

# Old North State

SALISBURY, FRIDAY, DEC. 3, 1869.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

nothing of importance has been done by the Legislature since our last issue, except a resolution to investigate the charges of fraud against certain Radicals in the committee of the whole House. A bill introduced the committee more ample powers, to compel testimony of witnesses and makes those swearing false affidavits liable to prosecution for perjury. In putting out whether it will pass or not we cannot tell. At all events, the investigation are that the Radicals will be disgraced. A large number of bills and resolutions have been introduced which will require several months to consider. But what is most likely to make session a long one is the fact that both Houses have a large number of bills introduced. That there is no room for both parties to introduce the bills of their respective parties in a short session is true. But a majority of our men are so anxious that this is the only day they will have to sit the party out, and the two determined to hold on to it as long as possible.

In order to make room for other and more important matter we have been compelled to omit our article of the past week this week. We shall resume them again next week, and keep our readers well posted on our limited space we admit.

## THE ALLEGED RAILROAD FRAUDS.

No matter is now engaging so much public attention as that of the alleged frauds in the sale and delivery of the Railroad bonds. This is another friend of the State who is a deep interest in the. The second form of investigation is all but useless among all classes of people of all parties. All were looking with deep anxiety to the legislature, when it should meet, to have the proper investigation to be made. But we fear they will be disappointed. A number of bills and resolutions have been offered in both Houses having that object in view, but they have not been passed. We have no space to mention them all, much less to publish them in full. That offered by Dr. Ellis of Catawba, as a substitute for that of Mr. Welch, was, to our mind, the one that ought to have been adopted. It designated the gentlemen who were to constitute the investigating committee. If that had passed the committee would have consisted of a number of gentlemen of acknowledged ability and integrity, selected from among the members of both political parties. They would have made a fair and impartial investigation and report. But the course of the radical majority, in rejecting it, was such as to imply doubts of its willingness to have such investigation made.

The most extraordinary part of the proceedings is that in which the House of Representatives determined to make the investigation in committee of the whole. We need not tell our readers that a committee of five members could have made the investigation much quicker, and much more thoroughly and satisfactorily; than a committee of four hundred and twenty, they were disposed to do their duty honestly and rigidly. Whether they are to be excused the same may be left to the judgment of the leaders in the House, and the rest of us. Was this the object of the leaders in having it referred to the committee of the whole House?

Had Dr. Ellis' bill passed, a speedy, thorough and impartial investigation could not have been prevented, except by the weight of the witnesses, to a former occasion. Why, then, was it rejected? Why did not the parties implicated or their friends in the House, demand the fullest investigation?

Such has ever been the course of innocent men, when charged with dishonesty or improper conduct. We make no charge of fraud or improper conduct for the reason that we have not the proof of it.

But it is certain that the public generally believe that there is truth in the injurious report to that effect. Such being the case it is a pregnant circumstance that such demand has not only not been made, but that it has, in fact, been resisted.

Again, if Dr. Ellis' bill had passed, of any planar bill, the cost of the investigation to the State would have amounted to little or nothing. The session would not necessarily have been prolonged for a single day in consequence. But it is every day spent in the investigation that is added to the length of the session.—Admittedly, they thus added will cut the State \$1,000,000. But the good people of the State require these things, and who are responsible for them. Those men who sought to have a full and fair investigation made, Republicans, Democrats and Conservatives, are entitled to, and will receive, the thanks of the people of North Carolina without distinction of party, race or color. Let them confine their efforts, no matter who may suffer in consequence. We are not one of those who believe that all the virtue of the State is confined to one party. We believe that there are honest men in the Republican party as any other, and that the "Press" is composed of members of all parties. It is proper, then, that the honest men of all parties should unite to ferret out and expose the fraud and corruption which is believed to exist, and of which members of all parties have been guilty. Let them stand together and demonstrate that even in this desperate age there are those in the councils of the State who prefer her welfare to mere partisan ascendancy.

EST. THE Standard charges that the Democratic papers have destroyed the credit of the State. Of course we do not take any part of it to ourselves, as ours is a Democratic paper.—But we think the Standard has done quite as much to break down the credit of the State as any other paper has done. A Democratic paper of small local circulation, which, perhaps, has not a single subscriber in any of the Northern States, gives no reputation to its own account. The Standard, which circulates among the best men of the Northern cities, and exchanges with many of the Northern papers, at once proclaims to them, we say, that the "Daily Standard," in North Carolina, is doing the reputation of the state. In this way, by publishing a statement which is not true, the Standard has done more to damage the State's credit than any other paper.

We simply make the above statement to let our readers know what the Radical leaders say and think of each other. We have very great respect for true and honest Republicans, as our readers well know, and have been at all times ready to cooperate with them in promoting the welfare of the State. But we feel no interest in the Standard, the Standard has done more to damage the State's credit than any other paper.

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## GEN. ALFRED DOCKERY.

## THE STATES CREDIT.

The great advantages of public credit are admitted by all. None can be found to deny that we judge the members composing it from a political or business point of view. \* \* \* We will venture to say that the present Legislature of North Carolina will compare with that of any sister State; and whether we consider them as patriots, Christians or gentlemen the Republican members of that body are equalled by few and excelled by none."

This is delicately and handsomely done; but the game which vies with the writer's feelings is so thin that we are afraid that some of the members will be able to see through it. We hope the number of the *Pat* which contains this letter will not fall into the hands of Mr. Kinney.

"The present Senate will compare favorably with any that have ever preceded it; whether we judge the members composing it from a political or business point of view. \* \* \* We will venture to say that the present Legislature of North Carolina will compare with that of any sister State; and whether we consider them as patriots, Christians or gentlemen the Republican members of that body are equalled by few and excelled by none."

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## M. S. LITTLEFIELD.

Our readers will doubtless remember the flight of Gen. Littlefield, to evade an examination by an investigation committee, at the last session of the Legislature. Now another committee has been constituted to investigate charges of misconduct and malfeasance in financial matters, and it has been directed to the members of the Legislature, and others, in the Commons Hall. It was told frankly and manly. He recounted the acts of the Legislature at last session, and plainly told that body that it had brought the State to the brink of ruin. He referred to the complaints against him and his associates, and then I then with these words: "Clearly what we suggested on the 22d of October, and what Mr. Graham proposed in a bill introduced by him early in the present session, was what all who knew expected. One night last week he made speech to the members of the Legislature, and others, in the Commons Hall. It was told frankly and manly. 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