Old North State

SALISBURY, FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 1869.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We exclude much else to make room for the President's message. As it is the first document of the kind that has gone out from the Executive mansion for nearly four years, and as it is a plain, practical, sensible paper, without the least attempt at rhetorical finish. Its style is as much unlike that of his predecessor as his own proclamations are unlike those of Andrew Johnson. It is not, however, unimposing for all that. Taken as a whole, it is a highly creditable state paper, in which we may discover a good deal of the President's ability to deal with a mixed matter, when he has not the counsel of a premier. The copy which we have received, having been sent us from Washington by telegraph, doubtless contains but a few of the articles, but the meaning of the writer can be distinctly gathered.

The two points mentioned by the President in which our readers feel most interest are those of reconstruction and finance. What he says in reference to Virginia will meet with a hearty approval by the whole country. He gives that State credit for having acted in good faith, and urges the prompt admission of her Senators and Representatives to their seats in Congress. This is simple, plain and direct, and can be understood by all. But some explanation may be necessary to enable the reader to understand what he means by his recommendation in relation to Georgia. His object in both instances is evidently to hasten the final completion of the work of reconstruction, so as to take that question out of national politics. We will give, what seems to us to be, the solution of that part of the message relating to reconstruction in Georgia.

It will be remembered by our readers that after Georgia had adopted a Constitution, in conformity with the requirements of the reconstruction acts, and her Legislature had done what was required of it by the conditions of said acts, it proceeded to expel certain colored members from their seats in that body, and admit others who were barred by the 14th amendment. This gave great offence to many Radicals in Congress, and was sought by them to be made a pretext for remanding Georgia to a military government, and compelling her to do all her work over again. A bill, if we mistake not, was actually introduced to that effect at the last session. The Senators and Representatives elect from that State have, in consequence, been, thus far, excluded from their seats in the present Congress. Subsequently, however, the Supreme Court of Georgia itself decided that the colored members of her Legislature were wrongfully expelled—that they are entitled to their seats under the Constitution of the State. Thus the matter now stands—a number of members of Congress being committed to another reconstruction of the State, ostensibly for the reasons which we have stated. In this condition of things the President comes forward, apparently in the character of a mediator, and recommends the passage of an act by Congress declaring that the persons now offering under Georgia authorities, to be admitted. If he can succeed in having this done it will remove the alleged cause of complaint on the part of Benjamin F. Butler, and other radical leaders in Congress who are seeking a pretext for overthrowing the present State government in Georgia. It will completely take the wind out of their sails, and defeat their revolutionary designs. Georgia had unquestionably committed an error, as shown by the subsequent decision of her own Supreme Court, and she was likely to suffer greviously for it. We confess that we had much rather have seen the President leave the question of the readmission of the colored members to the State authorities, and recommend the unconditional admission of Georgia's Senators and Representatives at once. But if it was, as we think probable, the intention of the President to avert a great calamity from that State, and such shall actually be the result, the people will be ready not only to forgive, but applaud the act. This seems to us to be the explanation of that part of the message, and if so the object he has in view is eminently a conservative one.

The views of the President on the subject of the public debt and the finances of the country are certainly sound, and will give great satisfaction to all the practical business men of the country. They are the views which will finally prevail among all classes, and which, when practically carried out, will give us a good currency, pay the national debt, relieve us from excessive taxation, and establish the credit of the government upon an enduring basis—make it better than that of any nation in the world. We have not space this week to comment at greater length upon this part of the message, and we hope our readers will study it attentively, as it is brief and easily understood.

The President calls the attention of Congress to the embarrassments "possible to arise from leaving on the statute books the so-called 'tenure of office acts,'" and earnestly recommends their total repeal. His argument on this point is brief, but conclusive.

We have been compelled to pass entirely over all that portion of the message which treats of our foreign relations, and kindred topics. We, however, see nothing in it meriting severe censure, if, indeed, it is not deserving of approbation. Upon the whole the message—taking the explanation which we have given of that part relating to reconstruction in Georgia as the true one—is a very conservative paper, and we doubt not that we have been agreably disappointed in it.

POLITICAL INDICES—TRUE STATESMANSHIP

We see that several of our State exchanges are copying an article from the New York *Herald*, under the head of "What a Dead Party has done." The object is to show that the result of the late Northern elections was highly favorable to the Democratic party, and that said party will soon come into power. We have been regaled with similar articles ever since the close of the war. The Democrats have been constantly told that upon the wings the "glorious news" of some victory in some State or Municipal election for the last four years. Political prophets have a thousand times predicted with unerring certainty that the Democracy would "sweep the country" in 1868. But none of these predictions have been fulfilled. The Northern Democracy has reduced none of its positions to the possession of the enemy. So far as the late elections afford a criterion by which to judge, we believe we have made more gains than they have made since the close of the war. We have carried Pennsylvania, which was lost to us last year by a majority of 30,000 against us, and which, at the last Presidential election, gave a majority against us of 50,000. We have carried Ohio, which last year gave a majority against us of 50,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of from 20,000 to 30,000. We have carried Indiana, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of from 10,000 to 15,000. We have carried Nebraska, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,500, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,500. We have carried Vermont, which last year gave a majority against us of 15,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 15,000. We have carried Minnesota, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,500, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,500. We have carried Connecticut, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,000. We have carried Nevada, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,000. We have carried Maryland, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Missouri, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Kansas, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,500, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,500. We have carried Michigan, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Rhode Island, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,000. We have carried Wisconsin, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,500, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,500. We have carried Illinois, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Iowa, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried New Hampshire, which last year gave a majority against us of 1,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 1,000. We have carried Maine, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Massachusetts, which last year gave a majority against us of 10,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 10,000. We have carried Pennsylvania, which last year gave a majority against us of 50,000, by a majority in favor of the Republican party of 30