A motion was made by Mr. Dortch to lay the bill on the table, on which Mr. Bryson demanded the ayes and nays. Ayes 27, Noes 73.

Mr. McKesson moved to postpone it until Thursday next at 11 o'clock. Lost.

The House adjourned until Monday morning.

SENATE.

Jan. 15th, 1855.

Mr. Graham introduced a bill making provision for the Reduction of the public debt. Ordered to be printed and made the order of the day for Monday. [Makes the board of Internal Improvements, together with the Treasurer, Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. Empowers them to buy all State Stocks, not selling above par and gives them the power to sell any stocks held by the State in railroads, plankroads and other companies and to set aside any premiums hereafter obtained on the Sale of State Bonds, for the purpose of creating a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the public debt.]

On motion of Mr. Fisher, the bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, was taken up.

Mr. Bower moved to lay it on the table, which was lost.

Mr. Thomas, of Davidson, moved to strike out "Salisbury" in the 2d section and insert "Lexington and thence through Davie."

Mr. Fisher opposed the amendment.

Mr. Thomas contended at some length that the road should take as nearly a central position as possible. If it was commenced at Lexington, and pass through Mocksville, Statesville, Marion and thence west, it would be the most advantageous to the interests of the State.

Mr. Mitchell advocated the amendment.—our thriving towns, these were paramount interests to be attended to—the great producing interest should be fostered. He alluded to the various enterprises that have a tendency to carry produce to other States, and contend that this amendment contemplated a plan that would take care of the great producing interests of the State.

Mr. Fisher opposed the amendment. It would be necessary to build another bridge over the Yadkin, and it would be through a rough and hilly country. He differed with the Senator from Davidson, and contended that Salisbury was the more central.

Mr. Thomas, of Jackson, advocated the construction of the road connecting with the Tennessee Roads.

Mr. Thomas, of Davidson, withdrew his amendment, with the declaration that he would offer it on the next reading.

After the passage of several amendments and some debate the bill passed its second reading by the following vote:

Ayes—Messrs. Boyd, Cherry, Christain, Coleman, Cunningham, Davis, Faison, Fennell, Fisher, Fonville, Freeman, Gilmer, Graham, Graves, Haughton, Herring, Hoke, Jones, Lane, McDowell, Mills, Mitchell, Oldfield, Rayner, Speight, Taylor, J. W. Thomas, W. H. Thomas, Walker, Wilder, Wiggins, Winslow, Woods—32.

Nays—Messrs. Biggs, Bower, Brogden, Clark, Collins, Drake, Eaton, Eborn, McCleese, Martin, Person, Sanders, Taylor, Willey—14.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Martin introduced a resolution instructing the committee on the judiciary to report upon the propriety of making deeds of trust null and void so far as creditors are concerned unless the distribution is made pro rata. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Stubbs, the resolution proposing to abolish jury trials in county courts and establishing three terms of superior courts in each county instead, was taken up.

After being discussed, Mr. Wright moved to lay the resolution on the table. Mr. Stubbs called the ayes and nays. The motion prevailed—ayes, 72, nays 35.

Mr. Mann introduced a bill to ascertain the number of [illegible] in the State, which was referred to the [illegible] committee.

By Mr. [illegible] a bill [illegible] a bridge across the Yadkin river at or near [illegible]

Mr. Cannon asked a suspension of rules in order to pass the bill on its second reading, which was [illegible]

On motion of [illegible]

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to report upon the propriety of allowing justices of the peace compensation for taking depositions.

By Mr. Newman, a bill for the establishment of an Agricultural and Normal School in each Congressional District in the State, which was ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on education.

On motion of Mr. Baxter, the unfinished business of Saturday — the [illegible] Railroad bill was taken up.

After some remarks, Mr. Turner in support of the bill and in amendment offered by Mr. Craven, the amendment was withdrawn by Mr. Craven.

Mr. [illegible] spoke at some length on the merits of the [illegible] and [illegible] the amendments. He disagreed with Mr. Turner in saying that the trade would not be drawn to any great extent from South Carolina. [illegible] only [illegible] that they might be placed on the same footing as other companies of the same character.

Mr. A. J. Jones offered an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Baxter, proposing to strike out that portion of it requiring the rail road to be of the same guage as the North Carolina road, on which [illegible] the ayes and nays.

The amendment was lost—ayes 4[illegible], nays 10[illegible].

Mr. [illegible] moved to amend by providing [illegible] the North [illegible] a certain portion [illegible] Legislature.

[illegible]

Mr. [illegible] moved [illegible] which was refused.

Mr. S. A. Williams [illegible] which was refused.

Mr. Craven moved to amend [illegible] future time the Legislature [illegible] to levy a tax of [illegible] and also to limit the [illegible] years, which [illegible]

Mr. Gorrell moved to lay the bill on the table, remarking that when the western extension was decided he would then call it up.

He called the ayes and nays, and the motion was lost—ayes 20, nays 65.

The question arising on the passage of the bill on the third reading, the ayes and nays were demanded by Mr. S. A. Williams and the bill passed by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. J. Barnes, Baxter, Black, Blow, Bryant, Bullock, J. B. Bynum, D. F. Caldwell, Cansler, Chadwick, Cotten, Daniel, Dargan, Davenport, Eure, Flynt, Furr, Garland, Gentry, G. Green, M. Green, Harrison, J. H. Headen, A. D. Headen, Hill, Holland, Horton, Jarvis, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Jordon, Lancaster, Hugh Leach, Long, McMill, Mann, Myers, J. W. Neal, Norment, Patterson, Regan, Russell, Shelby, Settle, Shaw, Shepherd, Shipp, Singletary, Smallwood, Stubbs, Sutton, Thornburg, Vance, Watts, Waugh, G. M. White, J. H. White, Whitlock, Wilkins, B. F. Williams, C. W. Williams, D. Williams, S. A. Williams, Winston, Wright and Yancy—67.

NAYS—Messrs. A. Barnes, Bryson, J. G. Bynum, Craven, Daughtry, Gorrell, J. M. Leach, Love, McDuffie, McKesson, Marsh, Mordecai, S. J. Neal, Parks, Patton, Perkins, Rand, Bolen, Rose, Sharpe, Sherrill, Simmons, Smith, Whitaker, L. Whitfield and N. B. Whitfield—27.

The House then adjourned, on motion of Mr. A. H. Caldwell.

January 16th, 1855.

On motion of Mr. Gilmer the bill to incorporate the Fayetteville and Greensboro' Railroad Company, was taken up.

Mr. Gilmer advocated the bill. On motion of Mr. McCleese, the Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole upon the bill (Mr. McCleese in the chair.)

Mr. W[illegible] of Cumberland, advocated the passage of the bill in an able argument.

On motion of Mr. Fisher, the committee rose and reported the bill back to the Senate.

After debate, the bill was rejected, as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Ashe, Boyd, Cherry, Christian, Coleman, Cunningham, Davis, Faison, Fisher, Freeman, Gilmer, Graham, Graves, Haughton, Hoke, Lane, McDowell, Mills, Morisey, J. W. Thomas, W. H. Thomas, Walker—22.

NAYS—Messrs. Biggs, Bower, Brogden, Clark, Collins, Drake, Eaton, Eborn, Fennell, Fonville, Herring, Jones, McCleese, Martin, Mitchell, Oldfield, Person, Rayner, Sanders, Speight, Taylor, Tayloe, Wilder, Wiggins, Wiley, Winslow of Pasquotank, Wood.—27.

Mr. Rayner moved to reconsider the bill, and to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, which motion prevailed.

The select committee, to whom was referred the bill to amend the constitution of the State, reported the same to the Senate, and asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same; committee was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Boyd, the bill to amend the constitution of the State (free suffrage,) was taken up.

Mr. Boyd moved to amend the first section by providing that every free white man of the age of 21 years, being a native or naturalized citizen of the United States, and shall have resided in the State for twelve months immediately preceding the election and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate for the district in which he resides.

A message was received from the House of Commons transmitting a message from his excellency Gov. Bragg, communicating a report from the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

January 16th, 1855.

Mr. Myers, in behalf of the committee on Internal Improvements, reported favorably upon the bill incorporating the Central Railroad.

Mr. Humphrey moved to make the bill the order of the day at Morning at 12 o'clock.

Mr. S. A. Williams moved to lay on the table. Lost.

The motion of Mr. Humphrey then prevailed.

Mr. Barnes, of Edgecombe, introduced a resolution instructing the committee on the Judiciary to report a bill for the protection of life on railroads which was adopted.

Mr. Outlaw reported, in behalf of the committee on corporations, several amendments to the bill incorporating the Gold Hill Mining Company.

By Mr. Sharpe, a bill incorporating a plank road from Statesville to Wilkesboro, which was referred to the committee on corporations.

By Mr. Houston, a Bill incorporating the Bank of [illegible], which was referred to the committee on Banking.

By Mr. Cook, a bill changing the county line of [illegible] Ashe and Surry counties.

An engrossed bill authorizing the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad to subscribe for stock in the Roanoke Valley road was read the third time and passed.

A bill for the protection of sheep, by fining the owners of sheep killing dogs, was read the second and third times and passed.

A bill to amend the charter of the Davidson College was read the second time and passed.

After being read the third time, Mr. J. H. White, of [illegible], moved the indefinite postponement of the bill. He objected to prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within five miles of the College. The motion for indefinite postponement prevailed—ayes, 36; nays, 32.

A bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to free negroes was read the second and third times and debated at length up to the hour of recess, when the Speaker arose.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The bill concerning Agriculture and Geology was made the special order of to-morrow at 4 o'clock P. M.

A message was received from the Senate informing of a refusal to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill concerning criminal proceedings. On motion of Mr. Jenkins the message and the bill were laid on the table for the present.

A [illegible] number of the Revised laws were read the third time and passed.

After which the House adjourned.

SENATE.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1855.

Several [illegible] bills were read the second time and passed.

[illegible] to divide the State into [illegible] Congressional Districts. After some [illegible]

On motion of Mr. Boyd the bill to amend the Constitution of the State (free suffrage) was taken up.

The question [illegible] on Mr. Boyd's amendment [illegible]

AYES—Messrs. Ashe, Biggs, Bower, Boyd, Brogden, [illegible] Drake, Eaton, Fennell, Fisher, Fonville, Graves, Herring, [illegible] Martin, Mitchell, [illegible] Taylor, Thomas of [illegible] Wood—29.

NAYS—Messrs. [illegible] Cherry, [illegible] Eborn, Freeman, [illegible] McCleese, [illegible] Winslow—21.

[illegible] moved to amend [illegible] House.

[illegible] adjourned.

Mr. Thomas moved [illegible] the first section was passed, [illegible] amendments. The Senate [illegible]

Mr. Lane made a statement of the reasons why he should vote against the bill. He was opposed, not to the measure itself, but to the mode of the amendment.

Explanations were made by Messrs. Christian and Ashe.

The bill as amended passed its third reading, as follows:

AYES—Messrs. Speaker, Ashe, Biggs, Bower, Boyd, Brogden, Christian, Clark, Coleman, Collins, Cunningham, Davis, Drake, Eborn, Faison, Fennell, Fisher, Fonville, Freeman, Graves, Herring, Hoke, Jones, McDowell, Martin, Mills, Morisey, Oldfield, Person, Sanders, Speight, Taylor, Walker, Wilder, Wood—35.

NAYS—Messrs. Cherry, Eaton, Gilmer, Graham, Haughton, Lane, McCleese, Mitchell, Rayner, Tayloe, Thomas of Davidson, Thomas of Jackson, Wiggins, Willey, Winslow of Pasquotank—15.

Mr. Mills introduced a bill supplementary to an act to establish the county of Polk. Mr. Eborn, a bill to authorize the County Court of Pitt to take toll on the bridge across Tar River at Greenville.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1855.

A message from the Governor was read, transmitting the resignation of certain Justices.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

W. L. Steele, from the committee on banks and banking, reported unfavorably on a bill concerning Free Banking.

On motion of J. G. Bynum, it was referred to committee of the whole House. The same committee reported favorably on a bill to establish a bank in Salisbury. Also referred to committee of the whole House.

J. G. Bynum, from the committee on the Judiciary, reported favorably on a bill to allow Justices and Clerks fees for taking depositions.

R. Gorrell, from the same committee, reported favorably on a bill concerning Executors and Administrators.

Mr. Dorch, from same committee, reported on a petition concerning slander, and on another from the Grand Jury, of Cleaveland County, and asking to be discharged from the further consideration of both.

Mr. Dortch, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported on a bill to change the Judicial Circuit as to Cleaveland county, and on a resolution to facilitate the examination of [illegible], praying to be discharged from their further consideration. The Committee reported favorably on a bill concerning crimes and punishments.

Mr. A. H. Caldwell presented a memorial signed by 500 citizens of Rowan, praying the re-opening of a road from Salisbury to Statesville.

Mr. Waugh, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported favorably on the following bills: a bill to prevent the obstruction of fish in South river and Adams' creek; a bill concerning public roads and those who shall work upon them; a bill to repeal an act authorising the erection of Watson's dam. Unfavorably on the following: a bill to alter the county lines of Caldwell and Watauga Counties; a bill to alter the county lines of Surry and Ashe counties; a memorial in favor of Solomon Lyon.

Mr. Love moved to postpone the Western Extension Bill, in order to allow the Eastern Extension Bill to come up first. Mr. J. M. Leach addressed a few remarks to the House in opposition to the postponement. Several other gentlemen made remarks for and against the motion.

Mr. Barringer said that it was desirable that when the House acted on this Bill, its decision should be final. If we take up the bill at this time, such a result will not be attained. We know the other branch of the Legislature have acted on the same measure favorably, and he thought it best to wait till we receive their bill in this House. After mature deliberation he thought this the best course for the success of this great enterprize, and he said so in a spirit of friendship not only to the cause of Internal Improvement generally, of which he had always been a uniform friend, but from an earnest desire to promote the success of this measure in particular.

A motion to postpone till Tuesday next, at 12 o'clock, finally prevailed.

A motion to take up the Eastern Extension caused some debating, and was finally laid on the table.

Mr. Dortch, from the committee on the Revised Statutes, reported on a bill concerning courts, and praying discharge from its further consideration, and favorably on an amendment to the forty fourth chapter, concerning evidence.

Mr. Dargan, from the joint select committee on Military Affairs, reported favorably on a bill to incorporate the Davidson College Volunteer Co., and on a bill regulating the age of those who are to serve in the Militia.

The committee reported unfavorably on a bill to abolish the Militia System.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

A. J. Jones: a resolution of instruction to the committee on the Judiciary, which was referred to the committee.

J. G. Bynum: a bill concerning the Supreme Court.

Mr. Carmichael: a bill to incorporate the Yadkin lodge of Masons.

At the request of Mr. A. H. Caldwell, Mr. Steele moved to take from the table a bill to open a public road from Salisbury to Statesville, which motion prevailed. The bill could not be found and the motion was reconsidered.

Yesterday's unfinished business, (being a bill concerning the sale of liquor to free negroes) was then taken up. Mr. Norment addressed a few remarks to the House in opposition to the bill. Mr. Dargan followed also in opposition. Mr. Jordan supported the bill and attacked Mr. Dargan's position, who replied. Mr. Rand offered an amendment to the effect that, on a certificate of good character, a free negro may purchase or receive liquor. On a motion to lay on the table, the ayes and noes were demanded. Ayes 58, Noes 35.

Mr. Bogle moved to make the bill for the Atlantic and N. C. Railroad a special order for Friday next at 12 o'clock. During a discussion which ensued, the hour arrived for taking a recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The reading of the Revised Statutes was proceeded with.

A bill concerning usury was laid on the table.

A bill concerning criminal proceedings, with a message from the Senate refusing to concur in the amendment offered by the House, was again taken up.

A number of the Statutes passed.

On motion of Mr. Singletary, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

Jan. 18th, 1855.

[illegible] the Speaker, who was [illegible] to preside.

Several reports were made from committees.

The following bills were presented and read the first time:

By Mr. [illegible] a bill [illegible]

A message was received from the House, stating that it had [illegible] several sections in the chapter of the Revised Statutes on Mines, and asking the concurrence of the Senate.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Jan. 18th, 1855.

After reading the journal [illegible]

Mr. Horton presented a memorial concerning a public road in Watauga County, which was referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

Mr. Outlaw, from the committee on corporations, reported in favor of opening a road from Salisbury to Statesville.

Mr. Dortch, from the committee on Judiciary, reported adversely upon the following bills and resolutions and asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the same:—concerning obstructions on railroads; concerning fictitious signatures on bills of exchange; also, the removal of cases from County to Superior Courts; also, trials in capital cases; also, for the better administration of justices; also, requiring retailers of spirituous liquors to make oath that they will not violate the laws of selling to slaves; and also, concerning deeds of trusts.

Mr. Dortch from the committee on Revisal reported adversely on the following: concerning principal and surety; concerning trespass; to compel and authorize discoveries in law; and concerning County Courts.

Mr. Dargan, from the committee on Military affairs, reported in favor of a Military Academy.

Mr. Martin introduced a bill for the completion of the North Carolina railroad.

By Mr. Jenkins, a bill to prohibit more effectually the sale of intoxicating liquors to slaves.

By Mr. Sharpe, a bill for the relief of certain citizens of Iredell.

Mr. Bogle moved to make the eastern extension the special order of Friday.

A debate arose.

The House then took recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A communication was received from the public Treasurer transmitting an account of the expenses of the Literary Board. On motion of Mr. S. A. Williams, the same was ordered to be printed.

An engrossed bill from the Senate concerning Usury was taken up.

Mr. Shepherd moved [illegible] by modifying the law and defend[illegible] amendment.

Mr. Outlaw opposed [illegible] amendment and the principle involved [illegible] Usurious interest. He moved [illegible] by striking out the penalty and making [illegible]. Mr. Gorrell supported the amendment and concurred in the views of Mr. Outlaw.

Mr. Norment opposed the usury laws. He thought the repeal of the same would make money plenty and relieve the momentary crisis. He thought private citizens should have the same privileges as Banking Institutions.

Mr. Walser opposed the amendment. He thought it was a proposition to favor the capitalists and note shavers.

Mr. Singletary favored the amendment of Mr. Shepherd, and opposed that of Mr. Outlaw.

Mr. Smith concurred in the views of Mr. Outlaw and Mr. Gorrell. He thought the adoption of the amendment of Mr. Shepherd would tend to oppress the debtor class. He thought the passage of such a law would tend to divert the funds of the capitalists from works of Internal Improvements, since the door would be open for a more profitable investment.

Mr. Stockard said, that he could never see why so great a difference should be made between money and other property, yet he would not vote to carry out the doctrine. Why should not note shavers be subject to the same penalties as usurers. He thought the amendment of the gentleman from Cleaveland, would afford more protection to the debtor, than with the present law or the amendment of the gentleman from Bertie. It would be a protection to the honest debtor, because he would plead the statutes. Now he does not do so. Usury laws he believed to be valueless, as a general thing, for commercial necessity overrules every law. Still he would not, for [illegible] reasons, vote to repeal them.

Mr. J. G. Bynum thought the proposition of Mr. Shepherd was to protect the money lenders; and that they needed no protection. He said it was a matter of notoriety that money lenders [illegible] to work out public good— While a tax as proposed might be useful to commercial communities at certain seasons, yet we are not a commercial people. He thought if the amendment of Mr. Outlaw was adopted it would tend to set aside the practice of usury in no small degree. He thought the effect of it would be to decrease the value of the State Bonds.

Mr. Shepherd explained the object of his amendment. That it was not to open the door to usury but in a case where A lends B an amount for a sum above six per cent, and when B brings suit against A for usury, A shall have the right to collect the sum loaned, and not for fee, as at present, double the amount.

The question arising on the amendment of Mr. Outlaw, to make [illegible], the ayes and nays were called by Mr. Smith, and the amendment was adopted—ayes [illegible], nays 50.

The question arising on the amendments of Mr. Shepherd, a discussion as to the exact condition of the bill, Mr. Shepherd withdrew his amendments.

Mr. Martin offered the following:

Resolved, That the Usury laws be hereby repealed. The resolution [illegible] rejected.

Mr. Singletary moved [illegible] out all after the word "void."

Mr. Outlaw called [illegible] nays.

The amendment was [illegible] ayes 22, nays 77.

The bill then passed [illegible] second reading.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. Mebane moved to strike out and to insert, so as to read, "fine" or "imprisonment."

Mr. Dortch moved to amend by striking out the amendment just adopted, so that the bill will appear as when coming from the Senate.

Debate again arose in which several members participated.

Mr. G. Green moved an adjournment, which was lost.

The question arising on the amendment of Mr. Dortch, the ayes and nays were called by S. A. Williams, and the amendment was rejected—ayes 38, nays 62.

Mr. Bryson moved to strike out "and imprisonment," which he afterwards withdrew.

The question on Mr. Mebane's amendment, to strike out and to insert, the ayes and nays were demanded by Mr. D. F. Caldwell, and the amendment prevailed—ayes 59, nays 38.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Headen, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

Jan. 19th, 1855.

A number of engrossed bills from the House of Commons were read and referred.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. J. M. Leach, from the committee on Internal Improvements, reported favorably upon the bill to [illegible] Act concerning the Yadkin Navigation Company.

Mr. Love introduced a resolution instructing the committee on [illegible] to inquire into the expediency of [illegible] a Turnpike road from Salisbury West [illegible]

The [illegible] introduced by Mr. Settle on the subject of Slavery were taken up and read.

Mr. [illegible] the State [illegible] bill to expel public [illegible] greater importance [illegible] the Legislature, [illegible] the resolution on the table.

Mr. Settle appealed to Mr. Cotton to withdraw his motion in order to obtain a vote on the resolution.

Mr. Cotton withdrew with the remark that he would give his friend from Rockingham one minute to speak.

A desultory debate arose between Messrs. Settle and Bogle.

Mr. Baxter moved to take up the bill for the eastern extension of the N. C. Railroad.

Mr. Singletary moved to amend by substituting the Revenue bill, which prevailed—ayes, 56; nays, 42.

The Revenue bill was then read the second time.

On motion of Mr. Smith it was made the special order of next Wednesday at 11 o'clock, and continue as a special order until disposed of, which prevailed.

Mr. Carmichael moved to take up the bill for the eastern extension. Ayes, 62; nays, 46.

The bill was then read the third time, amendments offered by Mr. Mebane, when the hour for recess having arrived the Speaker rose.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

House met pursuant to adjournment.

The bill concerning usury was taken up.

Messrs. Jenkins and J. H. Headen opposed the amendment of Mr. J. G. Bynum, (see proceedings of yesterday afternoon.)

Mr. Singletary moved to strike out *both* from Mr. Bynum's amendment and insert after "imprisonment—*whipping or all*,—which was rejected.

The question arising on Mr. Bynum's amendment, it was rejected ayes 34; nays 64.

Mr. Singletary moved to amend by striking out six or seven per cent. as the legal rate of interest. Rejected—ayes 3; nays 96. Messrs. Singletary, McDuffie and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Shipp moved to amend by striking out "or imprisonment," and give the superior court the exclusive jurisdiction over the fine to be imposed.

Mr. Outlaw moved to amend by inserting after the amendment a proviso that the fine shall not be less than the amount usuriously loaned.

A division of the question was called for and the House struck out—ayes 42, nays 36.

The question arising on the motion to insert, the ayes and nays were called and the amendment prevailed—ayes 61; nays 38.

Mr. Shepherd offered the following as an amendment:

Providing that nothing in this Act contained shall apply to the holder of usurious notes, bills of exchange or bonds made negotiable who has purchased the same *bona fide* and without notice of usury.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Singletary moved to strike out *six* and insert *five* per cent.

Mr. J. M. Leach called [illegible] division of the question.

On motion to strike [illegible] and nays were demanded, and the House refused to strike out—ayes, 13; nays, 90.

A motion was made to indefinitely postpone the whole matter. Ayes, 13; nays, 84.

Mr. Outlaw moved to reconsider the vote by which the amendment of Mr. Shipp was adopted, which prevailed.

Mr. Outlaw then moved to amend by striking out county courts and perfecting the phraseology of the bill as amended.

Mr. Myers moved to amend by providing that the fine shall not be less than the amount of the excess of interest.

Mr. Singletary moved to commit the bill to a select committee to be appointed by the chair with instructions to report a bill similar to the original bill which was rejected—ayes, 32; nays, 54.

Mr. Bolen moved to amend by making the borrower equally liable with the lender, which was lost.

Mr. Outlaw's amendment was lost.

The bill was ordered to be read. [Great confusion.] The clerk commenced reading the bill. Mr. Wright said, Mr. Speaker, we can't hear the reading of that bill here, there is so much noise. [Noise in the lobbies and in the bar.] Mr. Speaker said, the doorkeepers will exclude all strangers from the hall. [Confusion and murmurs.] Mr. Speaker. The doorkeepers will rigidly enforce the order and clear the Hall.

Mr. Means moved an adjournment which was refused.

The Hall was cleared [illegible] the House became quiet and the bill was read the third time. The ayes and nays were demanded by Mr. Norment, and the bill was read the third time and passed—ayes 75, nays 23.

Mr. S. A. Williams introduced a bill concerning [illegible] persons which was read [illegible]

On motion of Mr. McKesson, the House adjourned.

ONE OF THE DARK SPOTS OF LONDON.—The Daily News, in alluding to the lower part of St. Clement's Lane, as a "London fever hole," thus depicts the abode of men and women in "merry England:"

"A track through the heart of the Black Forest, or a pass through the bowels of a mountain in Arabia Petrea could not be more close and dreary. You might walk here in a good stiff hurricane and hardly know it; a summer shower might pass and leave you dry. You are in the region of perpetual shadow, and the women and children who sit and sprawl upon the door-steps are scarcely less in doors than when languishing in their dark and foetid rooms; and no wonder, for, according to actual measurement, courts vary in breadth from six to twelve feet. Here are the holes where our human fellow creatures swarm like vermin. According to a report published in the Daily News of May 1st, no [illegible] fifty inmates were found to [illegible] one of the houses in Middle Sea[illegible], formerly Little Shire lane, and in [illegible]yard many of the houses are built back to back, entirely preventing thorough ventilation.

The gentleman who made the examination states that water butts are kept in underground cellars, the walls and flooring of which are continually damp to the touch, and where the water, imbibing the filthy exhalation of the place, acquires a dreadful odor; that the ceilings of some of these cellars are actually below the level of the roadways, so that the inhabitants are obliged to burn candles through the whole day, with the exception of a few hours, and that terrier dogs are kept in many of the houses as a protection against the rats. Yet out of these hideous tenements considerable sums of money are drawn every year by letting and subletting. Hideous women, foul and slatternly, loll out of windows, or lean against door posts, overcome with terrible lassitude and indolence, which cannot fail to arise from the influence by which they are surrounded; not impudent and brazen, but oppressed with the hopeless burden of their lives. The children, sullen, dirty and fierce—young tigers, without their beauty or their health—play or fight in the roadways amid the cabbage stalks, potato peelings, oyster shells, and standing puddles. Men are very seldom seen. And over the young and old tower the melancholy house fronts shutting out the sky and breeze, and black and saturated with the pestilent vapors which rising [illegible] seen around them.

"Hang their poisons in the sick air."

☞ A Fair, which wound up with a dance, was lately held at Medford, Mass., to raise funds to enclose a *grave yard!* Man is a queer animal.

Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 25, 1855.

☞ The Junior Editor of the Watchman, has entered upon the discharge of his duties, in accordance with the notice given in last week's paper. With the assistance of the Senior Editor and present proprietor, to "lead the way," and lend a guiding hand, he deems it unnecessary to indulge in a lengthy salutatory. As a general rule, custom demands an exposition of the principles professed, and the course to be pursued, by an Editor, when he thrusts himself upon the political arena. But as it is not the intention to change the character of the Watchman, he deems any remarks upon the distinctive features of the political organizations of the day entirely unnecessary and useless. He would say, however, that he hopes to keep pace with the advance in politics as well as the progress in improvement, and, by gathering wisdom by the lamp of experience, to be enabled to contribute, from time to time, such information as may prove acceptable to the readers of the Watchman [illegible] endeavor to meet the expectations of those who have extended to it their [illegible] patronage.

To his friends, in his own native county particularly, he looks for encouragement in his new enterprise—promising to use his utmost endeavors to do all that he can, in his sphere, that may tend to enhance her interests and prosperity compatible with the general welfare.

Fire and Loss of Life.—We have the painful duty to record the occurrence of a fire in our Town, on Saturday morning last, which was attended with loss of life and other very sad consequences. The dwelling house of Mr. MICAJAH GRIFFIN, in the Northern part of town, took fire sometime between 12 and 2 o'clock, (how it is not certainly known,) and the flames had progressed so far before they were discovered by the family as to preclude the possibility of arresting them, and leaving it barely possible for the inmates to get out. The family consisted of five persons, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin and son, a lad of 14 years; and Mr. Green Redwine and Mary Phillips, a girl of some 10 or 12 years.

All were more or less burnt; we believe, except Mrs. Griffin, though the personal injuries of Mr. G. are very slight. Their son with Mr. Redwine and Mary Philips, however, who were sleeping on the second story of the house, were all seriously burnt; the latter, fatally, and died about 12 o'clock Saturday night. Mr. Redwine's injuries are in his hands and arms, and so too, are those of the other boy. They had to leap from a second story window to escape the flames which met them at the stair-way, and in the fall Mary Phillips had a leg broken, and Mr. G's son broke an arm.

It was heart-rending to look upon the scene witnessed on this melancholy occasion and to hear the bitter cries of pain uttered by the unfortunate sufferers. It was an appeal to humanity and benevolence too, and it is gratifying to state that it found a ready response in the hearts of our citizens, so far as human aid could relieve the sufferers, they lacked for nothing. Mr. G. lost all he had; but the liberality of his fellow [illegible] will go far towards restoring his effects [illegible] poor compensation, though it were double. One member of his household will never again meet at his board, or gather around his hearth! The others, though spared, are scarred, and probably crippled for life.

The American Mocking Bird.—Master James Sinclair Baker, "the American Mocking Bird," formerly of the National Theatre, Philadelphia, and late of Wood's Varieties, Broadway, N. Y., gave one of his remarkable and highly entertaining Concerts, on Tuesday evening last, to the citizens of Salisbury. This wonderful Imitator of Birds, Ventriloquist, vocalist and fancy Dancer, is only twelve years of age. He possesses the gift of imitating to a degree which has never yet been exhibited in any one, and perhaps will never be witnessed in any one again. His performance was entirely chaste, novel and pleasing; and to those who can appreciate a concert, where all that is low and groveling is discarded, we would say—by all means avail yourselves of the first opportunity to enjoy the extraordinary entertainment of this highly gifted and beautiful child.

☞ We received a few days since a copy of a Memorial purporting to be from the citizens of North Carolina to the General Assembly, asking for certain reforms in the Laws relating to Slaves and Free Persons of Color. The envelop in which it was inclosed was post-marked Raleigh, N. C.; but we do not believe it had its origin in that place. The Memorial, after opening with a very delicate and cautious preamble, proceeds to ask the consideration of our Legislature to the four following propositions:

1. That it believes [illegible] to establish the institution of matrimony among our slaves, with all its legal obligations as to its duration between the parties.

2. That under no circumstances should they be permitted to disregard these natural and sacred ties of relationship among their slaves, or between slaves belonging to different masters.

3. That the parental relation be acknowledged and protected by law; and that the separation of parents from their young children, say of twelve years and under, be strictly forbidden, under heavy pains and penalties.

4. That the laws which prohibit the instruction of slaves and free colored persons, by teaching them to read the Bible and other good books, be repealed.

The Memorial then proceeds to say that the first three of these proposed forms is radical, &c.—and in that particular we agree, since in many instances, they would entirely abolish all ownership in the person of the slave. We conceive that the parent of the memorial is a better moralist than jurist, and by way of satisfaction, for refusing to publish the Memorial at length, would gratuitously advise the author to turn his inventive powers into some other channel than that of Legislation. Nine-tenths of the Memorial is taken up in discussing the merits of the fourth proposition alone; and it must be evident to every observing mind how ingeniously it evades an exposition of the three first, which suggest, by far, the most comprehensive and dangerous changes urged. Some portions, on the first reading, seem very plausible; for instance, when speaking of the separation of families, the Memorial treats of the subject with tenderness and pathetic appeals—and were it not for the fact that the separation of children and parents is of such frequent occurrence even among the paler faces of mortality, we might be inclined to listen to its mournful details. This Memorial concludes, by professing to have proposed "the only course which can silence abolition fanaticism at the North;" and by endeavoring to select some examples in the South in justification of such a reform. In our opinion, to take the fairest view of the case possible, such a change must necessarily involve consequences dangerous in themselves and alter entirely the relationship hitherto existing between master and servant. We should not have noticed the Memorial at all, if we had not good reason to believe that it has been circulated far and wide throughout the State, and had we not been requested to give it publication. This last we decline.

Repeal of Usury Laws.—This subject is exciting considerable interest in various States of the Union. It was brought before the Legislature of our State, this winter, but we believe met with little or no favor; and last, we see that the Chamber of Commerce of New York, have started a memorial to the Legislature of New York, praying a repeal of existing laws on the subject.

The idea seems to be, that money, like every thing else, is subject to fluctuations in value, and that it is wrong to attempt to control it by laws declaring what it shall be worth. A repeal of all laws fixing the rate of interest, would be a capital measure for those who have plenty of money to loan, these hard times; and it is more than probable that the monied men constitute the class, in a great measure, who are now advocating this repeal policy.

☞ We have received from the author a speech by Hon. W. S. BARRY, of Miss., on the subject of Civil and Religious toleration, or Know Nothingism, delivered in the House Representatives, U. S. Congress, on the 18th December last. He opposes the new society with all his might.

☞ Our thanks are due the Hon. B. CRAIGE for a copy of the report of the Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey for 1853.

CAPE FEAR AND DEEP RIVER.

We invite attention of those who are watching the progress of internal improvements in this State to the able report of Mr. Fisher on this subject, which will be found on the first page of this week's paper. This improvement is a very important work, especially to coal and iron interests of Chatham county, and it is gratifying to see that the Legislature will lend it such aid as will be necessary to render it efficient.

The Raleigh Star of the 20th instant, has the following:

Cape Fear and Deep River.—On Thursday last, the bill for the completion of the improvements on the Cape Fear and Deep River, came up for consideration. Mr. Haughton advocated the measure in an elaborate argument, showing the importance of the work to a large portion of the State, and demonstrating from the best authorities, the entire practicability of the work. The bill asks for an endorsement of the bonds of the company to the amount of $300,000. It was conclusively shown that the State would run little or no risk in thus extending aid to this important work, as with only the amount of coal that could *now* be taken out and sent down the river, at a rate of toll far lower than charged on similar works, it would more than treble the interest on this endorsement.

We hope and believe that the General Assembly will not hesitate to extend the requisite aid, as there can be no possible chance of a loss to the State, and according to the views of eminent and practical geologists, the quantity of coal and iron that would be sent off by means of this improvement, would be immensely large than its friends can now even hope for. We do not propose to go into statistics on the subject, but we believe that every one who will examine it faithfully and impartially, and come to the conclusion that it is not only a question