg revels under the protecting care of two sets of fathers, each set having full authority by law, and according to the opinions of thoroughly read lawyers on the subject, undoubtedly entitled to the paternal care of the heretofore fatherless city.—*Nut Shell.*

The man Crisk, who was published in the Cherokee county paper a few weeks ago, as having eloped with Miss Amanda Deans, a young lady who left from seven to ten illegitimate children behind her, rises to a question of personal privilege and says there ain't a word of truth in any of it. So the editor don't know what to do about it.

The Johnston county *Courier* tells of old man Miles Mitchener, of that county, who is a curiosity. The old man keeps his well locked and wouldn't give a dying man a drink of water. He is a smart working old farmer, and yet has been under the impression all his life that the whole race of mankind had conspired to poison his well of water.

In addition to the local option elections help in Gilmer and Morehead the first of which went for prohibition by 124 majority, the latter by 123, the question was also submitted to the voters of Bruce's, which went for license by 28 majority, Jamestown for license by 16 majority, Sumner for prohibition by 2, Fentress for prohibition by 10, High Point, for prohibition by 20.—*Greensboro Patriot.*

On Wednesday night about 10 o'clock, Hannah Robbins, colored, who lived at the Smallwood plantation, just outside of this city, was standing near the fire-place talking to her mother, when her clothing caught fire and before the flames could be extinguished every garment was burned from her body. While suffering under mortal agony the unfortunate woman was so bereft of reason that she would not allow any one to touch her, but went to and fro in the room beating her arms fiercely against every thing that came in her reach leaving great splotches of blood and charred remnants of her garments besmeared on the walls. Hannah died of her injuries yesterday at 3 o'clock P. M. The deceased was 16 years of age, and the daughter of C. R. Robbins, of this city.—*New-Berne Nut Shell of 5th.*

A personal collision took place in the neighborhood of the Purcell House, Monday afternoon, between Hon. A. M. Waddell, member of Congress from this District, who is home on a short visit to his family, and J. J. Cassidey, one of the editors of the Wilmington *Post*. Col. Waddell, we learn, struck Mr. Cassidey two blows with a cane which he had in his hand, when the latter drew a pistol, which was followed by a like movement on the part of Col. Waddell. At this juncture parties interfered and the affair was brought to a close. The attack was made in consequence of the appearance in the *Post*, of a series of articles personal to Col. Waddell, and of which he had reason to suspect Mr. Cassidey of being the author.—*Wilmington Star.*

General News.

The Mexican war still rages.

There are 4000 lawyers in New York.

Mahometanism is rapidly spreading in China.

The tailors of Rochester, N. Y., are on a strike.

Watermelons are ripening in Southern Florida.

The cost of the St. Louis whisky trials was $65,684.85.

Two women are on trial in Rutland, Vt., for counterfeiting.

The Legislature of Mississippi adjourned *sine die* last Saturday.

A $50,000 fire occurred in New York on the 3rd inst.

Winslow has been released by the Brittish Government.

Large quantities of arms are being shipped from New York to Mexico and Havana.

Atlanta, Ga., has a barber shop in which all the operators are young girls.

A man has been sentenced to the New York penitentiary for selling adulterated milk.

The Western Union Company have bought the Southern Atlantic Telegraph lines.

It is now reported that Boss Tweed has bought a house and is living in Havana.

There are now 73,999 churches in the United States, about one to every 500 inhabitants.

The Montana Republican State Convention was held Wednesday, and declared for Blaine.

The 17th General Conference of the M. E. Church assembled in Baltimore on the 1st inst.

Moody, the revivalist, who is in Augusta, has been invited to Columbia to hold meetings.

There is great distress in the Gaspe District of Canada. People and stock are dying of starvation.

The newspaper reporters will give Dom Pedro a $3,000 banquet on his return to New York.

The printing committee of the House have concluded they cannot impeach the public printer Clapp.

They are paying 10 cents ahead for squirrels in California, they have become so numerous.

The recent frost killed off the colic crop in Georgia. There will be no cucumbers.

Bristow has been exhonorated of the charges against him in the Mary Merritt case.

Kansas has discovered a spring the waters of which will cure catarrh in ten days.

Speaker Kerr has decided not to be a candidate for re-election to Congress on account of his poor health.

The New York *Herald* wants the south to have a Cardinal, and suggests Bishop Lynch, of South Carolina.

The Treasury Department on Friday received a hundred thousand dollars in quarters from San Francisco.

Troops have been ordered to the mining regions of Ohio to protect the "cheap john" miners against the strikers.

Benjamin F. Bowles, one of the publishers of the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, died at Paris Thursday of Roman fever.

Eight hundred people are thrown out of work by the failure of Harvey Arnold & Co's. Print works, Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Seward, United States Minister to China, is seriously ill. It is supposed that he will be obliged to return to America.

Of the 55,000 dead-head tickets to be issued to the Centennial, 54,000 will go to common people and the other thousand to editors.

Congress will take a recess from the 9th to the 12th of the present month for members to witness the opening of the centennial.

The Maryland Republican Convention declares for Blaine, and endorses President Grant's administration as wise, patriotic and prudent.

Divers have recovered another sum of $5,000 in gold from the wreck of the Schiller, making an aggregate of $290,000 saved of $300,000 shipped on the vessel.

The Centenhial Commissioners' lawyers have decided that the prohibitory liquor law does not refer to centennial grounds, and liquor can be sold on the grounds.

Dummitt's great grove, between Masquito Lagoon and Indian River, Florida, produced nearly 2,000,000 oranges last year. More than half of them rotted on the ground.

Barney Williams, the well known Irish character actor, died in New York last week. Every actor in the city and many from other cities were in attendance at the funeral.

Wm. Badder, a colored man, was hanged on the 28th ult. for assaulting Antitia Little, in September 1874. He died protesting his innocence.

The young ladies of the LaGrange, Georgia, female college have unanimously resolved to wear no kind of dresses but calico at their next commencement.

General legislation in Congress progresses very slowly, very few measures of importance having been agreed upon during the present session.

One of the new Columbia policeman celebrated his election by getting on a lordly spree and rearing around town. They hauled him home on an express wagon.

In Hillan and Bagdad, from March 28th to April 1st, there were 211 new cases of the plague and 117 deaths. The plague has made its appearance on the left bank of the Tigress.

Four hundred thousand silver quarters have arrived in Washington from San Francisco.

President Grant and Cabinet go in a body to the Centennial May 10th. Cabinet will be full except Pierrepont.

E. J. Petroff, member of the Legislature from Philadelphia, has been expelled for negotiating for the sale of votes.

Two coal mines have been fired by striking miners in Ohio, which are now burning. They seized and tied the watchman in order to accomplish it.

Protest.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

By the Republican members of the late Constitutional Convention.

We, the undersigned, under a sense of the responsibility due from us as representatives of the will of the people of North Carolina, feel called upon to warn the yet free citizens of our beloved State, of the danger which imminently threatens them from the despotic and aristocratic tendencies of the Democratic party, so glaringly displayed in the amendments passed by that body in the Convention which was lately held in Raleigh.

A Convention called to establish the principles which shall govern and give vitality to the business relations of men and define the limits of the privilege to be exercised by the people, offers an unerring test of the opinions and feelings of those engaged in the responsible work. No less is it an absolute standard by which to judge of the tendencies of a party, when that party controls the body. Then, if ever, will men show their true political opinions and struggle to embody in permanent form, their fixed convictions. Governments are classified into free and despotic, at a glance, by an examination of their constitutions, whether written or moulded by the practices and tradition of their history. When representatives respect and consult the will of the people, whilst dealing with their interests and privileges, free government prevails, whatever its advantages and inconveniences. When that will, expressed by majorities, fairly ascertained, is disregarded by the framers of laws, and rights are taken away against the solemn protest of the citizen, whatever the other attributes may be, the government ceases to be one of popular consent.

The application of this simple rule, fixes forever, in alarming reality, the character of North Carolina's last and worst Convention.

A large majority of the votes of the State, was given against its call, and the will of the people thus expressed should have controlled the delegates elected; a due regard to that will demanded that the present Constitution should be returned to them unaltered in a single principle, by which the rights of the people were defined and guaranteed, and their duties described and enjoined. Not respecting the voice of the people, contemptuous of their twice expressed opinion, but only upon party rule and the substitution of the sway of a faction for the will of the majority, the Legislature of 1874—'5, by a party vote, violated the primary idea of the polity they had sworn to maintain, and called this body without consultation with the people, and in breach of the declaration made all over the State in the canvass of 1874. No denial can be hazarded by any one, of this plain fact, that a deliberate disregard of the will of a majority continued willfully, makes popular government impossible. This Convention is a bold declaration against the popular will and is, in itself, by the very fact of its existence, a revolution.

It is an anomaly in our history, and stands a solitary example of a body, called for the good of the people, usurping their rights, and seizing their powers, against their expressed will. But four years since, the people were called upon to express their wish upon a change of the Constitution: they answered that they wished no change. Two years ago many amendments of that instrument were submitted again te the people: very few were adopted and those were matters of detail going only to the judgment as matters of expediency, and not touching a single right or privilege. In the House of Representatives, in the session of 1874—'75, the dominant party had a majority of two-thirds. This Convention, composed of the same number, elected by the same voters, under the same laws, with no intervening change of circumstances, returns a majority of delegates against the party in power, thus giving a rebuke to its revolutionary spirit, and declaring again in favor of the Constitution they have tried so hard to preserve. By a course unparallelled in the history of political bodies, that true majority is perverted, and the power of party is enthroned upon the trampled rights of a State.

Step by step the dreary drama of tyranny is enacted. The Supreme Court, the bulwark of the people, their fearless champion in many contests with an enraged and usurping Legislature, beneath whose august decree the poor of the land rest secure in enjoyment of homes for themselves and their loved ones, when baffled avarice casts its thirsty gaze upon the pittance wrenched from its insatiate greed—this tribunal, so fearless and so just, is attacked, and falls before the will of those whose action forebodes evil to every institution and principle dear to freemen.

The election of the Superior Court Judges, now with the people, was coveted, and the purpose contemplated to wrest this privilege from them, and give it where faction can supply ready-made partisans inclined to direct the forms of law, and the principles of justice to the purposes of party. This change was only averted by the adoption of a provision which enables a partisan Legislature to rob the Superior Courts of their jurisdiction, and confer it upon tribunals erected in their place, whose officers shall not be responsible to the people.

Justices of the Peace, the familiar counsel of the people, whose functions have always been to assist them in their common, ordinary disputes; who have been with the people, and of the people since tradition has spoken—these necessary, and almost family functionaries, torn from the people, lest they should continue Democratic in nature, as in office, and an aristocratic complexion is to be forced upon their homely features by rendering them no longer responsible to their neighbors, and by divorcing their sympathies from the humble and rude poor, whose causes they are to determine.

Not only officers, but institutions, popular and elevating in their nature, are ravished from the masses. The popular county and township governments, established by our present supreme law, carries the idea of responsibility to the people down to every neighborhood. They give the control of every dollar of the money needed for the myriad uses of civilized and progressive communities, into the keeping of those who are under the direct eye of the people; they familiarize every one with the forms of business, and educate the primary divisions of society in the ways of self reliant and independent men.

These tribunals carry the idea of the will of a majority to its ultimate end, and they are the rude, it may be, but healthful nurseries in which the infant steps of freemen are trained to tread in the ways of independent manhood.

But this nurture does not accord with the spirit of democracy revolutionized. That bad genius broods with evil menace over the precious heritage of our fathers, and the shadow of his dark approach, even now mingles ominously with the broad light of our liberty. A strong government is demanded. The divinity of privileged power must hereafter claim our devotions, and the vulgar independence of poor men and ignorant people must be trained to forego its somewhat turbulent conduct, and learn politer manners, and more cultured forms from the example of our very virtuous and model rulers, who are to be supplied to us by that excessively pure medium a modern partisan Legislature!

Thus one by one the rude forms of homebred privilege are destroyed, and the dainty proportions of an elegant aristocracy are erected, beneath whose iron-hand, though cased in a glove of velvet, no popular right can flourish; and in whose eye, a free people is an enternal fear. All earth is drenched with gore poured out to glut the selfishness, revenge and licentious lusts of Kings and privileged classes. The poor are the universal sacrifice.

The slaughtered millions, whose blood cries to God from the thousand battle-fields, which cover our country like the foul blotches upon the leper's skin, are the human offering which alone can appease the cruelty of an insatiate aristocracy. Even under the mild forms of privilege, which formerly prevailed here, the eternal hate which power always cherishes for freedom, allied itself to the dread demon of rebellion, and its insatiate greed unappeased by the holocaust of blood and impoverishment through which we have passed, will never cease whilst man is free.

Under our previous history, the laws regulating elections, were plain and simple, no one ever dreaming that the time would come when the people's will would be disregarded by any legislative body that could be assembled. But the desperation of party exigency, in this Convention, has shown how frail a hold the people have on their own government in North Carolina.

The people of Robeson county, elected to this Convention two delegates, Neil McNeil and R. M. Norment. The judges of election, against whom no fault has been alleged, made their returns as usual, and these returns showed a majority of votes in favor of the gentlemen named. The only duty of the county commissioners was to add those returns, and declare the result. But, usurping powers never granted them, they declare the returns untrue, and in the face of the written record before them, they pronounce that there was no election in four precincts of the county. No law is shown authorizing them to review the judgement of the inspectors of election; none can be shown which entitled them to judge of the qualification of electors. This power is vested by law in the judges of election, and in them alone. If they abuse it and admit unlawful votes, or refuse lawful ones, it is a case for the candidates alone, and the determination of the fact in each case, belongs solely to the body of which the parties are seeking to become members.

This Convention is, or is not, the judge of the election and qualification of its own members. A certificate of election from the proper officers, gives the possessor a *prima facie* right to his seat, until the truthfulness of the certificate is questioned. When this is done, the first thing to do, and the only thing, is to examine the records of the election. If they are in lawful form, the certificate must be given accordingly. If voters are questioned, the duty of approving or disqualifying them, rests with the candidate making the issue, and the facts must be determined upon the evidence adduced. No legislative body of its own motion, has ever made a contest between members without the own active interposition. All legislative bodies determine the lawfulness of the certificate. When this is done, the burden is thrown upon the contestants. These are rules of law prescribed for the proceedings of contestants, public and of common application. The action of this body is directly contrary to this method. The commissioners of Robeson, have erected themselves into a judicial tribunal; they have, without evidence, and against the record, determined the fact of legal and illegal votes have taken from the judges of election the discretion conferred upon them by law, to be exercised under the obligation of an oath, and against their own written statement to the contrary, have declared that no election at all was held in four precincts of the county. If they have power to disregard the returns from four precincts, they may equally disregard the returns from every precinct, and at their mere will and pleasure, declare no election held in any county. By a combination easy of perfection amongst the county commissioners, an election over the whole State may be nugatory, and the people discarded entirely in the management of public affairs. How is this body to judge of the election of its members, if the county commissioners are empowered to act in a judicial character, and determine who are the members elect? Yet this has been declared the law of the land by the majority of the committee on Privileges and Elections, and that decision has been sustained. By this judges of election are stricken from our system, there is no one to record the votes of the people; the commissioners, though not present, determine the rights of voters without evidence; this body is robbed of the right to determine the election of its members, maintaining only an inferential right of appeal, if that, and a complete revolution is accomplished.

The past Convention sat in the Capitol by virtue of this revolution, and has overthrown the government of the people thereby.

By means of two votes, secured in the manner above recited, the constitution is blotted out against the will of the people, and against the laws of the State.

In ordinary cases, where majorities are decided, one way or another, and where the votes of the contesting members can make but little difference in results, a case like this may be passed over and excite but little attention. But this case, upon the determination of which depends the sovereignty of the people, must be made a test case and the circumstances around it, make it a prominent landmark in the history of government.

The first duty of the Convention was to determine who were the rightful delegates from Robeson, had there been a desire to follow, and obey the voice of the people. The action of this body has postponed the question until revolution is accomplished.

The action of this Convention in its legislative character has corresponded fully with its revolutionary constitution. Measures of vital concern seemingly prepared in party caucus, have been introduced as a matter of form, simply to obtain the scrawl which stands for a common seal, and under the spur of the previous question, without an opportunity of debate, were impatiently hurried through, as prepared at party dictation. There are grievances of an alarming character, and not the idle clamor of disappointed hopes. We wished for nothing, we hoped for nothing, but to preserve the constitution dear to the people, who have struggled for years to retain the benefits of its admirable provisions. The discipline of party tactics has at last triumphed over the wishes of the people, and has left us no course but to advise the people of the spoilation of rights so fearfully imperilled by this Convention.

We have had an embarrassing choice to make in conducting the people's defense. We hoped that the free discussion of principles amongst gentlemen of intelligence, assembled from all parts of the State, might cause some concession from the rigor of party demands. But the invariable course of procedure in this body has been to prepare in the night caucus the succeeding day's work; the measure agreed upon is taken up at once; rarely has time or postponement been granted, still more rarely has discussion been allowed, especially in matters on which opinions have been most opposite; and when discussion has been impatiently conceded, we felt the utter hopelessness of speaking to a question which judgment had gone before hand.

The only expedient left us was a resort to ordinary parliamentary rules, to delay for a few moments the pain we endure in seeing the rights and privileges of the people smothered in this Convention. It was the only way we had of protesting against the hasty and unsparing decrees of this body and however unsatisfactory, we were driven to it as to the last ditch in resisting the invasion of the assailants of our rights. Never has any legislative body shown less of concession than this; never has the caucus system been more rigidly and persistently enforced; never has party discipline been more perfect, and never has a minority been less regarded.

The closing scene of the Convention was a fit finale to a body which assembled in opposition to the will of the people, acted and worked by means of a majority purchased by the disfranchisement of a county and the total disregard of law; which has seized all the rights of the people and given them to the Legislature, and ended its revolutionary career by denying to members a right of protest. Never has any one before known, in the history of North Carolina, that a protest, offered in a respectful manner and in substance not offending against propriety should be refused a hearing and a place upon the journals. But this Convention has crowned its life of usurpation by a closing act of tyranny which forbids complaint of grievance and denies the right of petition. So monstrous was the act, that a leading member of the majority rose in his place and rebuked this open outrage. Not even this could bring a blush of shame to the faces of that majority which began life in lawlessness and in their own minds, fastening chains upon the limbs of the people, aptly ended its course by bidding them cease all complaint at the tyranny of this usurping assembly. We say to the people that the intention and aim of the Convention was to enslave you and you are enslaved if you ratify its act.

J. W. Albertson,	Jonas Hoffman,
W. H. Wheeler,	J. M. Justice,
R. C. Badger,	J. R. Page,
J. M. Bateman,	J. H. Smyth,
G. B. Bliven,	W. W. McCanless,
B. F. Jones,	A. McCabe,
J. C. Blocker,	A. L. Davis,
W. M. Black,	J. O. Crosby,
Wilson Carey,	N. B. Hampton,
Allen Jordan,	W. J. Munden,
O. H. Dockery,	Ralph P. Buxton,
A. McDonald,	R. W. King,
W. P. Mabson,	I. J. Young,
J. W. Thorne,	A. W. Tourgee,
J. Orrin Wilcox,	W. T. Faircloth,
G. H. Grantham,	J. A. Bullock,
R. F. Lehman,	W. M. Kerr,
M. C. Hodge,	William Barrow,
A. M. Lowe,	Edward W. Taylor,
J. Q. A. Bryan,	T. J. Dula,
Jas. E. Boyd,	G. Z. French,
Rufus Barringer,	S. H. Manning,
J. E. O'Hara,	J. J. Goodwyn,
J. W. Bean,	P. T. Massey,
J. J. Horton,	B. R. Hinnant.