

The French Minister—Our Naval Force.—Independent, in a letter dated Washington, Sept. 17, referring to the dismissal of M. Poussin, says: This dismissal was dated on the 14th inst., on which day a despatch was addressed to Mr. Rives, reciting all the facts of the controversy, but requesting him to abstain from any interference; inasmuch as the questions in dispute had been conducted between the Department of State and the diplomatic representative of France, residing near the United States. On the 8th inst. a communication was addressed to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs—in reply to a communication which had been made through Mr. Rush—apprizing him of the purpose of this Government, but, owing to an accident in the mail, was not despatched; so that the notice to the French Government and the dismissal of M. Poussin will be conveyed by the steamer which sails to-morrow from New York.

In connection with this subject, I have deemed it proper to ascertain the extent of our naval force in the Mediterranean and at other stations, which is at once disposable. Exclusive of a number of vessels in ordinary, that can be fitted out expeditiously, the following statement furnishes the quota now available:

In Mediterranean—Constitution, fifty guns; Independence, 56; Cumberland, 50; Jamestown, 22; Mississippi, (steamer) 10 heavy paishans; Erie, 4—Total, 192 guns, 1,700 men.

In North Sea.—St. Lawrence, 50 guns. In Africa.—Portsmouth 22 guns, Yorktown 16, John Adams 20, Porpoise 10, Bainbridge 10.—Total, 78 guns, 558 men.

In Brazil.—Brandywine 50, St. Louis 20.—Total, 70 guns.

Home Squadron.—Raritan 50, Saratoga 22, Albany 22, Germantown 22, Plirt 4, Water Witch 1, Vixen 3, Alleghany 2.—Total, 136 guns, 1,149 men.

At New York.—Vincennes 22 guns, ready in a few days.

At Norfolk.—Perry 8 guns.

The anticipation of difficulty, not so directly from this French affair as from other causes, as well as for the purpose of protecting our commerce in the midst of European revolutions, and of extending sympathy to the struggling patriots of the old world, the Administration wisely and seasonably doubled the force in the Mediterranean, which accounts for the presence of this unusual and formidable naval power. It will serve to command respect, if it fails to admonish prudence.

Improvement of Fire-arms.—The Berlin correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser thus describes an improvement in the musket which has lately been made in Prussia:

"The musket has no lock and is loaded at the stock end of the barrel. The ball is long and cone shaped, rounded at the big end. The barrel is slightly rifled, but the grooves are perfectly straight, and not spiral, as in the American gun. The ball is consequently thrown a much greater distance, none of the force of the powder being wasted in giving it a useless rotary motion. The common charge is one half of that used in the old percussion gun, and is said to carry the ball to its mark nine hundred yards. None of the powder is wasted, the fire being communicated from the side of the barrel, and not from the breech. This is effected by an ingenious contrivance. The part of the cartridge next the ball is filled with an explosive substance similar to that in a percussion cap. This is made to explode by the contact of a piece of steel about the length of an eight-penny nail, which passes from the outside of the barrel through the cartridge. The gun is called the 'nail firer.' It can be discharged by a common soldier eight times in a minute, and need not be taken from the shoulder to be reloaded. The best soldier cannot discharge the percussion gun more than three or four times in a minute, and in battle an officer cannot count on more than one discharge in that time. Another advantage of the Prussian gun is, that the distance to which it carries enables a force to fire some twenty five or thirty times before an enemy armed with the percussion musket can get within shooting distance. The efficacy of the Prussian troops is thus doubled."

During a storm at Spring Hill, near Mobile, on Sunday week, a lady living in the family of Robert Purvis, with two children, was passing home from church in a carriage of Thomas McMillan. The driver of the two horses attached to the carriage got out of the road, and in returning it drove into a well that was digging near the road. The well was large in circumference, and near fifty feet deep. Fortunately the children leaped from the carriage, but the lady, horses, carriage, and driver, were precipitated into it. The lady and driver were only badly bruised, the carriage was broken to pieces, and both horses instantly killed.

A Sad Catalogue.—The Philadelphia Bulletin of Monday thus refers to the melancholy record of casualties in that city on Sunday:

The papers of this morning contain another sad list of casualties. Under their local homicide, committed by a woman upon a young man, and resulting from unquenchable passions; an attempt upon the life of a husband by a wife, proceeding from the same cause; the horrid death of a young man from the reckless use of fire arms, while intoxicated, and in company with a party who were gunning on the Sabbath; a fatal railroad accident from the careless habit of standing on the platform of cars; two cases of drowning; a death in the street for want of medical attention; the running down of a boat on the Delaware, and several other accidents.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

The recent Proclamation of Governor MANLY in pursuance of an Act of the last Legislature, designating a day for general Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, will accord well with the moral sense of our people. The good citizens of our State are earnestly invited to make the occasion not merely one of formal observances, but of sincere feeling—a season for kind, social sentiment—for the forgiveness of injuries—for acts of good neighborhood—and especially for the charitable remembrance of the poor, to whom every harvest is scanty and every year unprosperous, and whose wants are designed by Providence to call for the virtues of their more favored fellowmen.

This festival, in New England, is one of those occasions of stated rest and enjoyment observed in every civilized country, resembles more nearly our Christmas Holy-days than other seasons of festivity in the South. Some weeks before it occurs, which is always after the crops are gathered into the garner, the Governor of each of the States, where the custom is observed, issues his Proclamation appointing the period when it shall take place. What is commonly called "Thanksgiving Day" is devoted in part to Religious services, but then follows a whole week of gaiety and joy, the incidents of which serve to fill up the next twelve months with delightful reminiscences. Then members of families, who have been separated for a whole year, gather round the table, under the paternal roof, to the third and fourth generation. Then, puddings are smoking upon the table, and huge cakes, gemmed with raisins, are lifting up their broad faces from the corners of every cupboard. The pride of barn-yard—Hens, Ducks, and Turkeys—which have been watched over with tender solicitude for the six months previous, pass away from the earth to be seen no more. The well known "Gobbler," with whom every child in the village is acquainted—"the cock of the walk"—he who whilom, hid defiance to every rill of the neighborhood—even his proud crest is laid low. Many a pious Chanticleer, who had heralded in the morn for years, now flutters like "Death in the pot." The Fox ravages the formerly well-stored barn-yards, and returns to his home and hungry cubs, disconsolate and supperless. The well fated Hog meets his doom from the remorseless hand of man, who thrusts the cold steel into his throat, and, without a thought of mercy, sees his life's blood ebb away. Pumpkins, that have slept cheek-by-jowl in the barn, undisturbed and undisturbed, are now brought forth from their lurking places to be served up to a host of greedy children, in the shape of Pies, &c., &c.

This is New-England Thanksgiving—a season of general thankfulness to God, and of social indulgence amongst men.—*Ral. Reg.*

Interesting news from Florida.—We understand that the following gratifying intelligence has been received at the War Department from Gen. Twiggs: An interview had taken place between an officer of our Government and some of the leading men of the Florida Seminoles, which resulted most satisfactorily. It has been ascertained that the outrages committed on Indian river and Pease creek were committed by a party of five young Indians, one whom was a refugee, who thought that he might escape from justice by embroiling his people in a war with the United States. The Seminoles disclaimed all connexion with the perpetrators of the outrages, and stated that immediately after an effort was made to capture the offenders, but that they were not taken until after the second outrage. The offenders are now in custody, however, and will in due time be delivered to the proper authorities. A meeting between the Head Chief of the Seminoles and Gen. Twiggs was appointed to take place at Charlotte Harbor on the 18th instant, and we may presume, therefore, that the interview has already occurred. That the Florida Indians are peaceably disposed is now considered beyond a doubt.—*Nat. Intelligencer.*

Facts Worthy of Notice.—It is a fact that nine-tenths of the inmates of our poor houses were brought there, directly or indirectly by the use of ardent spirits. It is a fact that three-fourths of all the convicts in our State prisons were hard drinkers previous to the commission of the crimes for which they are now imprisoned. It is a fact, the greatest sufferers from disease, and those whose maladies are most difficult to cure, are those who are addicted to the use of ardent spirits. It is a fact, that of all who commit suicide in this country, ninety-nine hundredths are the immediate or the remote victims of ardent spirits. It is a fact, that in all families where the children are dirty, naked and ill fed, the rooms filthy and in disorder, the husbands idle, discontented and peevish, the wives slatterns, ill-tempered and quarrelsome, one, if not both the parents are drinkers of ardent spirits.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Our Superior Court is still in session, and we understand that a large accumulation of business has been disposed of. On Tuesday, Major William F. Collins was arraigned, for Manslaughter, in the accidental homicide of David Reinhardt. Our readers will recollect the details of this unfortunate transaction, which occurred on the day of the adjournment of the last General Assembly. The prosecution was conducted by the Attorney General—Hon. W. A. Graham and Messrs. Miller and George W. Haywood appearing for the Defendant. The Jury, after retiring from the Box for a few moments only, returned an unanimous verdict of acquittal.—*Ral. Reg.*

Ex-Gov. MOREHEAD left this City on Tuesday, attended by Maj. C. L. Hinton, the State Treasurer, on a trip to several of the Northern States, for the purpose of collecting such information as may be useful in the construction and management of the Lunatic Asylum. We learn that Dr. T. N. CAMERON, who was one of the Committee appointed to make the tour, was unavoidably prevented from accompanying the other Gentlemen.—*Ral. Register.*

Grand Worthy Patriarch, D. P. WEX, is suffering severely with an attack of inflammatory rheumatism.

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

Salisbury, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 11, 1849.

North Carolina Rail Road.

Urox consultation with citizens in this important work, it is deemed advisable to postpone the contemplated Convention heretofore advertised to take place at Greensboro' on the 15th inst. Notice is therefore hereby given, that said Convention will be held at Greensboro' on Thursday the 29th November, next.

J. M. MOREHEAD, Ch' of Ex. Com.

TOWN MEETING—RAIL ROAD.

In pursuance of notice given at the public meeting here on Friday the 5th of October, there was a meeting of the citizens of Salisbury, at the Court House last night, for the purpose of consulting together on the propriety of making a subscription, on the part of the Town, to the Central Rail Road. The meeting was organized by calling John I. Shaver, Esq., to the Chair, and the appointment of S. W. James, Secretary.

The object of the meeting was explained by JOHN B. LOBB, Esq., who addressed the meeting in an animated speech of some minutes, advocating warmly, the measure under consideration. In allusion to the additional taxation its adoption would impose upon the community, he showed that a subscription of \$15,000 by the Town, would only double the present rates of taxes at the furthest: And by reference to the amount of dividends paid by the Georgia and South Carolina roads, supposing this, when completed, to pay as well as they, he showed that the profits of the road would be more than equal to the interest on the \$15,000 subscribed; and that consequently, the Town would thus be entirely relieved of taxation on account of said subscription.

Col. ROBARDS next addressed the meeting in a few remarks, showing the advantages said Road would confer on the Town, in language well calculated to arouse all present to the necessity of action, and that right speedily, to secure the charter granted by the Legislature.

Hon. N. BOYDEN, then arose, and said, that for one he was perfectly willing to be taxed to raise 15 or \$20,000; and further, that he would subscribe to the extent of his means. Mr. B. indulged in a few remarks descriptive of the benefits this road will confer on the mechanic and day-laborer, the farmer, &c. They were full of interest, based, as they were, upon established facts.

Several gentlemen present displayed a most commendable spirit on the occasion, and agreed to form a company of 20 to raise 100,000 dollars.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Commissioners for the Town of Salisbury be requested to have polls opened to ascertain the sense of the citizens of said Town, as to their wish for an application to the Legislature for an amendment of the charter of said Town, so as to authorize a subscription upon the part of the Corporation to the capital stock of the North Carolina Rail Road Company.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

JOHN I. SHAVER, Ch' rman.
S. W. JAMES, Sec.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

Extract from an address delivered in the Presbyterian Church at Salisbury, by the Rev. P. J. Sparrow.

Twelve years ago the discourse in question was delivered in this town, upon an occasion of an impulse which the cause of internal improvement had received about that time, and which was then displaying itself in favor of the Fayetteville and Western Rail Road. That scheme has passed away, and well it might; for it proposed a work transverse to all the trade and travelling of the Western counties. But at this moment the views and arguments of Mr. Sparrow come with great force, and seem as fresh as if they had been prepared in view of the present occasion. Mr. S. is undoubtedly a man of genius and acquirements, and every thing we have ever seen from his pen well rewards the labor of a perusal. We commend this in particular to our readers.

It will now be my business to offer a few reasons why all citizens of the State should feel interested in these projected improvements, and patronize them according to their means.

1. The first reason which I shall offer is that of individual pecuniary interest. When a rail road passes through any country, it makes every man's property the more valuable in proportion to its vicinity. It gives to every man, comparatively at his own door, a market for the produce of his lands, or the articles which he may manufacture. It is supposed by many that those only will be benefited that live immediately on the road. A very little reflection, however, will be sufficient to show that such is a mistaken notion. Suppose the road were completed, and you owned a plantation ten or twenty miles from the tract. Would you be willing to take for it what you now believe to be its value? If you would—you are no Solomon. Is your plantation now under the highest cultivation of which it is capable? And why not? Do you tell me, because you have not sufficient inducements to cultivate it in such a manner. It takes so much time, and labor, and expense, to carry your produce to market, that it is worth nothing when you get it there. Very true. The farmer learns that the price of Cotton or Flour has arisen, but such is the state of his farm, that he cannot leave it himself and take his team and hands from it for the requisite time. Or, if he sets off he has to wend through the mud and sand for days, or weeks, and by the time he gets to the place of destination the price has fallen. How differ

ent would it be if he could get his produce to the rail road in one day, go to market the next, transact his business, and return home in another day! Or, if he does not wish to be absent at all, he may find a good market at any depot on the road. Many things which the farmer now suffers to waste, because they have no market for them, would be turned to a profitable account if we had a rail road. For instance, the apples or peaches which you now suffer to rot in your orchards might be coined into money. Another way in which the rail road will operate in favor of individual interest will be by facilitating each one's communication with important places. Not many years ago the preparation for a trip to the North was an affair of no ordinary seriousness—not much unlike that now made for a voyage to the Polar Sea. The poor itinerant made his will, collected together his friends, and formally bidden them farewell as if he was certainly going to "that from whose bourne no traveller returns." Let the rail roads to which I have referred above be completed, and the citizen of this town (Salisbury) may leave home on Monday morning, take his dinner in New York on Thursday, transact his business, and, if he wishes, return home on the Thursday following. Now, if you wish to go to Fayetteville, you must travel for days through wildernesses, in which you feel almost like Alexander Selkirk in his lonely island—"out of humanity's reach"—and in which it is some relief from the insufferable solitude with which you are oppressed to meet even a dog. Let a rail road be constructed from this place to Fayetteville, and you may breakfast at home and dine at Fayetteville. The facility and rapidity of intercourse are by no means among the least advantages derived from rail roads. To a business man time is more valuable than money. Such an one can enter in the spirit of Bonaparte's reply to his general—"Ask me any thing but time."

Ex-Gov. Graham passed through this place on Tuesday morning last, and stated to some friends at the Hotel, that six gentlemen met in Raleigh a few days ago, and each of them subscribed to the Rail Road, the sum of ten thousand dollars, making, in all, the handsome subscription of Sixty thousand dollars. This is doing bravely, and the names of those six gentlemen, for this act of liberality alone, deserve to be enrolled very conspicuously, among the worthy sons of the Old North. Are there no more of the same sort? We trust there are many.

Gov. MANLY has issued his Proclamation, in accordance with an Act of the last Legislature, appointing Thursday the 15th of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for his manifold mercies to us as a State and People.

This is the beginning of a custom in North Carolina, so long observed in many of the Northern and Eastern States; and which the people there regard with such peculiar interest. The ceremonies of the day as observed in Massachusetts, for instance, are commenced with divine service—the discourse prepared with especial reference to the occasion.—Then follows several days of friendly intercourse and general joy—such as, greetings, feasting, visiting—doing good to the poor, and comforting the afflicted. Pies, puddings, turkeys, ducks, pigs, &c., all nice and ready for the table, are in great profusion during these days; and scattered members of families are generally brought together to spend the season. This custom is believed to be productive of many good results, not the least of which is the cultivating of that social intercourse between neighbors, that render a people amiable and happy.

We return our thanks to Messrs. KAY and TROUTMAN, Booksellers, Publishers and Stationers, of Philadelphia, for their 1st, 2d, and 3d Infant and Primary School Readers. Although we have not had sufficient time to examine them thoroughly, yet the glance given them satisfies us of their utility. They will also, accept our thanks for a copy of the Gentleman and Ladies Medical Pocket Companion—volumes of much value, and which every person should possess. These valuable books are for sale by Messrs. BROWN & ELLIOTT, Merchants, who have in addition a large and well selected stock of Dry Goods, &c., both durable and beautiful, which they offer cheap for cash. Those in want, would do well to visit their establishment.

The following gentlemen having been duly elected, were regularly installed as officers of Salisbury Division for the current quarter, to wit:

John D. Brown, W. P.
J. J. Bruner, W. A.
J. G. Cairnes, T.
J. M. Ramsay, F. S.
Samuel Reeves, R. S.
D. W. Parks, A. R. S.
James R. McDonald, C.
Thomas Pearce, A. C.
James M. Henderson, I. S.
J. J. Sumner, O. S.

This Division is in a flourishing condition, and its influence is widening and deepening.

COUNTERFEITER ARRESTED.

A man called Dr. Wyatt, has been arrested at Spencer, (Ohio) who is known as the head of an extensive band of counterfeiters.—Over \$60,000 in counterfeit money and spurious coins were found in his dwelling, and in a cache in the woods adjoining, plates, dies and implements for striking bills and making spurious coins were discovered and seized. The establishment has been maintained for years.

FRENCH DEMOCRATS.

It will be seen by the subjoined, that the sole organ of the Democratic party, the "Union," takes sides with the French Minister and against its own friends, and the American Government. This, and other instances of party blindness, together with the advocacy of measures destructive to American interests, should serve, we think, to deter all true citizens from following the lead of the "Union."

The Washington Union, in pursuance of its expressed determination to condemn the Administration in all things, sides with the French Minister, and assails its own cherished friend, Judge Mason. Speaking of Commander Carpenter's conduct, it says:

"Whatever may have been the value of the services rendered by the officers and crew of the Iris, and however clear their claims to compensation might have been, yet we cannot see that Commander Carpenter was authorized to take the law into his own hands," and detain the Eugenie until that claim was satisfied."

Fortunately on this point, we have the authority of Judge Mason. That gentleman in a letter to Commander Carpenter, stated: "Your course in the matter is approved by the Department."

But the letter is short, and we give it entire:

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, Nov. 28, 1848.

"SIR: Your communication of the 16th instant, respecting the French barque 'Eugenie,' with its enclosures, has been received, and will be placed on file.

"Your course in the matter is approved by the Department.

I am, respectfully, your ob't serv't.

"J. Y. MASON.
"Com. E. W. CARPENTER, U. S. Steamer
'Iris,' expected at Norfolk."

It is thus that the Union, in its unprincipled opposition to the Administration, condemns its own friends.—*Pet. Int.*

Maryland Election.—

This election, which was for six members to Congress, and Delegates to the General Assembly, took place on Wednesday the 4th instant. The weather was unfavorable to a full turnout, and consequently there is a heavy falling off in the aggregate number of votes polled as compared with the Presidential election. The contest resulted in the election of three Whigs and three Democrats, to Congress; there being a Democratic gain of one. The Whigs have carried the Legislature, thereby securing the election of a Whig to the United States Senate.

Georgia Election.—From present indications, the Democrats have carried Georgia, by an increased majority over that of 1847. Towns, the Democratic candidate for Governor, is doubtless elected.

To save anxiety and time, the plan has been adopted in England, for every person who mails a letter, to write his or her name on the back. If the letter fails to reach the hands intended, it goes back to the person who wrote it. A very good plan, except when the author does not wish to be known.

The Fayetteville Carolinian claims Mr. Bell, the newly elected Governor of Texas as a Democrat. The Houston Mercantile Advertiser of the 1st Sept., claims him as a Whig, and says he stumped the State for Taylor last year.

"An Independent Son."—We have received a communication Post-marked, "Raleigh, Sept. 30," which, as the author has neglected to give us his name, we do not feel called upon to publish. There is nothing objectionable in the communication we think; but we require as an act of security, not to say courtesy, to know the author of communications before they are admitted into our columns, especially when they concern the actions of individuals, as in this case.

Washington Monument.—We find in the National Intelligencer of 27th Sept., a communication from a Lady on the subject of the National Monument; proposing to the ladies of the United States, inasmuch as the efforts of the sterner sex have been so far baffled, that they take the matter in hand, and bring their energies and influence to bear upon it. She proposes that the ladies of the different States shall procure the passage of an act by the Legislature of each, authorizing a tax on each lady, as we understand the plan, of 5 cents per year, until the work shall be completed. It is estimated that this tax would raise one hundred thousand dollars a year.

Cholera in Maine.—The cholera was prevailing at Banger Maine, on the 17th September. The city was nearly depopulated, though the deaths by the epidemic did not exceed 7 or 8 per day. The people, panic stricken, had fled by hundreds, quartering themselves on long forgotten country friends and relatives, out of the city.

Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, meets in the city of Raleigh on the 17th instant. There is to be a celebration there on the same day, and speeches are expected of B. T. Blake and S. W. Whiting.

"PARROWS' MINSTRELS."

This company of Comedians gave two entertainments in this Town, during the present week. They were favored with very respectable audiences, to whom, we believe, they gave entire satisfaction.—See their advertisement in another column.

The Plank Road.—We learn from the Fayetteville papers that operations have been resumed upon this work. The question in dispute between the stockholders as referred to Mr. Mordecai, has been decided in favor of the directors, and as all had agreed to abide by his decision, they are now satisfied and the work will go on.

The Raleigh papers speak of two very enthusiastic Rail Road meetings having been held in that city last week, during which several thousand dollars additional stock was taken.

Major Wm. F. COLLINS, who had the misfortune to kill David Reinhardt, on the day of the adjournment of the last Legislature, was put upon his trial at Raleigh, last week. He was fully acquitted.

Correspondence of the Watchman.
HAMBURG, SEPT. 8, 1849.
HAMBURG—GERMANY.

Although you will doubtless have been advised, through other channels, of the events of the last few months, which have so vitally affected the political relations of Germany in general, and of the "Free Hanseatic City of Hamburg" in particular, yet I have thought that you and other friends might feel an interest in knowing my impressions of the scenes daily occurring around me, and which at this particular juncture are causing rather an unusual agitation in the waters of the political cauldron of this miniature "Republic."

While the spirit of reform was spreading like a conflagration through all Germany, the masses of Hamburg were not the last to catch the flame. They early demanded of their rulers the call of a "constituent assembly," for the framing of a new "constitution," or "organic law," more in accordance with the liberal principles of the age than their old form of government, under which a Senate, Burgomasters, &c., have so long borne rule with a life-tenure of office. Though tardy in according to this demand, the nerves of the ruling aristocracy eventually failed them; and, yielding to the pressure of a progressive age without, they gave a reluctant assent to the convocation of the "constituent assembly" desired by the people.

In pursuance of this initiatory act of the Senate, a popular Convention, composed of some 300 or 400 Delegates, was elected by the "burgher" body of Hamburg. Although comprising a full share of the talent of the community,—numbering among its members many of the cleverest lawyers here, and some of the most experienced and successful merchants, with not a few learned "doctors of philosophy"—yet it soon became apparent, that this "constituent assembly" was mainly constituted of men rather of theory in the science of ruling mankind, than of practical wisdom in the art of self-government. They did not lack talent, but possessed little or none of that ready tact, so characteristic of Americans, and which enables them to make such an easy business operation of getting up Republican Constitutions, which, in their practical results, so confound all the theories of the antiquated politicians of the old world! In consequence of this lamentable lack of legislative experience, the sessions of the Convention were protracted, by repeated adjournments and recesses, during several of eight months;—thus, as the sequel has demonstrated, squandering away their day of political life! The result of their lengthened deliberations, was an Organic Law essentially republican in its main features: It provided for an elective Senate, with a six years tenure of office; and a popular body, elective biennially by general suffrage, as a concurrent branch of the legislative authority of the State.

This important measure of reform having been thus far consummated, and the new constitution, through whose provisions the people were expecting to realize the benefits of that reform, having been published in the "Zeitung" of the day; The event was signalized by immense processions, and other enthusiastic demonstrations on the part of the masses, manifesting their almost unanimous approval of the instrument. The convention provided by ordinance, that the reformed constitution should go into operation on the 1st of September, and they requested the Senate to enact such decrees as might be requisite to give effect to the new government.

But at this critical juncture, the battle between civil and religious liberty had unfortunately gone against the friends of reform throughout Germany: The labors of the Frankfurt Congress had proved a total abortion, and the brief friends of constitutional freedom were driven into exile, or seized and handed over to the tender mercies of a kingly power. And this disastrous issue of the struggle for liberal institutions in Germany, happened at a most inauspicious period for the cause of reform in Hamburg.

Under the existing form of government for this State, the Senate, the Burgomasters, and other principal dignitaries, hold a life-tenure of their offices; and more than this, they exercise the prerogative of filling vacancies.—Thus possessing the power of perpetuating themselves and their families in office! There is, to be sure, a good deal of machinery employed in the process; but the upshot is as I have stated.

A virtual succession of certain families and their favorites in the seats of honor and power, an instinctive love of power, they were idle to expect that the Senate of Hamburg, thus completely in possession of the government, for its going to surrender itself, unless some dire necessity should impel them to such an act of self-immolation. And as the cause of liberty, then, presented a darkened aspect throughout Germany, they undoubtedly cherished the hope of retaining their places in spite of the people's will: This tendency of things could not be misconstrued: the masses were aroused, and became alarmed for the fate of the new Constitution, and a very agitated state of the public mind was the consequence.

At this delicate crisis, a body of Prussian troops were put on their march from Schleswig and Holstein, and were expected to enter