

of that honest industry that strengthens both body and mind, or the growth of wide and idleness, that weaken both, is, to my mind, to violate the plainest principles of political economy, to disregard the intelligent experience of mankind, and to sacrifice the best interests of society to the delusive teachings of a false philosophy.

It is claimed for this plan of taxation that it involves a principle of equality. It certainly does, and there lies the argument against it. It would treat as equal those things which, in themselves, are not equal, and which the public welfare requires should not be treated with equal favor by the government. It would impose an equal tax on a given amount invested by the merchant in sugar and coffee, which are among the necessities of life, and the same amount invested by the retailer of ardent spirits, in the merchandise pertaining to his vocation, an equal tax upon books of useful instruction, and others of like value, that tend to the cultivation of a vitiated taste; in fine, it would obliterate the ordinary distinctions between virtue and vice, which a moral people should keep constantly in view, in every branch of legislation.

It is said, however, by some of the advocates of this plan, that property, when employed in a way to lead to vice and idleness, should be taxed at a higher rate than when otherwise used, and that this may be done by requiring persons thus employing it, to pay a tax for the license, or the privilege of so using their property.

This, certainly, would be an ingenious mode of escaping from some of the evil consequences of a practical application of this principle, and carries with it the admission, that it is not a principle that will admit of a general, but only a limited and qualified employment.

A further examination of the subject, will discover still other considerations that will require a departure from this principle.

According to our present revenue law, most of the banking capital bears a tax of 75 cents on the share of \$100, in addition to an amount paid upon the profits of banking, equal to the tax upon the profits of money loaned at interest. The business of banking, as is well known, usually yields, with us, a clear profit of from eight to twelve per cent. annually, while persons having money at interest are prohibited, by law, from receiving more than six per cent.

Now, here is an instance of a discrimination between property employed in different ways, which, it is believed, will generally be conceded to be just. It is a distinction founded on the fact that, though both modes of employment may be equally useful to the public, the one yields a larger profit than the other, and consequently, is capable of bearing a heavier tax.

A discrimination should be made, it is submitted, between the different modes of employing property to their relative advantages to the public at large. For instance, by our revenue law, a tax of one dollar, on the hundred dollars value, is imposed upon pleasure carriages, gold and silver plate, jewelry and luxuries of the like kind; while a tax of but twenty cents, is imposed on a hundred dollars worth of land. And this, because of the fact, that the one is a mere luxury, while the other is necessary; the one diminishes the public wealth, the other increases it. Yet, the principle of *ad valorem* taxation, would make no distinction between them, but place an equal amount of taxes upon equal values of each. And, shall it be said, that land, upon which human habitations are built and bread is made for the sustenance of life, and from the productions of which commerce and manufacturers, and indeed all the occupations of men, derive vitality and support, shall be placed upon a footing of equality, as regards taxation with pleasure carriages, gold and silver plate, and the like articles of property that minister merely to our luxurious tastes, and withdraw from useful employments, the amount of capital invested in them?

There are still other considerations that should be kept in view, in the shaping of a proper system of revenue, wholly inconsistent with the idea of making no discrimination between different kinds of property.

A very considerable number of our citizens, make no surplus from the employment of their property, beyond the bare support of their families, and a law that would impose a tax upon every article of property without distinction, would have the effect to deprive them of some of the prime necessities of life. The interests of the people of this State require, in my opinion, that many articles of property should be entirely exempt from taxation.

Thus far, the principle upon which it is proposed to collect the revenues of the State has been considered with reference to its application to the various objects of property, and the different modes of their employment. It is proposed now, to consider the rule as applicable to persons in their several occupations requiring the employment of the mental and physical powers alone.

The proposition, that in the collection of revenue, it is unjust and inexpedient to discriminate in favor of or against any particular class of persons, is submitted, as that which would be found equally fallacious, as that which would forbid a discrimination between the different kinds of property.

The injustice and inexpediency of such a rule, cannot be more clearly illustrated, than by citing an instance of its application in our present revenue law. One of the provisions of that law, imposes a tax of one per cent. on the income from the various learned professions, the salaries of State and County officers, of the officers of corporations and individual employments, when the amount received by any one person exceeds \$500.

Here, there is no discrimination made between the lawyer and the mechanic, the physician and the overseer, the State or the county officer, whose labor is performed within doors, and the Railroad engineer, who, in conducting the locomotive, is exposed to the inclemencies of the weather and the many dangers incident to his profession; they are all treated alike under this rule of equal taxation.

Such a rule, I maintain, is erroneous in its application to persons; that it is eminently just and proper in the imposition of taxes to discriminate in favor of particular classes of persons engaged in certain pursuits. While I regard it as altogether proper, to impose a tax upon the income of persons engaged in many of the learned professions; upon salaried officers of the State and counties, and of some corporations, I consider it as inexpedient to impose any tax at all upon the mechanical and like employments, for the reason that, the former are capable of bearing a tax, while the latter are not, in consequence of the fact, that such employments are, as yet, in their infancy with us, and usually yield but little more than a bare support for the persons engaged in them. They are rather the proper objects of the fostering care and protection of the government than fit subjects of taxation.

In the collection of revenue from the proceeds of individual occupations, especial regard should be had, 1st, to the lucrative character of the employments; 2nd, the comparative ease and freedom from risk with which the labor pertaining to them is performed; 3rd, their relative advantages to the public at large, and consequent claim upon the government for protection and discriminations should be made, for or against the particular classes as these considerations may indicate.

It were difficult indeed, to lay down any general rule of taxation suitable to every condition of society, and adapted to the ever changing circumstances of people. However this may be, it is confidently believed, that upon a full consideration of the subject, it will clearly appear that, a general and unqualified system of *ad valorem* taxation, is not adapted to the condition of our people. In which event, there would be no necessity for an amendment of the constitution to preclude conformity to such a system.

It will be borne in mind, that there is, in the constitution, no limitation upon the power of the Legislature to increase or reduce the taxes upon slave property, whenever the one or the other may become necessary to produce a just relation between the amount of taxes collected from that and other kinds of property. The limitation consists in requiring a uniformity of the poll tax upon white persons and slaves, *white males* only between the ages of 21 and 45 years, and *all slaves*, between the ages of 12 and 50 years, being subject to such a tax.

Whether this provision be a just one or not, can in no way be more satisfactorily determined, than by a consideration of its practical operation. The slaves of the State, according to an estimate made from the late census, may be rated at 315,000 in number. While the white population numbers some 800,000. The amount of taxes collected from the former, as appears from the Comptroller's books, is \$127,662, and from the latter \$53,332, for the present year. These sums, when apportioned among our entire population of each, would allow 40 cents for every slave and 67 cents for each white person.

Now, when the advantages derived from the Government, by the various classes of our citizens be considered, it is submitted that the provisions of our Constitution referred to, is, in its practical operation, as above illustrated, substantially just towards all.

It is not, however, as a financial, but as a social question, that this proposition of amendment assumes its chief importance.

The entire exports of the surplus products of North Carolina amount, in value, as far as a careful enquiry enables me to determine to \$12,000,000 annually, of which \$11,000,000, at the least, may be stated as resulting directly and immediately from slave labor. This being taken as correct, it appears that our whole social fabric is based upon and sustained by slave labor. There is scarcely an occupation of our people, whether mechanical, manufacturing, mercantile or professional, that does not mainly depend on it for a support.—Without it not a rail road could be built, and of those already constructed there would not exist the means of preventing their going to decay. Upon this labor rests the public credit, and without it the State could not procure a dollar in the market, though for the most useful purposes, because she would be wholly unable to pay the interest on the public debt already contracted. In a word, the social and material prosperity of our people, and their means of living, greatly depend upon this species of labor. Its loss, with us, could never be fully supplied; for the most productive portion of our territory would not and could not be cultivated by the white race.

In view of these facts, it is clearly the part of a prudent legislation to avoid, carefully, every measure that would tend to the expulsion of this species of labor from the State. Already there exists a heavy drain upon it, in consequence of the greater profit resulting from its employment in the more Southern States.

That the repeal of the clause of the Constitution in question, and the consequences that would inevitably follow from that act, would add another and a powerful influence to those already existing to expel slaves from the State, does not, to my mind, admit of a

doubt. Furthermore, the Constitution as it exists is consistent with itself. All free men have the right of voting for members of both branches of the Legislature, and all are required to pay a poll tax toward the support of the Government. Were this tax repealed, there would exist that anomaly in free Government of the power of imposing taxes resting with one portion of our people, while the duty of paying them would remain to the other. Consider from this point of view this feature of our Constitution, which is sought to be abrogated, affords a highly useful protection to all kinds of property of whatever nature.

Before concluding this subject, I would respectfully suggest a revision of our revenue law, with a view to its amendment in such particulars as the public interests may require. I would especially recommend an amendment of the clause imposing a tax upon incomes and salaries, upon the principle heretofore indicated.

It is believed that the condition of the public finances will admit of a reduction of the tax upon land, from twenty to fifteen cents on the hundred dollars value. Such a reduction I deem necessary to the establishing of a just relation between the land tax and that imposed upon other property of a like kind.

FEDERAL RELATIONS.
I would that I could, consistently with a due regard to the public interests, conclude this communication with a reference simply to our domestic affairs. It is impossible, however, to close the eye to the perilous condition of the confederacy, growing out of the agitation that has for many years been kept up against the institution of African Slavery as existing in the South. The Republic has at last fallen upon those evils, against which, the Father of the country so solemnly warned us in his parting advice—it is distinctly and widely divided by "parties founded upon geographical discriminations."

The great body of the people of the Northern and Southern States entertain diametrically opposite opinions upon the subject of African Slavery; the former, that is a social and political evil and a sin; the latter, that it is a system of labor eminently well adapted to our climate and soil, right and proper within itself, and that so far from being a sin, its establishment among us is one of the Providences of God for civilizing and Christianizing the benighted race.

Were these sentiments entertained as abstract opinions merely, they would occasion but little disturbance to the government. It is far otherwise, however. This sentiment, with the people of the North, has assumed the form of a bold and aggressive fanaticism, that seeks the annihilation of slavery in the South at all hazards, and regardless of consequences.—That such is its aim, the object and the end of its daily and hourly labors, can no longer be the subject of a doubt.

Impelled by this spirit, the Northern States have violated our rights to an extent that would scarcely have been borne by any other people on earth. They have deprived us of our property, through lawless mobs, acting under the sanction of a high public opinion, and often, too, with the connivance of their constituted authorities. Organized societies, with them, have sent emissaries among us to incite slaves to insurrection and to bloodshed. Inflammatory publications, counselling slaves to rise against their masters have been systematically circulated throughout the South by the dominant party of the North, sanctioned and endorsed by its most influential leaders. The Legislature of a large majority of the non-slaveholding States have, by solemn enactments, openly and shamelessly annulled a provision of the Constitution of the United States, for the rendition of fugitive slaves, and have legislated directly and pointedly, with the view to prevent the owner from recovering such property.

Courts of justice among them have, upon more than one occasion, totally disregarded a law of Congress enacted to secure our rights of property, and delivered over fugitive slaves to attendant mobs, with a knowledge of their purpose to prevent their reclamation by force.

But little more than a year since, an armed organization was deliberately planned and set on foot by political societies, and men high in public confidence at the North, for the purpose of heading an insurrection of slaves against their masters.—The invaders came, and in the night time, fell upon a weak and unsuspecting community, and murdered peaceable and unarmed citizens.

When captured and executed for their treason and murder, they were lamented by the great body of the people of the North, as though they had fallen in the performance of some meritorious public service. It may be doubted whether history furnishes another instance among a civilized people where treason and murder have been so sympathized with and applauded. Since which time, men most prominent in these demonstrations have been elevated to the highest offices of State, thus evidencing the deep and pervading sentiment of hostility in the North towards the institutions and the people of the South.

Such of the invaders as escaped were harbored in the non-slaveholding States and upon demand made, according to the forms of the constitution, the executives of two of those States, Ohio and Iowa, pointedly refused to perform their sworn constitutional obligations by surrendering them to the justice they had fled.

Enormities like these could not have been perpetrated towards the people of any foreign nation without involv-

ing the country in a war. Indeed, it is now but too manifest that the people of the Southern States have not in their confederacy that protection for their property which the subjects of Great Britain, France or any other foreign country can claim and enforce against us. Should the subjects of any foreign government be despoiled of their property by the people of Massachusetts or any other non-slaveholding State, restitution and indemnity would be made by our government, upon demand, or refusals and war against the United States would enforce indemnity. But should the people of Massachusetts forcibly deprive a citizen of North Carolina of his property, he would have no such remedy, and indeed no remedy at all since the Constitution which provides for such cases has been wholly annulled by the State of Massachusetts.

The forbearance with which the South has borne these indignities and wrongs, has utterly failed to secure a corresponding forbearance upon the part of our aggressors. The spirit of fanaticism by which they are influenced, growing bolder by its lawless riot and unobstructed indulgence, has at last so far united the Northern masses, as to enable them to seize upon the general government with all its power of purse and sword. Two persons have been elected respectively to the offices of President and Vice-President, exclusively by the people of one section of the country, upon a principle hostile to the institutions and domestic policy of the other. Neither of them received an electoral vote all the fifteen Southern States, and neither could have uttered, in many of them, the political sentiments upon which they are elevated to power, without subjecting himself to penalties of the local criminal laws. A clearer case of a foreign domination as to could not well be presented, and that it will be a hostile domination, past occurrences and the circumstances under which they have been elected, forbid us to doubt. Thirty people, having a due appreciation of the principles of liberty, could not submit to such a domination, it is impossible to suppose. They now tell us that this election has been conducted according to the forms of the Constitution, and that, therefore, the people of the South should take no objection to the fact. They who themselves have utterly refused to be bound by that Constitution, now hold it up to us as a bond to secure us from deluding our property and lives against their oppressions.

It is true Abraham Lincoln is elected President, according to the forms of the Constitution, it is equally true that George the Third was the rightful occupant of the British Throne, yet our fathers submitted not to his authority. They rebelled not against the man, not because of any defect of his title to the crown, but against the more substantial, —the tyranny of his Ministers and Parliament. That power behind the throne, and which in the name of a throne attempted to deprive them of their liberties, is the one with which they grappled. So it is with us. It is not the man, Abraham Lincoln, that we regard, but the power that elevates him to office and which will naturally maintain a controlling influence in his Administration. And can reasonably be expected that men who have totally disregarded their constitutional obligations and proved dangerous to the administration of their State Governments, will learn moderation by this new gratification of their lust of power and domination?

When it is considered that the sentiment of hostility to African slavery is deeply fixed in the minds of the Northern people—that for twenty-five years it has found a part of their education,—being inculcated in the family circle, and taught to them from the Pulpit, as a leading principle of their religion, together with the duty of its practical enforcement everywhere and on every occasion, it must be confessed that there exists but little ground upon which to rest a hope that our rights will be secured to us by the General Government administered at their hands.

The condition of public affairs, as was to have been expected, threatens the most deplorable consequences to the Confederacy. Already, it is rendered more than probable, that several of the Southern States, in the exercise of their natural rights of nations, will separate from the Federal Union, before the termination of your present Session. See an occurrence would present a gloomy state of facts, commanding yet most serious and solemn deliberation.

It cannot for a moment be supposed that we could submit to have the policy of the abolition party, upon which their candidate for the Presidency has been elected, carried out in his Administration as it would result in the destruction of our property, and the placing of the lives of our people in daily peril, and even though this should not be immediately attempted, yet an effort to employ the military power of the General Government against one of the Southern States, would present an emergency demanding prompt and decided action on our part. It can be manifest that a blow thus aimed at one of the Southern States would involve the whole country in a civil war, the destructive consequences of which to us, could only be controlled by our ability to resist them engaged in waging it.

The utilization of the age, surely, ought to be a sufficient guarantee for the prevention of so great a calamity as intestine war, even though amid political charges of the magnitude of those going on around us. But, should the incoming Administration be guilty of the folly and the wickedness of drawing the sword against any Southern State, whose people may choose to seek their protection out of the Federal

Union which is denied to them in it, then we of North Carolina, would owe it to ourselves,—to the liberties we have inherited from our fathers,—to the peace of our homes and families, dearer to us than all governments, to resist it to the last extremity.

Ours is a government of public opinion and not of force; and the employment of military force to control the popular will, would, if successful, result in a galling and inexorable despotism.

The prevention, then, of civil war, and the preservation of peace amongst us, are the great objects which North Carolina should resolve upon securing, whatever changes the Government may undergo.

In view of the perilous condition of the country, it is, in my opinion, becoming and proper that we should have some consultation with those States identified with us in interest and in the wrongs we have suffered; and especially those lying immediately adjacent to us. As any action of our kind, would be necessary, materially affect them, it would be but consistent with the amicable relations that have ever existed between us, to invite them to a consultation upon a question that so deeply affects us all. From a calm and deliberate consideration of the best mode of avoiding a common danger, much good might result and no evil could.

In thus proceeding, we would show to the world a disposition to exhaust every peaceable remedy for the solution of our difficulties, and a firm determination to maintain our rights, "in the Union if possible and out of it if necessary?"

Such a step, too, would be but a becoming march of respect to that considerable portion of the people of the non-slaveholding States, who have ever been disposed to acknowledge as equals in the Union, and who have on many occasions gallantly struggled to secure our Constitutional rights.

I therefore respectfully recommend that you invite the Southern States to a conference, or such of them as may be inclined to enter into consultation with us upon the present condition of the country. Should such a conference be found impracticable, then I would recommend the sending of one or more delegates to our neighboring States with the view of securing concert of action.

I also think that the public safety requires a recurrence to our own people for an expression of their opinion. The will of the people once expressed will be a law of action with all, and secure that unanimity so necessary in an emergency like the present.

I therefore recommend that a Convention of the people of the State be called, to assemble immediately after the proposed consultation with other Southern States shall have terminated. The subject of our military defenses will require your early attention. I would recommend a thorough reorganization of the militia, and the enrolling of all persons between the ages of 18 and 45 years. With such a regulation our muster roll would contain near a hundred and ten thousand men.

I would also recommend the formation of a corps of ten thousand volunteers with an organization separate from the main body of the militia, and that they be suitably armed and equipped.

That your proceedings may be conducted in a spirit of harmony and conciliation, and that they will redound to the honor and welfare of North Carolina and our common country, is my fervent desire.

Concluded in our next.

Dismal.
The Charleston "Mercury" contrasts "Northern and Southern patronage" of newspapers as follows:

"The New York Tribune, the chief organ of our Northern aggressors, has a subscription list verging on 300,000—and all paying subscribers—for the paper is sent to no one who does not pay in advance, and is stopped with the exhaustion of pre-payment. The Editor boasts that he receives a peck full of letters every morning, containing the money for subscription; and his success of all kind presses at the North. How is it with Southern presses, faithful to the rights and institutions of the South? Take the Charleston Mercury, which for thirty-five years has been a prominent press in the South—what has been the fate of its Editors? The first ruined, the second barely earned a narrow subsistence—the third injured, but sold out in time—the fourth died a ruined man. The fifth is our humble selves, of whom we will say nothing. What paper at the North has brought to the public understanding, more ability, and brains and labor enough in it to have amassed a dozen fortunes. Yet, how meagre has been the patronage conferred upon it, compared with its Northern contemporaries? How many tens of thousands of dollars are now due to it, have been lost, uncollectable and unpaid. How many tens of thousands of dollars now due it—and chiefly by the very men—the planters—the slaveholders of the South—whose property and institutions—whose liberties and lives it has labored to protect."

MILDEWELL, Nov. 12.—A resolution was offered in the Legislature to-day instructing the Senators and Representatives of Georgia in Congress to resist counting in the Electoral College the vote of those States which have nullified the Fugitive Slave Law. It has been made the special order of the day for the 20th instant.

A resolution was offered, contemplating the calling of a separate Southern Convention in February at Atlanta.

IREDELL EXPRESS



EUGENE B. DRAKE & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

STATESVILLE,
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Governor's Message.

We lay before our readers this week, the more important part of Gov. Ellis' Message to the Legislature of North Carolina, and will submit the remainder next week. The Message represents the State to be in a prosperous condition, and the people contented and happy, comparatively. This says the Message is owing chiefly, to the system of railroad improvements, which, mapping the State, have developed its resources and opened outlets for the products of the interior to the best markets. This is bestowing a high compliment, unintentionally, to the sagacity of the Whig party who projected and put in practical operation the railroad system of the State. We are pleased to know that Gov. Ellis, no longer invokes "hugs of iron and a throat of steel, to proclaim to the people the evils of internal improvements."

The railroad system was not only projected by the Whigs, but the capital of Whigs, and the taxes Whigs have paid, have afforded the chief means of building these roads; nevertheless, the management of these roads has gone into the hands of Democrats. The more important part of the message, perhaps, pertains to Federal relations. The Governor recommends the arming and equipping of a number of Volunteer companies, but is silent as to how the means shall be provided to do it; leaving the inference that men, who volunteer to serve the State, must arm and equip themselves. This recommendation is the more remarkable, inasmuch, as the Governor ignores *ad valorem* or the taxing of negroes as property, about whom all the turmoil which threatens to dissolve the Union and plunge the country into civil war, has had its origin—the *negro*. He likewise recommends a re-organization of the militia, and the enrolling of every man able to bear arms, between the ages of 18 and 45 to defend the institution of the South, which must incur a heavy expense to the tax payer, who may or may not have an interest in the institution, to say nothing of time spent in attending drill, &c. And yet the Governor is opposed to taxing the *negro*; and compelling him to pay his share for the protection, which the Governor would compel every non-slaveholder to afford him! One might reasonably suppose, that in this time even Gov. Ellis would be persuaded to recognize the *negro* as persons and not property. The idea with the Governor seems to be this—white people shall pay all the taxes—have to do all the fighting, equally, whether they own a slave or not. So set it in his view upon this subject, that we verily believe, if it would oppose a voluntary contribution from a slave owner towards a fund to arm and equip the State. If his speech last summer, and his message, do not tend to that, they are meaningless. While the policy which the Governor recommends, if carried out, must materially increase the public expenditures, he makes no recommendation as to the means for raising supplies—well knowing, as he must, that every article but negroes, is now taxed to the utmost tension, and that the people fairly groan under the burden of their taxes. With a certainty, that the public expenditures will increase by arming the State, and the additional calls which will necessarily be made upon the public treasury for other purposes, how is it possible that the land tax can be reduced, as the message recommends, unless other items can be found and taxed? If the Governor or any of his friends can accomplish his recommendation in the manner he suggests, by taxing luxuries and immorality, and reduce the tax upon land, we shall rejoice; but we incline to the opinion that, it cannot be accomplished.

Every man in the State will, no doubt, subscribe to the recommendation of building up and supporting Southern Manufactures, and developing the resources of the State in every way practicable, by works of internal improvement and other means.

Suspension of Specie Payments.
The Banks of many other States having suspended specie payments, it is more than probable, that the Banks of North Carolina, will do likewise. If so, we think the Legislature of our State should enact a law, prohibiting the sale of property for specie, so long as the Banks remain suspended. It is a protection which the debtor will require to save him from the rapacity of foreign or other creditors, at a time like the present. This is a protection due the citizens of the State, and cannot be too early acted on.

Stopping the Supplies.
Some of our provision men were notified from St. Louis yesterday, says the Macon Telegraph, of the 21st, that no more credit would be extended to Georgia customers for grain or provisions. The reason assigned was that Georgia was going no far cut of the Union that remittances might never reach St. Louis from that distance. That is right. Put us all on the cash system, gentlemen, and it is the only thing needed to fill our pockets. A planting country has no business with credit, and planters stand very much in their own light when they ask it.

Pardoned.
Norment, who was found guilty and sentenced to be hung at the late term of the Superior Court for Mecklenburg county, for the murder of Titterton, has been pardoned by Gov. Ellis.

Free Trade and Cheap Negroes.

The editor of the Fayetteville Observer was in Raleigh a few days ago, and saw a sale of slaves for cash, at the following prices:

"A negro woman, aged 40, sold for \$250. A girl, who would have brought \$1000 a few months ago, sold for \$505!"

We have seen reports of sales of negroes in Georgia, Richmond and other places, at about the same rates. If dissolution should take place, likely negro men will not fetch \$400, women much less. While land and all other kinds of property will fall in proportion. The seceding States will open the African slave-trade, countless numbers of wild barbarians will be brought over and sold in the South, to the great detriment of the owners of slaves in North Carolina, Virginia, &c. Free trade will follow—the pauper labor of Europe will supplant the industry of the white mechanics of the South, and every mill and machine-shop will have to close.—There will be no mistake in this, for it is what secessionists have contended for the last thirty years. The hard-working mechanics of the country—the boasted South—are nothing in their vision, but a monopoly of lands—negroes—and free trade—to them is everything.

Let the slaveholders, as well as the non-slaveholders in North Carolina, be warned!

Matters in Philadelphia.
Norris, our large engine builder, has just discharged all his hands, somewhere about 800, for want of business.
Conover & Bro., a large shoe house, has failed, with liabilities of \$500,000. Things here are in a very gloomy condition.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

We gave the organization of the two Houses of the Legislature in last issue. Considerable discussion as to the number of copies of the Governor's Message should be printed, took place in the Senate, on the 21st, the Governor's party desiring a large quantity, and the opposition opposing it as a useless extravagance. The former prevailed and the copies were ordered to be printed for each member, amounting to a large number in all, at a heavy cost.

Several bills have been offered by the Whigs to amend the Constitution so as to tax slaves according to value or *ad valorem*. John Spelman has been elected State Printer, which amounts to dividing it with the Raleigh Press, as Spelman's office is in Salisbury.

W. A. Jenkins has been elected Attorney General of the State, over Kemp P. Battle. The following persons have been elected Judges: M. E. Manly, a Judge of the Supreme Court; J. W. Osborne, Judge of the Sup. Court for the Sixth District.

Gov. Morehead presented a bill in the Senate for the election of Judges by the people.
Mr. Steele, a bill to bind out certain free persons of color.

Thos. Settle has been re-elected solicitor for the 4th district. Wm. Lawderge elected solicitor for the 6th district.

In the Senate, on the 26th, Mr. Ewin introduced a Bill providing for a call Convention of the people of the State to take into consideration the proper course for the State to pursue in regard to Federal Relations.—Referred to Committee on Federal Relations.
Mr. Avery a bill to authorize the Governor to call a Convention for the same purpose.—Referred to Committee on Federal Relations.

Official vote of North Carolina.

We give in our table to-day the official vote of this State for President and Vice President, as returned to the Executive Department. It will be seen that Breckinridge has carried the State over both Bell and Douglas. The Vote falls up thus:

For Breckinridge,	48,539.
For Bell,	44,990.
For Douglas,	2,701.

Breckinridge's majority over Bell is 3,549; over Douglas 45,838; and over both 848.

The votes of the counties of Bladen, Madison, and Alleghany, are not counted, they not having been duly returned according to law. They would have increased Breckinridge's majority to over 4,000.—[Raleigh Press.]

Threatened Rupture of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 1860. The discussions of the question that is now agitating the whole country, and the position which the President shall take regarding it in his forthcoming message, has brought the cabinet to the verge of a break up, and it may end in that before the first Monday in December, when Congress will meet. The President insists that the constitution of the United States establishes a government, and he, as the sworn head and executive thereof, must and will insist upon the execution of the federal laws; that the idea of peaceable secession by any State in a fallacy which he does not recognize, and must resist to the full extent of his power. In this view he is supported by Cass, Black, Toucey and Holt.

On the other hand, the Southern members of the Cabinet—Floyd, Cobb and Thompson—hold that the constitution is merely a compact which may be broken at any moment by a single State, which may wish to retire from the confederacy, by declaring its wish to do so, and that in so doing they should not be molested by the federal government.

That portion of the message treating of this question of secession is still under discussion, which will continue until a compromise is found or the Cabinet breaks up in a row. You can rely upon these facts, and that the administration is in a crisis.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20. The Cabinet had a protracted session to-day, and it was understood that the President, having completed his Message, it was read at length to his Cabinet. It is very lengthy. He discusses elaborately the question at issue between the North and the South, especially secession. What position he assumes in regard to this matter I am not at present at liberty to disclose.

One of the most farcical incidents of these "sensational" days is the meeting of the Southern Medical Students in New York. These Fire-Eaters are about to "secede" from the College because Lincoln is elected President. Now, let us ask these Fire-Eating and seceding negro Doctors, what business they had in a New