

THE NORTH-CAROLINA STAR.

NORTH CAROLINA—Powerful in intellectual, moral and physical resources, the land of our lives and home of our affections.

RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1853.

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THOMAS J. LEWIS, Editor.

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AGRICULTURAL.

WAYNE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This body held its regular monthly meeting on Saturday. The proceedings may be found in another column. The meeting was rather large than otherwise, and considerable energy and determination to push forward were manifested by all present.

One thing occurred on Saturday that does infinite credit to the public spirit of Wayne Farmers. It is known, generally, that a Southern Agricultural Convention is soon to convene in Montgomery, Alabama, to concert measures calculated to advance the interests of the Southern Planter. To this convention it was proposed to send a delegate, and the motion to appoint one was instantly carried without a dissenting voice. And, notwithstanding this motion was afterwards reconsidered and rescinded, perhaps prudently, still we take it as a pledge of what will be done by our farmers, when the time for action on any important public question arises. All hail, say we, to such generous, noble action as this; it evinces a spirit that must carry our people to triumph in every undertaking in life they may be called to encounter.

The appointment by the Society of six delegates to the State Agricultural Convention, is another important and proper move. We hope that all those who have been appointed will attend; and that every Agricultural Society in the State will see the propriety of being represented in the State Society.

The members of the meeting were few, beyond what is recorded in the regular proceedings. The appointment of Capt. Bryan to address the Society at its next meeting, will impart an unusual interest and command a full attendance of the members. Mr. Bryan is an excellent farmer and a good practical speaker, and we look forward to the next meeting for an instructive and interesting speech, while we sincerely hope that every member of the Society will try to be present.

The selection of Major Slocum to deliver the next annual address, was a capital choice. Mr. Slocum has not yet accepted; but we hope his native modesty will not in this case overcome his sense of duty, and prevent him from complying with the known wishes of every member of the Society. To say that Mr. Slocum is eminently competent, would be but a faint expression of public opinion; and we hope he will feel fully at liberty to yield in this instance to the wishes of the Society, by accepting the appointment so unanimously and enthusiastically conferred.

Should any of our farmers read this, who are not in the habit of attending the meetings of the Society, we can only exhort them, come and see. A more encouraging spectacle than that of 30 or 40 wise, kind and intelligent farmers, assembled in a room for mutual instruction relative to their daily employment, was never looked upon by the eye of man.

How solemnly grand, then, would it be to see two or three hundred neighbors assembled for the same purpose! We hope all will reconsider, and that we will see them all, and that they will all be in the habit of attending the meetings of these noble farmers.

New Era.

WAYNE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society met on Saturday, 23d inst., pursuant to adjournment, John Everett, President, in the chair.

The roll was called and absentees noted. The proceedings of last meeting were read and approved, and the unfinished business of the Society was then taken up.

The Resolutions urging the propriety of building a factory at Goldsboro, were so amended as to provide for the calling of a meeting on Tuesday of the Fall Term of the Superior Court for Wayne county, to take the subject fully under consideration, and as adopted.

Moved, that a committee of five, to be assisted by the officers of the Society, be appointed to prepare an appropriate address to the public, urging the expediency of building said factory, and giving such necessary information on the subject as may to them be accessible, and that the President appoint said committee, at his convenience; also, that said address be published by the Society.

Reports from Standing Committees were called for.

Moved, that the President appoint Standing Committees for the current year, and report to next meeting.

Moved, by William Robinson, that this Society appoint a delegate to attend the Southern Agricultural Convention, to meet this summer in Montgomery, Alabama; which motion passed unanimously.

Moved, that the Society proceed to elect a delegate to said Convention. A debate here arose on the propriety and expediency of sending a delegate to said Convention, on account of the expense it would incur to the Society.

Moved, by Wm. T. Dorch, that the motion to send a delegate to the Southern Agricultural Convention be reconsidered; which motion was carried unanimously.

Moved, by William T. Dorch, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. Carried unanimously.

Moved, that six delegates be appointed to attend the meeting of the State Agricultural Society, to convene in Raleigh, on the 15th of May. Under this motion, the President appointed Messrs Wm. K. Leno, John Everett, Jno. G. Elliot, Thos. Ruffin, George W. Collier, and William Robinson.

Messrs Dawson T. Durham, and John E. Beeson, were duly proposed and elected members of the Society.

Moved, that the Society proceed to elect, by ballot, a gentleman to deliver the next Annual Address before the Society. This being done, John C. Slocum was chosen to deliver the next Annual Address.

Dr. J. P. Tompkins being present, was invited to address the Society, and responded to the invitation in an appropriate speech.

Moved, by William T. Dorch, that the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Dr. Tompkins for the very able address delivered by him before the Society.

Moved, that the members of the Society, from time to time, be delivered at the meeting, assuring that at which he was appointed. Wm. A. Bryant, in accordance with this motion, was chosen to address the Society at its next meeting.

Moved, by Thos. Kenned, that the Secretary be requested to give due notice in the Town papers that Capt. Wm. C. Bryan will deliver an address before this Society at our next meeting.

The Society then adjourned.

WM. ROBINSON, Secy.

HOW TO RESTORE INORGANIC MATTER TO A SOIL.

Our readers must not forget our subjects or our terms. Last week we explained organic matter to be of animal or vegetable origin, and briefly pointed out how it is to be restored to a soil. We now state that inorganic matter is of mineral origin, but it is not so easy to point out all the methods of restoring it to a soil. But to be understood as to the terms—Hair, horns, hoofs, leather clippings, and all such substances as are produced by animals, are chiefly of animal origin, while decayed straw, surface mould from the woods, sawdust, &c., are chiefly of vegetable origin.

Matter of animal or vegetable origin is called organic matter, because in some way or other it once possessed those organs that are essential to reproduction. All mineral matter is called inorganic, because it does not possess these organs, and hence the distinction must be clearly understood and constantly kept in view.

Among the mineral substances that enter into the composition of soils, and those that are the most frequently found, are siliceous sand; alumina; and carbonate of lime. Those that are less frequently found are sulphate of lime or plaster; carbonate of magnesia; oxide of iron; and oxide of manganese.

Now we have seven mineral acids and seven oxides. These oxides and acids are seldom found separately in soils; but in a combined state, forming salts. For instance, phosphoric acid and lime (a salt); carbonic acid and lime as carbonate of lime (a salt also); sulphuric acid and lime, as sulphate of lime; and so each of the acids, with other oxides, forming various salts. Now the object of applying mineral matters to soils, is to supply them with one or other of these salts. And, as we have seen mineral salts, it will of course only be necessary to ascertain which of them is missing, to enable the farmer to restore it to his soil. A soil, however, is seldom deficient in more than one or two mineral ingredients, and we have seen well on lands that do not contain sulphate of lime, because this salt is essential to the growth of clover, as the ashes of the plant is found to contain a considerable quantity of sulphuric acid and lime.

We remarked, last week, that common salt and lime are the only ingredients that the farmer ought to import for the renovation of his land. To this doctrine to adhere, until all his living resources for the making of manure have been patiently tried and fully exhausted, to those who court the honor that experts bring, we will raise no objections. If any set fit to import costly manures and allow that that is equally valuable to take wings in the form of vapor, and flee away, we will leave him for a season in the hands of Dame Experience, but will not leave him unwarned. And we venture to affirm that there is no substance more important to be produced, as a manure, than sulphate of lime, for which our own Carolina does not afford an appropriate substitute.

New Era.

SALT AS A MANURE.

Salt has been used extensively in England, and we have seen, when judiciously applied, excellent manure, but, like many other good things, may be used to excess.

We have used to three descriptions of crops and as we had cause to believe, with decidedly good effects.

We applied it to corn, oats and turnips. To the corn we applied 2 bushels to the acre broadcast, just after the corn was planted; the season proved a very dry one. The piece of ground on which this salt was sown, all matured alike with stable and cow-manure—no one half was applied salt in the proportion stated—on the other half no salt applied. Now as to the result. The corn on the part sated, remained of a dark green, healthy until the fodder was pulled—the blades on the other part were early brown and withered so badly as to yield comparatively little fodder.

The yield of grain was also considerably less. We sowed oats on a piece of ground much infested with worms, and after harrowing in the oats, sowed salt broadcast over it at the rate of two bushels to the acre—the injury from worms was speedily arrested. Out plants left after a few days, unfested, manifested a healthy green color throughout the season; matured a few days later than another patch sown about the same time—the yield was a fair one.

We applied 6 bushels of salt on 2 acres of turnips with good effect.

Its effects are said to be these: 1. That it acts as an absorbent of moisture from the atmosphere. 2. Destroys worms. 3. Facilitates the decomposition of organic matter, and thus provides food for the growing plants.

We know by the analysis of most plants, that acids and alkalies are detected in them, and as these are the chief elements of common salt, we infer that they are essential ingredients in most vegetable products; and if not pre-existing in the soil in sufficient quantities, that it can be very advantageously employed.

Its modes of application are—1. By composting with barn-yard and other manures; and 2. By sowing broadcast after the seed may be sown, and the ground harrowed.

Opinion varies as to the proper quantity per acre, as 20 bushels, others are content with 1, 2 and 3 bushels. Our own opinion is, that 2 bushels are about the right quantity. It is not fair to remark, that in England, practice seems to have settled down to 2 bushels of salt to one of seed.

American Farmer.

NEW MODE OF TREATING LOCK-JAW.

Mr John King, of the Clearing district, the Hagerstown Herald says, was bitten on the wrist by a hog, a week or two ago. Several days after, he was taken violently ill with lock-jaw. Dr. Margill, of Hagerstown, was called in, who immediately administered chloroform, and laid the wound freely open, applying an emollient poultice, and continuing the chloroform with opium. In five hours under this treatment, the spasms were arrested, and Mr King is now entirely recovered.

A singular old gentleman, conversing himself as he was in a surgeon's bill, and word by word of the practitioner to his master, "that for his medicine he would pay, but as for his time he would return."

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Report of the Committee on Colleges, Academies and Common Schools, on a petition of certain Roman Catholics of New York, Uti ca. Syracuse, &c., relative to instruction of their children.

In ASSEMBLY, April 2, 1853.

Mr. Patterson, from the Committee on Colleges, Academies and Common Schools, to which was referred the petition of certain Roman Catholic citizens of the cities of New York, Utica, Syracuse, Oswego, and of the villages of Auburn, Rome &c., praying for the passage of a law, authorizing the establishment of Schools where their children may be instructed in religion; without which, they deem education more pernicious than useful; and for granting such schools a portion of the school fund and large proportion to the number of children attending said schools; respectfully report:

That from the earnestness of the appeal, that has been made from this large and respectable class of our fellow-citizens on this subject, they have given it not only a respectful, but an anxious attention, with a sincere desire to recommend such measures to the Legislature, as should be most conducive to the harmony, usefulness and prosperity of the Common Schools of the State. The history of our Common School system has been examined with careful attention, in the hope that we might deduce from this history the secret of its present prosperity, and the principles that will guide it, in its future triumphant career, towards an ultimate state of perfection.

Your Committee find, that the smoke of the revolutionary battle fields was scarcely dissipated before active measures were taken by the Legislature, at the instance of Governor George Clinton, to "revive, strengthen and encourage our then feeble Common Schools."

In 1789, the Surveyor-General was directed to set apart, for gospel and school purposes, two lots in each township in the then unurveyed portions of the State. Three or four years later, the Regents of the University called the attention of the Legislature "to the numerous advantages that would accrue to the citizens at large, from the institution of schools in various parts of the State, for the purpose of instructing children, in the lower branches of education;" they also recommended that liberal provision be made to sustain the schools, by appropriation of the public lands, as the value of these lands would be enhanced by an increase of population.

"The State will thus never want the means of promoting useful science and will thereby secure the national happiness, and fix the liberty of the people on the most permanent basis; that of knowledge and virtue."

In 1795, the Legislature on the recommendation of Gov. George Clinton, appropriated \$50,000 annually for five years, for the support of the Common Schools of the State.

In 1800, Gov. Jay, in his message to the Legislature, says: "Among other objects that will present themselves to you, there is one that I earnestly recommend to your notice and patronage; I mean, our institutions for the education of youth. The importance of Common Schools, is best estimated by the good effects of them, when they most abound and are the best regulated."

In 1802, Gov. George Clinton again impresses upon the Legislature the importance of perseverance in the effort to elevate the character of our Common Schools, and to diffuse their blessings over the whole surface, and into all the ramifications of society. In his message to the Legislature, he says—"Education, by correcting the morals and improving the manners, tends to prevent those evils in society, which are beyond the sphere of legislation."

Equally impressive are the words of Governor Lewis, (1804.) "In a Government resting on public opinion, and deriving its chief support from the affections of the people, religion and morality cannot be so sedulously inculcated. To those, science is a luxury; ignorance, the worst of enemies. Literary information should then be placed within the reach of every description of citizen, and poverty should not be permitted to obstruct the path to the fane of knowledge. Common Schools, under the guidance of respectable teachers, should be established in every village, and the indigent be educated at the public expense. Learning would thus flourish, and vice be more effectually restrained than by volumes of penal statutes."—During this year, the net proceeds of 500,000 acres of public land were reserved for school purposes.

This was the foundation of the present fund which future Legislators increased, until it has swollen to its present magnitude.

In 1811, under the administration of Governor Tompkins, the School Commissioners observe: "Perhaps there never will be presented to the Legislature a subject of more importance than the establishment of common schools."

"Education, as the means of improving the moral and intellectual faculties, is, under all circumstances, a subject of the most important consideration."

"To rescue man from that state of degradation to which he is doomed unless redeemed by education; to unfold his physical, intellectual, and moral powers; and to fit him for those high destinies which his Creator has prepared for him, cannot fail to excite the most ardent sensibility of the philosopher and philanthropist. In proportion as every country has been enlightened by education, so has been its prosperity. When the heads and hearts of men are generally cultivated and improved, virtue and wisdom must reign, and vice and ignorance must cease to prevail."

"Virtue and wisdom are the parents of private and public felicity; vice and ignorance of private and public misery."

"The people must receive the advantage of education, the inquiry naturally arises, how this end is to be obtained? The establishment of common schools, which being spread throughout the State, and aided by its bounty will bring improvement within the reach and power of the humblest citizen.—This appears to be the best plan that can be devised to disseminate religion, morality, and learning throughout a whole country. All other methods heretofore adopted are partial to its operations and circumscribed in their effects."

In 1822, Governor De Witt Clinton called the attention of the Legislature to the subject of State instruction, in the following terms: "The first duty of a State is to render its citizens virtuous by intellectual instruction and moral discipline; by enlightening their minds, purifying their hearts, and teaching them

their rights and obligations. Those solid and enduring honors, which arise from the cultivation of science, and the acquisition and diffusion of knowledge will outlive the renown of the statesman and the glory of the warrior—Again, in 1826, he says: "consider the system of our Common Schools as the palladium of our freedom; for no reasonable apprehension can be entertained of its subversion as long as the great body of the people are enlightened by education."

The committee have been induced to submit the above remarks from the different Governors and superintendents, the fathers and founders of our splendid system of Common Schools, for the purpose of exhibiting a few of the great principles that lay at the foundation of this stupendous superstructure.

The first, that it is not only the right, but the duty of the State to furnish and superintend the operation of a system of education for the children of the State.

Your committee believe that this point is not seriously controverted, in this State, in the middle of the 19th century.

"The second great principle (drawn from the history of our Common School system, the consideration of which is involved in the petitions before us) is the eminently Catholic nature of this system. Its entire exemption from every thing like a partisan or sectarian character, from its inception down to the present day, in every stage of its progress, and the storm and the tempest that have assailed the institutions of political parties, and the rancor of theological controversies, and the heat of religious excitements, our Common School system has moved quietly and majestically along, from the smallest beginnings to its present magnificent proportions under the guidance of those pure and patriotic statesmen (whose sentiments and opinions we have so liberally quoted) without participating in or ministering to the peculiarities of any party or any sect; its blessing falling upon the children and youth of the State, like the dew of heaven, upon the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the Catholic and the Protestant, upon every shade of religious and political opinion alike, without prejudice and without partiality."

In tracing down the history of the rise, progress and present state of our system of Common Schools, your Committee have been impressed by the fact, that among the means that have been so successful in placing this system on its present elevation, the Government has never listened for a moment to the suggestion of fractionizing this system in favor of or against any political party, or any religious sect or denomination. While the fathers of our system of Common Schools have labored zealously and successfully to place within the reach of the children of the State an education that shall qualify them for the discharge of their duties as citizens of the Republic, and for the intelligent management of the ordinary avocations of life; while they have sought to blend with this education a system of pure morality, indispensable to the future usefulness and respectability of the young generation, they seem sedulously to have avoided all affinity with system of faith or sects, whether religious or political. In their wisdom, they seem to have left the religious education, the sectarian discipline, the instruction in religious creeds and religious practices, where they rightfully belong—to the genial influences of the domestic fire-side; to the family altar; to the church; to pastoral instruction, the Sabbath school, and the Bible class; or to such other means, outside of the school house, as the judgment or taste of parents or guardians should dictate.

Had the founders of this system, at any stage of its progress, parcelled out the bounty of the State for the support of Common Schools in favor of those based upon the peculiarities of any of the arbitrary or conventional distinctions that prevail in religious sects, your committee believe that its strength would have been frittered away and lost, and the jealousies and contentions it would have added a new and a fearful element to a controversy which this circumstance alone would have directed with a crushing force against the utility and stability of our present grand system of primary instruction. And your committee, instead of being able to report at this time nearly 12,000 school houses in the State in successful operation, in which nearly 1,000,000 of children have received the benefits of a common education during the past year, and supported at an expense (for teachers' wages alone) of more than 11 million of dollars, it would have been called upon to report upon the wreck of a system effected only in flooding the country with the bitter waters of sectarian strife, and of religious and sectarian controversy.

The genius of our institutions is pre-eminently that of universal religious toleration, and it should never be overlooked for a moment in our legislation upon the management of the Common Schools of the State; hence, by granting the prayers of these petitioners, we recognize the principle that each one of the organized sects of religious denominations in this State, may establish their schools and be entitled to a share of the Common School fund for their support. Granting this privilege to one sect would open the door for application for every sect and denomination in the State; and in view of their number, the conflicting and contradictory nature of their tenets, we should regard as suicidal the attempt to embrace them in the system of our common schools, or sustain them by its funds.

Grant the prayer of these petitioners, and a flood-gate of ruin is opened upon our Common School system which future legislation would hardly be able to restrain; for under our system of religious toleration, no resting place would be found until our magnificent school fund was subdivided among every denomination in the State, from the ancient and venerable establishment of the Roman Catholic Church, down to the conventicles of the spiritual mediums of these latter times.

The effects of fractionizing our School Fund among religious denominations, seems, to your Committee, to be easily calculated.—Hence, your Committee should regard the first step of the Government in this direction with the utmost anxiety and alarm; as a fatal blow struck at the prosperity and utility of a system of primary education, which has already become the pride of the wonder of the people. Your Committee, therefore, unanimously present the following resolution, and recommend its passage:

"Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioners should not be granted."

SAIDLE PATTERSON, NICHOLAS BLAUVELT, WM. W. FORESTER, WM. TAYLOR, DANIEL STEWART, Chairman.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

THE N. C. RAIL ROAD, ITS EXTENSION EAST AND WEST.

Situated as we are, about centrally between the seaboard and the mountains of the State, we feel that we can, with propriety, urge upon the friends of improvement North, East and West of us, the importance of action, prompt and decided action, relative to the extension of this great line of improvement, which every true hearted North Carolinian will join in calling our Rail Road. Few of us have yet weighed sufficiently, the vital necessity of prompt action in this matter.

The North Carolina, or Central Rail Road as it is sometimes called, will be completed from Charlotte to Goldsboro in the course of the year 1853. Virginia and South Carolina are already prepared, with aided Rail Roads, to take our trade from Charlotte and Raleigh. We all know how difficult it is to divert trade from old accustomed channels to new ones, even when the new ones are the best.

Now, while we do not object to exchanging our commodities with the neighboring States for money or its value, we are fully convinced that a "golden opportunity" is now offered us, by the late Act of the Legislature, for securing within our own borders the benefits and advantages of the cheapest and best line of travel from the Tennessee line to the Atlantic seaboard. We also believe that much of this benefit and advantage will be lost to a large portion of the State, if the extension of the Central Rail Road to Beaufort and Tennessee are not commenced without delay.

Whenever Capitalists can feel assured that we are in earnest, a commercial city will spring into existence at Beaufort, equipped and ready with ships and steamers, to receive and transport to the great markets of the world all the mineral and agricultural products we can send them; and we can then trade with the world on an equal footing with our sister States.

But while this is admitted, the question may be asked, what action can be taken immediately? We answer, the survey of the routes, as a preparatory step to the subscriptions, for stock to build the Roads.

From conversations among the members of the Legislature, and where whose opinions were given to great weight, we concluded that the object had in view, in making the appropriation to the survey, was to put the plan in operation with as little delay as possible. And we think we are not mistaken in the fact, that a distinguished member of the House of Commons, when advocating the passage of the bill for the extension, stated, that, by co-operation with the officers of the North Carolina Rail Road Company, the survey might at once be effected. This gentleman had an important agency in drafting the bill as it finally passed the Legislature, and we think it will be found to embrace in its provisions the authority for prompt action in this particular.

If we are not mistaken in this view of the powers conferred by the act—and we think we are not—we hope the press, both East and West, and the people immediately interested in this great work, will so speak out that those whose duty it is to act in the premises, may be induced to act speedily.

Hills, Rec.

"VIRGINIA CONNECTION."

The Milton Chronicle appears to be unable to comprehend the difference between a Virginia connection with Richmond, and a Virginia connection with Norfolk; or in other words, cannot understand why it is that our citizens should object to tapping the North Carolina Rail Road in the middle, by constructing a branch from Greensboro through Milton to the Virginia Road, carrying the travel and trade to Richmond; and yet rejoice at the completion of a link which connects one extremity of our road with a Virginia road leading to Norfolk. Even the Greensboro Patriot, with its enlarged view of things, appears to be a little startled at the rejoicing, huzzing, booming of cannon, &c. indulged in upon the opening of a direct, easy and cheap outlet from the North Carolina Road to the city of Norfolk, by the same persons who were opposed to tapping the road at Greensboro, by which the trade and travel of the west would be led off to Richmond. Both of these contemporary seem to imagine that the opposition to a connection by a branch from Greensboro to the Virginia road, was because the city of Richmond was in Virginia, and therefore that the same objection exists to a connection with Norfolk.

Not looking through the same medium, we come to very different conclusions from those of our friends of the Chronicle and Patriot; and yet we do not think our vision is very much distorted by the benefits our citizens will receive in being permitted to supply the passengers with "a drink of water," as the cars which pass our town, as he of the Chronicle fondly has it.

We have never undertaken to abuse Mr. Palmer for his advocacy of a Rail Road to pass through Milton. It is natural that he should desire the accomplishment of an object that would benefit the town of Milton. But in his eagerness to accomplish that, he has overlooked other important matters, and has been led into very erroneous calculations, in which the editor of the Chronicle has followed.

They both have greatly overestimated the advantages which the upper part of our road would derive from the connection, and overlooked the paralyzing effect which it would have upon the lower half of it. It may be true that the travel on the upper half would be increased by opening the route to Richmond; but how would it increase the amount of freight? All the produce of the upcountry can be carried to Charleston, to Petersburg and Norfolk, or Wilmington, and we hope soon to Beaufort, better markets than Richmond can afford. We say to Beaufort, because experience shows that a very short time will suffice to build up a city and accumulate capital when trade is concentrated in any given point. All these markets will give employment to our own roads.

Following this train of thought, it requires no aid from fancy to perceive, a wide difference between a "Virginia connection with Richmond," and a "Virginia connection with Norfolk." The Richmond connection taps our road in the middle, and would draw off a portion of its resources; the Norfolk connection brings into requisition the whole length of our road, and would stimulate its activity by opening a pleasant and expeditious route of travel north and south, and opening to us a valuable market.

ket. We, therefore, as North Carolinians, and feeling a deep interest in the success of North Carolina improvements, can see no inconsistency in deprecating the one and rejoicing over the other; even though, and occupying the position of the "hunchback," (or the Patriot expresses it) we can expect none of the advantages to be derived from the dripplings of the molasses hogheads.

But there is another consideration which our friends of the Chronicle and Patriot seem to have overlooked, that places this subject in a clear light—showing both the consistency and the policy of the views presented by us. At the time the North Carolina Road was projected, the connection with Norfolk was contemplated as a part of the scheme; while the connection with Richmond, and Danville Road was distinctly repudiated, and for the very reasons we have stated. Where, then, is the consistency in rejoicing over the completion of a part of this scheme, while we oppose a project which would greatly, as we think, detract from its advantages?

Hills, Rec.

POLITICAL.

A CORRECTION.

A rumor is afloat, and is being busily circulated to the effect, that, in his speech in Madison, Col. Gaither admitted that the Legislature last winter changed this District by taking off Cleveland and adding on Wilkes and Watauga, for the purpose of defeating Mr. Clingman!

We are authorized by Col. Gaither to state that he made no such admission; but that whenever he has had occasion to speak of this matter either in private or public, he has maintained that the present arrangement of this district was made by the Legislature, without any reference to Mr. Clingman whatever. That the report of the Senate was submitted by Mr. Gilmer, a Whig, left this district as it was before—that the bill that passed, changing the District to its present shape, was an amendment to Mr. Gilmer's bill introduced by Dr. Shaw a Democratic Senator from Camden and Currituck.

Col. Gaither has also maintained that Mr. Clingman still professes to be a Whig. He has no right to complain of the Legislature for taking off a strong Democratic county from his district and adding two very decided Whig counties. Col. Gaither has furthermore maintained that under the present arrangement, the Whig will have five members; and the Democrats four, which he thinks, in the present state of politics in the State is just and proper.

*Provided Clingman is not elected.

Ark. Spec.

WE understand that at Madison last week, Col. John A. Fagg, after Messrs. Gaither and Clingman had concluded, addressed his constituents, and successfully defended his own course, and that of his colleagues from the West in the Legislature last winter, against a somewhat ambiguous charge preferred by Mr. Clingman, that certain Western members had neglected the interests of their constituents. Col. Fagg wished to know of Mr. Clingman who those members were? The latter replied that he would not specify, as he did not desire to deal in personalities.

Ark. Spec.

WE understand that Col. Gaither, the Whig candidate for Congress in this District, most effectively demolished his opponent, an ex-member of Congress, in his speech at Madison court. The news from every part of the district is to the same effect—that our gallant standard bearer is busily receiving new recruits into his service, while his competitor is losing his old comrades by scores. The fact is, the people are opening their eyes to the glaring inconsistencies of Mr. Clingman's course, and are determined no longer to support a man who, by his conduct, has forfeited all claims to their confidence.

Ark. Spec.

FREE SUFFRAGE.

Weldon N. Edwards, Esq., the Democratic Speaker of the Senate in the last Legislature, who defeated Free Suffrage by his casting vote, and who has been most unmercifully abused for it by his Democratic brethren, has published an Address, in which he justifies his course, and handles his good friends without gloves. We make an extract or two. Mr. Edwards says:

"For the course I deemed it my duty to pursue, as Speaker of the Senate in the last General Assembly, in regard to the 'Free Suffrage' Bill, in withholding my vote from it on its final reading, I have been arraigned at the bar of public opinion for dilatory to the principles of Democracy; and the most virulent vituperation has been dealt out to me—may, many would consign me to the block—and demand my political life, of as little value as it is—as an atonement for what they arrogantly denounce as an offense against the majesty of party. Whether I am an offender to this extent will appear in the sequel of this paper. I will say, that, for my political principles, I have looked to the example and precepts of the fathers and founders of the Republic, and not to the crude views of the younglings of yesterday—not to the teachings of modern political Doctors, who claim the right to prescribe new articles of faith—as tests of Orthodoxy—and, so by authority, to prescribe and excommunicate all who do not subscribe to them."

To deny freedom of opinion, and conformity of conduct to convictions honestly entertained, is tyranny in its most odious form. The party that is animated by such a spirit, contains within itself the elements of its own dissolution. It is destined to discover, when too late—that the minds and consciences of men, cannot, and will not, be swayed, this way, and that, at its bidding. If this were not so—freedom, the most abject, instead of virtuous independence, would become the only passport to public place and public honors—and duty to country be sunk in the slough of party dissensions."

How well he knows his party! Let an honest and conscientious Democrat differ with the leaders in but one particular of principle, and the cry is raised "Down with him!" "Whip him into the ranks," or "Let him be proscribed!"

Mr. Edwards' Address concludes as follows: "Entertaining then these views—views embraced not hastily—but upon the fullest and most mature consideration—it would have been passing strange had I voted for the Free Suffrage Bill. I knew the high interests at

staked on its fate—I knew the weight of responsibility that attached to my position—but my path of duty was a plain one—I fearlessly pursued it. I knew full well that it was not one of ease—nor one in which I could expect to gather laurels or hope to win honors and preferment. But the path of duty was not, in his instance, a path of danger—and I thank God, that higher considerations than mere personal consequences served me to the task."

The foregoing exposition of my course, as your representative in the last Legislature, I have deemed it my duty to make—and regret that it could not be condensed in narrower limits but which I desired to be brief, I felt more desirous to be perspicuous.

My political life has hence marked by a steady adherence to the great principles of the Democratic faith—and among them I recognize as one of the highest and holiest the obligation of the Representative to do the will of the constituent body. To that I have ever conformed, and never more rigidly than during the recent session of the Legislature. I had been elected on the same ticket (Free Suffrage), and last time by a largely increased majority—although I had at the preceding session—precisely under the same circumstances as at the last—withdrawn my vote from the same measure—and could not