

SUFFERING FROM THIRST.  
I have said that we continued our journey until the middle of the afternoon. About that time, and without seeing any sign ahead that could lead us to expect there was so great a change in the face of the country, we suddenly reached the brow of a precipitous bluff, some two or three hundred feet in height, which overlooked the large valley of broken and rugged appearance.

me doubly anxious to gain the scene of destruction and learn the worst. It afterwards proved that the explosion of the cartridges in the wagon was what we had mistaken for the report of our six-pounder. With redoubled exertions we now pushed forward towards the camp, but before we could reach the base of the high and rugged bluff the flames were dashing down its sides with frightful rapidity, leaping and flashing across the gullies and around the hideous cliffs, and roaring in the deep, yawning chasms with the wild and appalling noise of a tornado. As the flames would strike the dry tops of the cedars, reports, resembling those of the musket, would be heard; and in such quick succession did these reports follow each other, that I can compare them to nothing save the irregular discharge of infantry—a strange accompaniment to the wild roar of the devouring element.

The wind was blowing fresh from the west when the prairie was ignited, carrying the flames with a speed absolutely astonishing, over the very ground on which we had travelled during the day. The wind lulled as the sun went down behind the mountains in the west, and now the fire began to spread slowly in that direction. The difficult passage by which we had descended was cut off by the fire, and night found our party still in the valley, unable to discover any other road to the table-land above. Our situation was a dangerous one, too; for had the wind sprung up and veered into the east, we should have found much difficulty in escaping, with such velocity did the flames extend.

If the scene had been grand previous to the going down of the sun, its magnificence was increased tenfold as night in vain attempted to throw its dark mantle over the earth. The light from acres and acres, I might say miles and miles, of inflammable and blazing cedars, illuminated earth and sky with a radiance even more lustrous and dazzling than that of the noonday sun. Ever and anon, as some one of our comrades would approach the brow of the high bluff above us, he appeared not like an inhabitant of this earth. A lurid and most unnatural glow, reflected upon his countenance from the valley of burning cedars, seemed to render still more haggard and toilsome his burned and blackened features.

I was fortunate enough, about nine o'clock, to meet one of our men, who directed me to a passage up the steep ascent. He had just left the bluff above, and gave me a piteous recital of our situation. He was endeavouring to find water, after several hours of unceasing toil, and I left him with slight hopes that his search would be rewarded. By this time I was alone, not one of the companions who had started with me from the river being in sight or hearing. One by one they had dropped off, each searching for some path by which he might climb to the table-land above.

The first person I met, after reaching the prairie, was Mr. Falconer, standing with the blackened remnant of a blanket in his hand, and watching lest the fire should break out on the western side of the camp; for in that direction the exertions of the men, aided by a strong westerly wind, had prevented the devouring element from spreading. Mr. F. directed me to the spot where our mess was quartered. I found them sitting upon such articles as had been saved from the wagon, their gloomy countenances rendered more desponding by the reflection from the now distant fire. I was too much worn down by fatigue and deep anxiety to make many inquiries as to the extent of our loss; but hungry, and almost choked with thirst, I threw myself upon the blackened ground and sought forgetfulness in sleep. It was hours, however, before sleep visited my eyelids. From the spot on which I was lying, a broad sheet of flame could still be seen, miles and miles in width, the heavens in that direction so brilliantly lit up that they resembled a sea of molten gold. In the west, a wall of impenetrable blackness appeared to be thrown up as the spectator suddenly turned from viewing the conflagration in the opposite direction. The subdued yet deep roar of the element could still be plainly heard as it sped on as with the wings of lightning across the prairies, while in the valley far below, the flames were flashing and leaping among the dry cedars, and shooting and circling about in a manner closely resembling a magnificent pyrotechnic display—the general

On approaching nearer we were hurriedly seeking a passage up the steep. They had heard, from those on the prairie above, that the high grass had caught fire by accident, and that with such velocity had it spread that several of the wagons, and among them that of the commissioners, had been consumed. This wagon contained, in addition to a large number of cartridges, all the trunks and valuables of the mess to which I was attached, making

me doubly anxious to gain the scene of destruction and learn the worst. It afterwards proved that the explosion of the cartridges in the wagon was what we had mistaken for the report of our six-pounder. With redoubled exertions we now pushed forward towards the camp, but before we could reach the base of the high and rugged bluff the flames were dashing down its sides with frightful rapidity, leaping and flashing across the gullies and around the hideous cliffs, and roaring in the deep, yawning chasms with the wild and appalling noise of a tornado.

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# THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES, Editors & Proprietors.  
"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR BUSINESS."  
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combination forming a scene of grandeur and sublimity which the pen shrinks from describing, and to which the power of words is wholly unequal. Daylight the next morning disclosed a melancholy scene of desolation and destruction. North, south, and east, as far as the eye could reach, the rough and broken country was blackened by the fire, and the removal of the earth's shaggy covering of cedars and tall grass but laid bare, in painful distinctness, the awful chasms and rents in the steep hillsides before us, as well as the valley spreading far and wide below. Afar off, in the distance, a dense black smoke was seen rising, denoting that the course of the devastating element was still onward. Two of our wagons only had been entirely consumed, but nearly all had suffered. A part of the baggage in the commissioners' wagon had been saved by the extraordinary exertions of some of the men, and just as they had relinquished the work the explosion of cartridges, which had first alarmed the party in the valley, scattered the burning fragments of the wagon in every direction. My friend Falconer was so disfigured that I hardly knew him. His hair and eyebrows were scorched completely off, his face was in a perfect blister, his clothes burned from his back, and without a hat, he seemed as though some insurance office had met with a heavy loss. Object of pity, however, as he appeared to be, I still could not help smiling at the sad and wo-begone figure he presented. Among the few trunks saved I fortunately found mine, containing nearly all my money, clothing, watch, and other valuables. The loss of a carpet-bag, which contained my boots and the rough articles I wore upon the road, was all I had to regret in the way of private property. Not so with the mess to which I was attached. The remnant of coffee we had left was burned entirely too much; our pots, pans and kettles, knives and forks, were converted into old iron—everything was gone. We had nothing to eat, however, except half rations of miserably poor beef, and the necessity of falling back upon first principles, or, in other words, eating with our fingers, annoyed us but little.

The wagon of the commissioners contained, besides our private baggage, a quantity of jewelry, blankets, cartridges, rifles, muskets, &c. These were all destroyed. The other wagon which was consumed was loaded with goods, and from this nothing was saved. At one time the ammunition wagon, containing a large quantity of powder, was on fire, and only saved by the daring exertions of some of our men. It may appear singular to some of my readers that so much damage could be caused by the burning of grass alone, for on the spot where the wagons were drawn up there was nothing else; but it should be remembered that this grass was very high, had been killed by dry weather, and flashed up and spread almost with the rapidity of a train of powder on being ignited. It is very easy, when a fire upon the prairies is seen coming towards a party, to escape its dangers by kindling the grass immediately about and taking possession of the newly-burned ground before the distant flames come up; but in this instance the fire commenced on the windward side, and with a frightful rapidity flashed directly along our line of wagons. The only wonder at the time was, how anything had been saved from the furious element that roared and crackled around.

**Simplicity.**—At a confirmation at Strasburg, Germany, the Bishop asked an innocent looking girl, as he was in duty bound, the usual question of the Heidelberg catechism: "What is your only consolation in life and death?" The poor girl blushed and hesitated. The question was repeated, when she meekly replied: "The young shoemaker, in our next street!"

Dining at a public ordinary, when one of the company had helped himself to a very large piece of bread, Quin stretched out his hand to take hold of it. The person to whom it belonged prevented him, saying, "Sir, that is my bread." "Beg pardon," said Quin, "I took it for the loaf!"

**How to choose a Wife.**—Lay a broomstick in her way—if she steps over it, don't take her, if she picks it up and puts it carefully away, or sets to work with it, take her if you can get her.

**Clerical Shrewdness.**—An English paper tells a good story of a clergyman, who having received a public document which was ordered to be read in all the churches, and which was particularly obnoxious to the people, very shrewdly told his congregation that though he had positive orders to read the declaration, they had none to hear it—they might therefore leave the church. They took the hint, and the clergyman read the document to empty pews.

**Jack Downing on the Advantages of Advertising.**—In relation to the advantages of advertising in newspapers, the sagacious Jack Downing holds the following language. We do not feel inclined to dispute him: "There's nothing that greases the wheels of business like newspaper advertising. Bear's the ain't a touch to it."

We recommend the following facts to the attention of those who, in public speeches are so prone to boast of the strength of American arms; and we would ask them to recollect, that, at this day, conflicts between Nations and Kingdoms are decided on the high seas. The United States, it will be found, is weak indeed, where much strength is most needed.

**STEAM SHIPS-OF-WAR.**—Mr. Junius Smith, in a recent lecture, makes the following statements, on the advancement of the steam navies of Great Britain and France.

About 1822, Great Britain constructed the first steam ship of war, 180 horse power. Every succeeding year saw an increase in the size and number. The onward movement was, however, at first slow and hesitating. In 1834 the government of Great Britain had but 20 steam vessels, including the home mail packets and coasters in commission.

In 1843 she had 108 steam ships of war, and about 80 in commission, armed, equipped, manned and in active service. Nearly half the British navy in commission are steam ships, so that at the present moment Great Britain is more powerful at sea than she ever was at any former period, and more powerful than any nation of which history transmits to us any account.

The navy of France at the present time consists of 350 ships of all classes, against 681 in Great Britain and 68 in the United States.—Of the whole number of French ships of war, 64 are steamers, of the following classes:

Frigates, 450 to 540 horse power,	7
Corvettes, 220 to 320 horse power,	17
Smaller vessels, 60 to 160 horse power,	40
	64

Of steam vessels, designed for effective war service the United States have had but three. One of these is now sunk and destroyed in the Bay of Gibraltar—one has long been dismantled in Boston harbor, and the third, after a year's holiday service along shore, is now going into dock for repairs.

**MONSTROUS.**

One John Piper, a notorious loco loco blackguard of Shippingsburg, Penn. was lately brought to trial there for an assault upon the Editor of the Weekly News. The Attorney for Piper presented a Pardon from Gov. Porter, for the offence, and the culprit was let off without a trial. The New York American says: "The Court was astounded, the bar woke up from its slumbers; jurors, witnesses and spectators, all were surprised at this new and speedy mode of disposing of criminal cases. And then the means by which the previous pardon, had been obtained, the petition of three hundred good Democrats of Cumberland country! Verily, Verily, Democracy is not what we took it to be; we knew it to be bad enough, in all conscience, but this movement 'caps the climax.'"

**Successful Railroad Management.**—The business of the Western Railway, between Boston and Albany, will astonish many this season. The total revenue for 1842 was \$512,688, last year \$573,882, and this season it bids fair to reach one million dollars, being already \$272,829 ahead of the amount received to a corresponding period of 1843.

**Mississippi.**—The Jackson "Mississippiian" of the 20th ult. publishes the returns from all the counties in this State except De Soto and Hancock. In the counties heard from the vote is as follows:

Polk	25,061
Clay	19,136
Polk's majority	5,925

There is a law in Mexico, enacting that, no one shall be allowed to exercise the right of suffrage after the year 1850, unless he can read and write.

**"Going it Strong!"**—The Alexandria Gazette says, "that in some parts of Pennsylvania, previous to the late Presidential election, Mr. Clay's speeches in favor of the Tariff, were translated into German, and copies printed and circulated among the German population, headed, 'Mr. Polk's speech in favor of the Tariff.' And that Mr. Polk's speeches against the Tariff were printed and headed as 'Mr. Clay's speeches against the Tariff.'" This is what we call, going it pretty strong!"

In Frankfort, Kentucky, the friends of Mr. CLAY have determined to raise a column in his honor. It is to be Doric, voluted, not less than one hundred feet high, on one of the hills overlooking the metropolis of the State. The column will be constructed of stone, of which there is an abundance of the finest quality at hand. Ex. Governor LETCHER is at the head of the Committee to whom the completion of this work of gratitude is entrusted. KENTUCKY knows how to honor her son: the column which she will erect will not be so firm as her confidence in the man to whose name it is dedicated.—Baltimore American.

**Important Proclamation.**—We see it stated in the Northern newspapers that Gen. O'Donnell, the Governor General of the Island of Cuba, has issued a proclamation declaring that after the 1st of January next, all vessels arriving in Cuba with slaves on board will be confiscated.—Nat. Int.

Hon. Thomas Corwin, Whig was on the 5th inst., elected a Senator in Congress from the State of Ohio, for the term of six years from the 4th of March next, in place of Benj. Tappan.

**Legislature of N. Carolina.**

**SENATE—Thursday Dec. 5.**

The Hon. Wm. B. Shepard, Senator from Pasquotank and Perquimans, appeared and took his seat.

On motion of Mr. Hellen, Messrs. Boyden and Edwards were added to the committee on the Certificates presented by the Senator from Onslow.

The Chair announced Messrs. Shepard, Edwards, Waddell, Cameron and Francis, to compose the committee on so much of the Governor's message as relates to changing the time of holding the elections in this State.

The bill to amend an Act incorporating the Guilford Gold Mining Company; was put upon its third reading. Amendments were offered and pending, when the Senate were informed by message, that the House was ready to receive their body to attend to the counting of the votes cast for Governor of this State, in August last. Whereupon, the Senate proceeded in a body to the Commons Hall, occupying the seats at the right of the Speaker.

**HOUSE—December 5.**

Mr. Atkins presented a bill concerning crimes and punishments. [This bill ameliorates the punishment for certain crimes, and inflicts greater on others.] Read and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The bill from the Senate, to cede a tract of land in Carteret county for the erection of a Marine Hospital by the U. States, was after explanation by Mr. Washington, passed through its three readings, and is a law.

The Speaker presented a memorial of Francis E. Rives, of Virginia, asking a charter for that of the Rail Road from Weldon to Margaretsville, purchased by him, (and destroyed by him, it will be remembered, but afterwards repaired by the Portsmouth Company.) On a motion to refer the memorial, a long, animated, and interesting discussion took place between Messrs. Haughton, Shepard, Mills, and Moore. Mr. Haughton moved the indefinite postponement of the subject, on account of the objectionable language of the memorial, and the motion was supported by himself, and Messrs. Mills and Moore, and opposed by Mr. Shepard. The debate was interrupted by the arrival of the hour for counting the votes for Governor.

**SENATE—Friday, Dec. 6.**

Committee on Enclosing Capital Square.—Messrs. Dockery, Cameron, Shepard, G. W. Thompson and Wilson.

The bill to amend the act incorporating the Guilford Gold Mining Company was again taken up, amended, discussed and laid on the table. The discussion related to the principle of binding the private property of Stockholders, which was supported by Messrs. Biggs and Edwards, and opposed by Messrs. Francis and Boyden, and adopted by the Senate, 24 to 22.

A number of bills passed their third reading and were ordered to be engrossed. Among them, the bill more effectually to suppress trading with slaves; to incorporate the Odd Fellows Lodge in Fayetteville; to incorporate a Cavalry Company in Wilmington; for the relief of sufferers by the destruction of the Court House of Montgomery county.

A message from the Governor, with his Report as President of the Literary Board, and a Report from Gen. S. F. Patterson, President of the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road, were received and ordered to be printed.

A resolution of Mr. Jefferys was adopted, calling on the Treasurer for a list of the obligors to the bonds given to protect the State from loss by endorsement of the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road bonds; with any information as to the solvency of any of them.

**HOUSE—December 6.**

Several private bills were acted on.

Mr. Melbane presented a memorial from Orange, praying that the election of Constables be restored to the County Courts.

Mr. Lord reported unfavorably on the petition for a new county to be called Mangum, out of Burke, &c. Report concurred in.

Mr. Fagg, a petition from Buncombe county, for a new county to be called Warm Spring—Referred.

A resolution of Mr. T. Wilson, to inquire into the expediency of appointing a Superintendent of Common Schools for each Congressional District, was rejected.

Mr. Watters, a petition relative to the town of Smithville. Referred.

Mr. Washington, a petition from Craven county, praying additional restrictions upon Pedlars. Referred.

Mr. Washington reported unfavorably on the bill to amend the laws relative to prosecutions in State cases. And said bill was rejected, 94 to 14.

The House resumed the consideration of the memorial of Francis E. Rives, of Virginia, the question being on Mr. Haughton's motion to postpone indefinitely. Messrs. Shepard, Paine, Ellis, Miller, and Cherry successively addressed the House.

At the close of Mr. Cherry's remarks, Mr. Guthrie moved to lay the memorial on the table until the 4th of March next, and demanded the yeas and nays.

The Speaker (Mr. Stanly,) asked to be indulged in a few remarks before the question was taken. He had considered it his duty, under the Rules, and as an act of courtesy to a stranger, to present it to the House, on the application of Mr. Rives,—not perceiving, on a slight personal anything in it "insulting" to the House. With its presentation, the duty of the Speaker ends, and he expresses no opinion on its merits.

"The gentleman (he continued,) who asked this courtesy at the hands of the Speaker, is one with whom he has been acquainted for years, whom he has been in violent political opposition for years, but in this station, (though he frankly confesses his partialities have been deep-rooted, and his prejudices, he fears, yes, knows, sometimes, are too strong)—he is determined, as far as the frailty of nature will allow, to permit no partialities or prejudices to influence his conduct. What should be the conduct of a member of the House is one thing—that of the Speaker, another. The individual who now occupies the Chair, feels as much bound to discharge his du-

ty with impartiality, as if he was acting under the solemnity of an oath. He feels, he has no right either to pronounce judgment, or bestow commendation, on the bad or good taste of memorials presented to the House. And he begs to be allowed to declare to the House—though he feels that to those who know him, the declaration is unnecessary,—that sooner than consent to cast reproach on North Carolina, or be in the slightest degree accessory to any attempt to do so, he would see this noble edifice sink into the earth and drag down with it, the humble individual, whom your partiality has called to the Chair. As no censure has been attributed to the Chair, said Mr. S., these remarks may be deemed unnecessary—but, as the Speaker presented the memorial, he thought the courtesy of the House would pardon this explanation.

The yeas and nays were then called, and Mr. Guthrie's motion prevailed, 69 to 53. [The minority does not indicate the number who were in favor of granting the prayer of the memorial, for Mr. Paine, one of the minority, (and perhaps others) was in favor of a reference with a view to direct rejection of the prayer.]

**SENATE—Saturday, Dec. 7.**

The Speaker presented Reports from the Treasurer, containing information called for, relative to the amount of stocks held by the State; and a Report of the condition of the Bank of the State up to Nov. 23d. 1844. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Waddell from the Judiciary committee, reported favorably to the engrossed bill concerning executors, and recommended its passage. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Waddell from the Joint Select Committee, reported the bill to change the location of the Court House in Lincoln county, recommending its passage.

On motion of Mr. Elliott, the Treasurer was requested to lay before the Senate a communication from the Hon. Edward Everett, American Minister to England, concerning Colonial Documents relative to North Carolina, now in the office of the Board of Trade and other offices in London.

Mr. Francis presented a resolution, which was adopted: instructing the Finance Committee to turn all the Treasury Notes which may be in the Treasurer's Office, and report the amount to the General Assembly.

Mr. Boyd a bill to re-assess the land of the State. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Waddell, a message was sent to the House, proposing to appoint a committee of one on the part of the Senate, and two on the part of the House, to inform the Hon. Wm. A. Graham of his election as Governor of North Carolina, and to ascertain from him, when it will suit his convenience to appear before the two Houses of this General Assembly, to take the oath of office.

The Senate were informed of the nominations made in the House for Councilors of State. At the hour of twelve, the Senate proceeded to the election. The members of both political parties sustained their nominations, with the exception of Mr. Gwynn, of Caswell, who voted for Mr. Roane, Whig, in place of Mr. Watt, Loco.

Some private bills were acted on.

The Senate adjourned to Monday morning, 10 o'clock.

**HOUSE—Dec. 7.**

Mr. Guthrie, from the Committee on the Library, reported unfavorably to the resolution authorizing the Treasurer to purchase one copy of "Indices to Colonial Documents," for each member of this General Assembly. The resolution was then objected.

Mr. Ellis, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, reported unfavorably in the resolution vacating the seat of John McNeill, a member of the House from the county of Robeson. Said report and resolution were, on motion of Mr. T. R. Caldwell, ordered to lie on the table and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Mr. Moore, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the bill to give exclusive jurisdiction to the Superior Courts of the counties of Cherokee, Macon, Haywood, Henderson and Buncombe, in Jury cases, with an amendment, which was concurred in, and passed its second reading.

Mr. Shepard of Wake, put in nomination following gentlemen for Councilors of State:

**Loco Nomination**—Gabriel Holmes of New Hanover, James Watt of Rockingham, Henry Fitts of Warren, Alex. W. Melbane of Bertie, David Watson of Chatham, David Reid of Cumberland, Henry W. Connor of Lincoln.

Mr. Cherry then placed in nomination:

**Whig Nominations**—Richard O. Britton of Bertie, James W. Howard of Jones, Willie Perry of Franklin, Nathaniel M. Roane of Caswell, Absolom Myers of Anson, Josiah Cowles of Surry, James Lowrie of Buncombe.

A message was sent to the Senate, informing them of these nominations.

Mr. Moore, from the Judiciary Committee, reported, with sundry amendments, the bill for the relief of honest insolvent debtors. The amendments were concurred in, and the bill, together with the report of the Committee, was ordered to be printed.

The hour of twelve having arrived, the two Houses proceeded to the election of seven Councilors of State, which resulted in the election of the Whig nominees. The Locos voting, (with the exception of Mr. N. Wilson, who voted for Messrs. Lowrie and Roane, in place of Messrs. Reid and Connor,) for their nominations.

Mr. Lord, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, made sundry reports on the following bills, &c.:

In favor of resolution relating to Smithville, in Brunswick county. Read the second time and passed.

In favor of bill, with an amendment, amending an act incorporating the town of Mocksville in Davie county. Amendment agreed to, and the bill passed its second reading.

In favor of bill to incorporate the town of Monroe in Union county, with an amendment. Amendment adopted, and bill passed its second reading.

Unfavorably to the petition praying the erection of a new county by the name of Warm Spring and asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. Discharge accordingly.

The House concurred in a proposition of the Senate, to appoint a Joint Select Committee to inform the Hon. Wm. A. Graham of his election as Governor of the State. Messrs. Mills and Jones were appointed said Committee on the part of the House.

Mr. Washington presented a memorial from the Synod of North Carolina, praying the appointment of an Agent to procure from the Archbishops of the British Government copies of such papers as may serve to illustrate the history of the State. (In which they favorably mention the name of the Hon. David L. Swain, as a suitable and desirable person to be sent.) The