Legislature of North Carolina.

SENATE.

SATURDAY, Jan. 20th, 1855.

The bill concerning salaries and fees was read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Rayner, the Senate took up for consideration the bill to aid in the erection of a monument commemorative of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Rayner advocated the bill at some length. This bill is the same as one passed by the old thirteen States. This bill does not require an appropriation now, but merely the appointment of a trustee on the part of the State to confer with similar trustees from other States as to a plan of a monument to be submitted to the Legislatures of the several old States. Should they adopt it, then they can make the necessary appropriations.

Mr. R. further advocated the bill in some very appropriate and patriotic remarks.

After Mr. Rayner's remarks, the bill passed its second and third readings unanimously.

Mr. Cherry said he desired that the journal should be so made up, that posterity in all time to come might know that this bill had received the unanimous sanction of the Senate of North Carolina, and that his humble name in favor of its passage, might be inscribed upon the journal:

When it was ordered that the names of *all* the Senators, the Speaker included, be recorded in favor of it.

On motion of Mr. Mitchell, the bill to incorporate the Mocksville and Wilkesboro' Plank Road Company was taken up.

Mr. Mitchell advocated the passage of the bill.

It was also advocated by Mr. Fisher, when the bill passed its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Hoke, the bill to divide the State into eight judicial circuits was taken from the table.

After an amendment, the bill passed its third reading, by ayes 22, noes 22; the Speaker voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Haughton moved to re-consider the vote by which the bill was passed—which motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Hoke, from the Committee of Conference upon the disagreement of the two Houses, concerning the Statue on criminal proceedings, made a report, which was adopted.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SATURDAY, Jan. 20th, 1855.

The House came to order at the usual hour and the journal was read.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

A petition was handed in concerning certain Justices in Catawba county.

C. W. Williams handed in a similar one from Yadkin county.

Mr. Stubbs, a similar one from Beaufort county.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. Steele, from the Committee on Corporations, reported on a petition concerning the Asheville and Greenville Plankroad; that having considered a bill for said road, further legislation was unnecessary, and prayed to be discharged.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

J. H. Headen—A bill to keep in force an act incorporating the town of Haywood.

Mr. Gentry—A bill to incorporate the town of Jefferson, in Ashe County.

Mr. Singeltary: a resolution that no bill for internal improvements shall be considered prior to the passage of the Revenue bill.

Mr. Meares moved to make a bill establishing a scientific and military Academy a special order for Thursday next. Refused.

A message from the Senate was read, proposing a committee of conference on the bill concerning criminal proceedings.

Another message was received, transmitting a bill to amend the Constitution of the State, (Free Suffrage,) which was read the last time.

The House concurred with the Senate in the proposition concerning a committee of conference, and the following gentlemen were appointed on the part of the House: Messrs. Dortch, Outlaw and Philips.

Mr. Singeltary moved to lay the special order of the day (the Eastern Extension) on the table and demanded the Ayes and Noes. Ayes 42. Noes 55.

The amendment to the first section extending the capital stock to sixteen hundred thousand dollars—offered by Mr. Mebane yesterday when the hour for taking a recess arrived, was taken up for consideration. Mr. Mebane explained its meaning. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Jenkins opposed the amendment, but did not wish to be understood as opposed to internal improvements. Amendment withdrawn.

A motion to strike out twelve hundred thousand dollars was adopted.

Mr. Mebane offered an amendment to the fifth section. Mr. Shepherd opposed it. Messrs. Leach, G. Green and Dortch wished the bill to stand as printed. Mr. Dortch moved a reconsideration of the vote by which twelve hundred thousand dollars was stricken. Withdrawn.

Amendments offered to the fifth, eighth, and ninth sections were submitted by Mr. Mebane, and adopted. An amendment by Mr. Neale, of Rockingham, was adopted. An amendment by Mr. Myers, obliging the Company to commence the work at a certain point, was discussed and rejected.

Mr. Cotten at length found an opportunity for opening a his upon the whole system of Internal Improvements, and accordingly commenced playing upon it with all his guns. He said he was not an Anti-Improvement man, he was an Anti-State-debt man; he was opposed to the manner by which these improvements were carried out. Whatever courage an man have, note to the system he attacked was quickly repaired, and his own position rendered untenable from a vigorous assault by his colleague, Mr. J. Headen, ably supported by Mr. Dargan. Judging from the slacked fire with which the gallant general replied, it was evident that his defences were almost completely demolished.

The House took a recess at 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Speaker read the titles of a number of bills transmitted from the Senate, and gave notice of a number that he would sign, as speaker of the House, after which a motion to adjourn was made and carried, by a vote of 59 to 31.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Jan. 22d, 1855.

The motion laid on the table Saturday, to reconsider the vote by which the bill to divide the State into eight judicial circuits was passed, was taken up and adopted.

The bill was then taken up, ayes 27, noes 23.

Mr. Eaton, from the committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the memorial of the State Agricultural Society, reported a bill for the encouragement of Agriculture, which passed its first reading. [Makes an annual appropriation of $2,000 to the North Carolina State Agricultural Society.]

On motion of Mr. Eaton, the bill for the completion, furnishing and enlarging the grounds of the Lunatic Asylum was taken up and passed its second and third readings by ayes 36, noes 5.

On motion of Mr. Cowan, the bill for the completion of the North Carolina Railroad was taken up.

After several amendments, the bill passed its second reading, by ayes 31, noes 9.

On motion of Mr. Cherry, the bill was read the third time.

Mr. Hoke moved to amend by inserting a proviso, that no director on the part of the State shall be required to own stock. Pending the consideration of the amendment, the Senate took a recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The bill to amend an act to incorporate the town of Clinton, was read three times and passed.

The bill to amend the Constitution of North Carolina to provide for holding annual sessions of the General Assembly, was read the first time and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Bower introduced a bill to establish a new county by the name of Alleghany.

The bill to hold courts two weeks in New Hanover county, was read the first time and passed.

The bill to expedite the trial of certain suits in courts of law, was read the second time and rejected.

The bill for the completion of the North Carolina Rail Road, coming up for consideration on its third reading:

The amendment of Mr. Hoke was rejected and the bill passed.

On motion of Mr. Jones, the bill to incorporate a company to construct a ship canal to connect the waters of Currituck, Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, with Chesapeake Bay, was taken up.

Mr. Graves moved to lay it upon the table, which was lost.

The bill passed its third reading.

The Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Commons to the Statue concerning evidence.

On motion of Mr. Mills, the supplemental to an act entitled "an act to lay off and establish a County by the name of Polk," was taken up, and passed its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Hoke, the bill to authorize the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company to issue bonds and for other purposes, was taken up. The bill passed its third reading by ayes 38, Noes 8.

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

Without coming to a vote, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, January 22, 1855.

The following gentlemen are the commitee on Enrolled Bills for the week: Messrs. Baxter, Singletary, J. B. Bynum, Shipp and Whitlock.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS.

Messrs. Martin, A. H. Caldwell, Selby, Long Dorth and Furr, presented memorials for the appointment of Justices in their various Counties.

Mr. Norment: a temperance memorial. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Shepherd: a memorial from citizens of Cumberland against a division of the County.—Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

W. L. Steele, from the committee on corporations, reported on a bill to incorporate the Stokes Iron Mining Company, that it ought to be incorporated under the act. Favorably on the following: A bill to incorporate the Chatham and Randolph Railroad Company, and a bill to incorporate the Holtsburg Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Cansler, from the committee on Internal Improvements, reported favorable on a bill to incorporate the Gulf and Graham Plank Road Company, and on a bill to incorporate the Mountain Railroad Company.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Norment: a resolution relative to holding night sessions from and after to morrow.—Mr. Norment said he found a disposition to adjourn the Legislature in two weeks from to-day, and hence he introduced the resolution. Mr. Love moved to lay it on the table. Lost.

Mr. Outlaw moved an indefinite postponement. Lost. On the passage of the resolution the ayes and nays were demanded. Ayes 57, noes 46. The motion lies over one day.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Singeltary, on Saturday, was taken up for action. The resolution provides that no bill for appropriation shall be acted on until after the passage of the Revenue Bill. A discussion ensued. The ayes and nays were demanded. Ayes 47, noes 63.

The bill for the Eastern Extension, being the unfinished business of Saturday last, was taken up for its final passage. Mr. Singeltary moved to lay it on the table and take up the Revenue Bill. On that motion, the ayes and noes were demanded. Ayes 44; noes 65.

Mr. Singeltary gave notice of an amendment to strike out individual subscriptions from the bill, and oblige the State to build the entire Road.

Mr. McKesson and others objected. Mr. Singeltary made his motion, and the ayes and noes were demanded. Ayes 0; noes 115.

[*Why was the motion like a blind man? Because it had no ayes (eyes.)*]

Mr. Patterson offered an amendment, which was accepted. Mr. McDuffie addressed the House in opposition to the bill. Mr. J. G. Bynum addressed the House also in opposition.—Gen. Green followed in support of the bill.

On the passage of the bill the ayes and noes were demanded. Ayes 88; Noes 22.

The bill to incorporate the Beaufort and Fayetteville Rail Road Co. was postponed, on motion of Mr. Humphrey, till Monday next.

Mr. Dortch moved to take up the Wilmington and Charlotte Railroad bill. Mr. Singeltary demanded the ayes and noes. Ayes 65; Noes 48. The bill was then read a second time, and the House took a recess.

The following is the negative vote on the Eastern Extension: Messrs. Barham, J. Barnes, J. G. Bynum, Cotten, Daughtry, Dunn, Flynt, Furr, Harrison, Hill, Holland, Horton, M. Duffie, Martin, Myers, Sing, Sims, Watts, Waugh, J. H. White, Whitlock, Wright, W. Williams, D. Wilson—22.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A message was received from the Senate, concurring with the report of the Committee on the Criminal Proceeding Bill, and concurring the Bank of Washington, with an amendment.—Concurred in.

The reading of the Revised Statutes was then proceeded with.

A bill concerning partitions. Passed three readings.

A bill concerning quarantine. Passed three readings.

A bill concerning Internal Improvement.—Passed three readings.

A bill concerning Religious Societies. Passed three readings.

Mr. J. H. Williams moved to lay on table a bill concerning slaves. Motion refused. Mr. [illegible] moved to postpone indefinitely.—[illegible]

[illegible]

A bill to incorporate the Madison, Va., and Greensboro' Plank Road Company.

An amendment offered was adopted and the bill passed.

A bill to incorporate the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad Company. An amendment was offered changing the name to Wilmington and Roanoke Railroad Company. Adopted.—Bill passed.

A Resolution in favor of Thomas N. Alexander, late sheriff of Mecklenburg county.

A bill to incorporate the Shelby Railroad Company. On motion, it was made the special order for Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock.

A bill to incorporate the Trent River Navigation Company.

A bill concerning a Light House.

A bill authorizing Mr. Ballinger to construct a dam across Neuse River.

The House then adjourned.

SENATE.

TUESDAY, Jan. 23, 1855.

Mr. Morisey moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the bill to divide the State into eight judicial circuits was rejected, and moved that said motion be laid upon the table.

BANK OF CAPE FEAR.

The Senate now proceeded to consider the bill to re-charter the Bank of Cape Fear. The pending question was on the amendment of Mr. Biggs, as follows:

"That no bill, certificate of deposite or promissory note shall be issued or reissued by the corporation for a less sum than five dollars."

The bill to repeal so much of the act of 1852 as provides for a Superintendent of Common Schools for the State was taken up, pending the consideration of which the Senate took a recess till three o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

A number of bills were read and ordered to be engrossed.

NORTH CAROLINA WESTERN EXTENSION.

The Senate now proceeded to the consideration of the bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company. The bill was discussed, amended, and pending the consideration of the measure and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The report from the finance committee on the Comptroller's department was read, and on motion of Mr. Patterson, was sent to the Senate.

Mr. Dargan, from the committee on military affairs, reported favorably on the bill concerning the enrollment of militia.

Mr. Jarvis moved to take up the bill for the amendment of the Constitution and called for the yeas and nays. Adopted—yeas 66, nays 43.

Mr. Baxter offered a substitute, being the bill introduced by Mr. Graham in the Senate. Upon this a lengthy discussion ensued.

The House took a recess until 3 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

On motion of Mr. Patterson the resolution restricting the business of the afternoon Session to the consideration only of Revised Statutes was rescinded.

Mr. A. H. Caldwell moved a reconsideration of the vote authorizing holding night sessions, which prevailed and the resolution was laid on the table.

A bill incorporating the town of Franklin passed its third reading.

The bill incorporating the Dobbin House Company passed its third reading.

Also, a bill incorporating the Guilford Gold and Copper Mining Company.

A bill changing the time of Holding county Courts in Hyde passed its third reading.

The House then adjourned.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24, 1855.

A number of engrossed bills were sent to the Commons, asking their concurrence in the same.

On motion by Mr. Biggs, *Resolved*, That the Revised Statutes and private bills be considered this afternoon.

Mr. Winder, from the committee on public buildings, reported the following resolution and recommended its passage: A resolution making an appropriation for building a new Executive Mansion in the City of Raleigh. Read first time and passed.

A message from the Commons stating that they have passed the engrossed bill from the Senate, concerning usury, with amendment, in which they ask the concurrence of the Senate. The Senate disagreed to the amendment, and the House of Commons was informed thereof.

NORTH CAROLINA WESTERN RAILROAD.

The Senate now resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, to wit, the bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company, providing for a Railroad West from the Town of Salisbury.

Mr. Fisher moved the following amendment as an additional section.

"*Be it further enacted*, That the extension of the first division of said road shall commence at its eastern terminus; and the said division being fully completed, equipped and put to work, the subsequent divisions shall be constructed, under the provisions hereinbefore made, progressively westward; and the State shall be called upon to pay no larger amount than $400,000 per annum for the next two years succeeding the passage of this act."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Thomas, of Davidson, now moved to amend the second section of the bill so as to strike out "Salisbury" and insert "Lexington" as the starting point of the Road and "thence through the County of Davie."

Said amendment was rejected, yeas 18, nays 25.

Considerable discussion took place on the bill and on improvements generally, in which Messrs. Cherry, Thomas, Rayner, Brogden, Cunningham and others participated.

The bill then passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed, by the following vote:

Those who voted for it are, Messrs. Adee, Boyd, Cherry, Christian, Coleman, Davis, Faison, Fennell, Fisher, Forshee, Freeman, Grimes, Graham, Graves, Haughton, Herring, Hoke, Lane, McDowell, Mills, Mitchell, Morisey, Oldfield, Rayner, Speight, Taylor, W. H. Thomas, Walker, Winder, Wiggins, Winslow, and Wood—32.

Those who voted against the bill are, Messrs. Biggs, Bower, Brogden, Clark, Collins, Cunningham, Drake, Eaton, Ebern, Jones, Martin, Person, Sanders, Taylor, J. W. Thomas, and Wiley—16.

The Senate then took a recess till 3 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

After passing several of the Revised Statutes, the Senate considered the bill to incorporate the Bank of Clarendon in the town of Fayetteville. Said bill, after discussion, passed its second reading, yeas 26, nays 16.

The bill to recharter the Bank of Cape Fear was taken up, and after discussion it passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Memorials for the appointment of justices of the peace were presented from the counties of Randolph and Johnston, and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Steele moved to take up the Wilmington and Charlotte railroad bill.

Mr. Singletary thought the Free Suffrage bill, being the unfinished business of yesterday, had precedence, and appealed to the Speaker.

The Speaker decided it lay with the House, to select which should have precedence.

Mr. Steele's motion was adopted—yeas 71, nays 38.

Mr. Meares moved to amend the bill by inserting in the second section "or Smithville."

After a few remarks in opposition, by Mr. G. M. White—Adopted.

Mr. Shepherd offered an amendment, that any other Railroad authorised by the General Assembly, may connect with the road.—Adopted.

Mr. J. G. Bynum offered an amendment increasing the Capital Stock of the Company one million, to construct a connection from Charlotte to Rutherfordton. Mr. B. stated that the additional stock was only to extend the road as proposed, and unless that stock was subscribed, there was nothing to compel the Company to build the proposed extension. Mr. B., in support of his amendment, stated it would not affect the North Carolina Railroad, and read a statement of the resources of the section through which it would pass, and proved they were amply sufficient to maintain the Road, and moved the amendment be incorporated in the bill.

Mr. Steele, while he thought the amendment would not injure the bill, was opposed to its adoption.

Mr. J. H. White thought there could be no objection to the amendment offered; he lived in the section west of the Catawba River completely cut off from the rest of the State, and only visited by the tax gather to collect money for the benefit of other parts of the State.

The greatest benefit would accrue to Wilmington from this road, which without injury to other projects, would bind his section to the State, with the bonds of interest as well as affection.

It would not affect the trade of the North Carolina Railroad, as no produce from his section of the State would ever pass over that road, whether this road is built or not. If this charter was not granted there will be a railroad from South Carolina, to accommodate the trade. A gold and iron mining company with a large capital, was established in his county, who would most likely contribute liberally to building the Road, by which the proceeds of their enterprize would be carried to Wilmington. If this bill be rejected his section would consider themselves as cut off, and give their interests and trade to South Carolina. This bill will increase the resources of that section of the State, which instead of going to South Carolina will then go to Wilmington, and benefit our own seaport. Mr. W. read a statement of the produce and trade of the country through which the road would pass. He acknowledged it would injure the Yorkville Railroad in South Carolina, but would not injure the Wilmington and Charlotte Railroad.

Mr. J. G. Bynum in answer to Mr. Steele, stated he wished his amendment to be incorporated in the bill, and if it was rejected in consequence, he promised to move a reconsideration.

Mr. Myers stated that he did not desire to make a speech. But the amendment of the gentleman from Rutherford was so manifestly just to the people of the west, that he desired to give it his approval notwithstanding the extension of the road beyond the town of Charlotte could not, in his opinion, result to the advantage of his constituents—experience having proven that the point of termination was always the point most benefitted by works of this character. He hoped the amendment would be adopted.

Mr. J. H. White approved of Mr. J. G. Bynum's suggestion.

Mr. Mann was in favor of the proposition of Mr. Bynum, and thought the statements of that gentleman sufficient to convince the country of the necessity of the measure.

Mr. Cansler said as the measure affected his portion of the State, he wished to be heard on the subject. His people were not only an agricultural but a manufacturing community, and the produce of their industry was all sent to South Carolina. They ask by this bill the means to get to Wilmington; give them this bill and they will build the road. In asking this aid they were only asking that which they always were willing to give to other Railroads, and internal improvements.

Mr. Cansler at some length advocated the justice and necessity of the bill, and stated if the charter was granted, the State of North Carolina would never be called upon to pay; they would raise the means themselves.

After some remarks from Messrs. Gorrell, and J. G. Bynum the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Singletary commented on the indecision manifested by some of the members of the House and gave it as his opinion that it will eventually destroy the North Carolina Railroad, and made calculations to show the road to Wilmington from Asheville would be about 80 miles shorter than that to Beaufort. After some remarks from Messrs. Steele and J. G. Bynum.

Mr. D. F. Caldwell opposed the amendment as injurious to the North Carolina Railroad, and would vote against the bill.

Messrs. Singletary and J. G. Bynum having explained, the bill passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed—yeas 65, nays 48.

Mr. Singletary moved to take up the Free Suffrage bill.

Mr. Mebane moved to lay the motion on the table and take up the Revenue bill. Withdrawn.

Mr. Mann commenced the adjourned debate upon Mr. Mebane's amendment, when

Mr. Singletary rose to a point of order. The amendment was already proposed in another form and rejected.

After some debate between Messrs. Mebane, Singletary, Barringer and Ames.

The Speaker decided the amendment was not in order, and gave his reasons at length.

Mr. Baxter appealed, and the House sustained the Speaker's decision.

Mr. Mebane offered an amendment, that every free white man 21 years of age, and a resident of the State for one year, shall be qualified to vote for Senator.

Mr. Barringer supported the amendment.

Mr. S. A. Williams moved to postpone the hour for recess.

Mr. Jordan moved to postpone the hour of recess until the Free Suffrage bill was voted upon. Withdrawn.

Mr. Baxter renewed the motion.

Mr. Outlaw called for the yeas and nays, during which the hour of recess arrived, and the House rose until 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House took up the unfinished debate upon Mr. Mebane's amendment.

After Messrs. Patterson and Mebane had made some remarks,

Mr. Bullock said it was generally understood in his county that unnaturalized foreigners could not vote.

Amendment rejected—ayes 2, nays 104.

Mr. Mebane offered another amendment, that nothing herein shall be so construed as to allow unnaturalized foreigners to vote. Rejected—yeas 51, nays 54.

Messrs. Dargan and Steele defined their positions on the bill and gave their reasons for voting for it.

The Free Suffrage bill passed its first reading, yeas 89, nays 18.

Mr. Cofield moved the bill to lay off a new county of the name of Henry be taken up.

The bill met with strong opposition from Mr. Shepherd, and was ably supported by Mr. Cofield. After considerable debate between Messrs. Shepherd, Cofield, Steele, Lancaster, J. H. White and G. M. White, the name was changed to Cape Fear, and the bill passed—yeas 64, nays 38.

Mr. Meares asked leave of the House to have his vote recorded in favor of Free Suffrage, which was refused; after which the House adjourned till Thursday morning.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Jan. 25, 1855.

Mr. Fisher submitted a Resolution in relation to the Public Treasurer.—Referred.

Mr. Fisher, a bill to amend an act passed in 1852, entitled an act to incorporate the Salisbury, Mocksville and Wilkesborough Plank Road Company. Referred.

Mr. Thomas, of Davidson, a bill to prevent the felling of timber in Jimmie's Creek. Referred.

The bill to establish a Plank Road from Mocksville to Wilkesborough, was read the third time and ordered to be engrossed.

DAN RIVER AND YADKIN RAILROAD.

On motion of Mr. Boyd, the Senate then took up the bill to incorporate the Dan River and Yadkin Railroad company, on its third reading. The bill was amended on motion of Mr. Martin, and passed by the following vote and was ordered to be engrossed.

Yeas, 28, Nays, 15.

FAYETTEVILLE AND GREENSBORO' ROAD.

The Senate then took up, on motion of Mr. Mills, the bill to incorporate the Fayetteville and Greensborough Railroad company, on its third reading. The bill was amended so as to provide for a Railroad from Beaufort harbor by way of Clinton, Warsaw and Fayetteville to the fields in Chatham county—the Road to be built and used in divisions of fifteen miles, and the State to endorse the bonds of the Company to the extent of $10,000 per mile, to pay for the iron as the grading and superstructure are prepared for it by the Company.

The bill was advocated by Messrs. Faison, Fonville, Thomas of J., and Mr. Speaker Winslow, who made a most eloquent appeal for the measure and in behalf of the ancient and enterprising town of Fayetteville. The bill then passed its third reading and was ordered to be engrossed by the following vote. Yeas 25, nays 19.

The Senate then took a recess until 3 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

A message was received from his Excellency, Gov. Bragg, in relation to the condition of the public arms deposited in the town of Newbern. Read and referred, on motion of Mr. Wood, to the Committee on military affairs.

Also, a message in relation to a proposition made to the Governor to restore Canova's Statue of Washington. Read and referred to the committee on public buildings.

On motion of Mr. Mills, the bill to incorporate the Bank of Clarendon, was taken up on its third reading. The said bill was amended, and passed its third reading, and was ordered to be engrossed.

The remainder of the evening was occupied by the reading of private bills.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A communication from the Governor was read, transmitting a proposition from A. W. Jones, Sculptor of New York, on the subject of restoring Canova's Statute of Washington. On motion of Mr. J. G. Bynum, the documents were sent to the Senate.

A Message from the Governor concerning "Public Arms," was sent to the Senate, with a proposition to refer to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Humphrey presented a Memorial from Onslow County, in favor of prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors within two miles of Richland Academy. Referred to the Committee on Education.

Mr. Meares introduced a bill to cede to the United States certain land on the Cape Fear River for light-house purposes. Read and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Marsh introduced a bill in favor of the late and present Sheriff of Davie. Read and referred to the committee on claims.

On motion of Mr. Sharpe the bill for the relief of the citizens of Iredell was taken up, the rules suspended, and the bill passed its second and third reading, and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Singletary moved the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole on the revenue bill. After some remarks from Messrs. Singletary, Steele, D. F. Caldwell and Shepherd, the motion was adopted—ayes 56, noes 41.

The House accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Singletary in the Chair.

The various items of taxation in the bill were discussed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The debate on the Revenue bill was continued in the committee of the whole by Messrs. Phillips, Smith and Daughtry.

A motion by Mr. Daughtry to amend the second section by reducing the tax upon land from 12 cents to 10 cents per $100 value was rejected.

On motion of Mr. McKesson, the poll tax in the fourth section was raised from 30 to 40 cts. per poll.

On motion of Mr. J. G. Bynum the tax on turnpike gates, toll bridges in the fifth section, was raised to $10, and on public ferries to $8.

After some trifling amendments to the sixth section,

Mr. Outlaw moved the committee rise, which being adopted, the Speaker resumed the chair. Mr. Singletary reported progress, and the House adjourned until Friday morning.

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Room over the Post Office.

Salisbury, N. C., Feb. 1, 1855. 3w36

Carolina Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 1, 1855.

SALISBURY ELECTION.

The following citizens were chosen, on Monday last,

For Intendant—D. A. DAVIS.

For Commissioners.

North Ward—John I. Shaver, C. S. Brown.

East Ward—William Murphy, Jesse Howard.

South Ward—B. B. Roberts, Thomas T. Maxwell.

West Ward—John M. Horah, Luke Blackmer.

At a subsequent meeting of the new Board, L. Blackmer, Esq., was eelected Treasurer; and Obadiah Woodson, Esq., Clerk.

On Saturday previous, Calvin Cress was elected Town Constable.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE.

Much has already been said, by the periodicals of the day, upon the subject of foreign influence. Public attention has, for many long years, been directed to the inroads and impressions that are being made upon our institutions by immigrants from the old world. How these consequences were to be met, and how the ballot box, the Palladium of our civil and religious liberties, was to be preserved pure and free from the withering sentiments and doctrines of Popery, long ago attracted the minds of our political forefathers, and considerations of this kind demanded that they should point out the remedy by which our nation was to relieve itself from future disastrous results. Washington, the Father of his country, lived to see, even in his own day, the evil consequences entailed upon his nation by "foreign influence." Hear what he says: "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake. It is one of the most baneful foes of a Republican Government." Coming from the lips of the greatest and best man the world ever saw, this, of itself, ought to have been a sufficient memento to us of the hazards to which our liberties were exposed. But Washington was gone to his last resting place, and ambitious leaders soon learned the easy lesson that it would better subserve their purposes to leave his injunction to moulder in oblivion, than to keep the "jealousy of a free people constantly awake." The result was, that, from his time down to the present, the contest between the two great political parties has been conducted more or less with the design of ingrafting, rather than lopping off, this same "foreign influence," in order to secure the prominent elections. Evasive logic and scholastic adroitness were plied with various success by both parties, and criminations with recriminations marked the order of the battle in endeavoring to draw this corps of undisciplined diplomatists into the respective ranks. The theory of "foreign influence" now and then was barely alluded to, but all united in winking at the practical danger. In our large cities more particularly this influence rendered itself excessively available.

But Washington did not stand alone upon this point; if he had, however, the fact of his having uttered such a sentiment ought, from our veneration and gratitude, to have claimed and caused our notice and regard. But hear the voices of other "choice spirits," that grace our national history. Jefferson, our second President, who wrote the American Declaration of Independence, and whom we may safely trust in this matter, gives his opinion upon this subject in the following words: "I hope we may find some means, in future, of shielding ourselves from foreign influence, political, commercial, or in whatever form it may be attempted. I wish there were an ocean of fire betwixt us and the old world."

Thus the first Presidents of our National Republic united in their sentiments; and coming down to later days, we hear Madison exclaim—"Foreign influence is a Grecian horse to the Republic—we cannot be too careful to exclude its entrance." And on down the list of illustrious Presidents, we hear one after another protesting against the same influence. Jackson, the great primogenitor and sir-oracle of those distinguished party issues which have added to the celebrity of his name, thus speaks on the same topic in his peculiar and decided tone—"It is time we should become a little more Americanized, instead of feeding the paupers and laborers of England, feed our own, or else in a short time, by our present policy, we shall become paupers ourselves." Lafayette, the man who so kindly lent a helping hand to the cause of American freedom in the dark and perilous hours of uncertainty, has left on record the following prophetic declaration: "If ever the liberties of the United States are destroyed, it will be by the machinations of Romish Priests." High authority can be furnished, from a multitude of other distinguished worthies, for the necessity of Americans keeping a vigilant eye upon the workings of foreign influence:—we cite but one more opinion in defence of this position.

"The late act of Parliament, for establishing the Roman Catholic Religion, and the French laws in that extensive country called Quebec, (Canada,) is dangerous, in an extreme degree, to the Protestant Religion, and to the *civil rights and liberties of all America*, and as Christians we are indispensably obliged to take all proper means for our security."—*Congress, Sept. 17, 1774.*

Notwithstanding these reiterations time rolled on and brought with it no changes in our policy. Local issues engrossed the public attention, and foreign influence was easily drawn into the contest. The Macedonian cry, of "come and help us," was music to their ears when backed by the promise of political promotion.—Eagerly they entered into the spirit of the contest, and the news of the great advancement, made by their brethren who had gone before, caused thousands upon thousands, of those that were left behind, to flock annually to our shores. These gathering strength day by day, soon learned that numerical force gave power, and being overjoyed in the exercise of the symbols of sovereighty began to demand as a prescriptive right the appointment to those offices of honor, profit and trust in the gift of the American people, which should have been given to native-born Americans alone. And well have they succeeded in attaining the ultima thule of their ardent expectations at the hands of those leaders who hoped for re-election. But it was written upon their trans-atlantic visage—"thy days are numbered"—for near the middle of that same 19th century, so remarkable for improvement, the strange and mysterious order of the so called "Know Nothings," arrayed themselves to scatter terror and dismay throughout the ranks of *European Republicanism*. That necessity forced the American People to adopt this mode of attacking the stormy march of foreign influence—let the union of Whigs and Democrats and the rapidity with which thousands enrolled their names among the American party explain. Aside from this battling against foreign influence, we have nothing to say in regard to this "Know Nothing" party. We are not aware that the party claims to hold to any other doctrine. So far as their principles are concerned, they certainly have high authority for their position upon this point. The *modus operandi* seems to be the great objection in the minds of our citizens. On that score, there is a diversity of opinion. So long as *virtue* and *intelligence* predominate, our liberties are safe; let our citizens associate themselves in whatever organizations they may.—If it be true that Know Nothings are abolitionists, judging from the returns of recent elections, we must conclude that the days of slavery are well nigh numbered, and we must expect something decisive effected at an early period. What are the doctrines of this party let its past and future achievements disclose.

Rail Roads.—The Senate has passed through three readings the following bills:

The bill for the completion of the N. Carolina Railroad; the bill to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad; the Dan River and Yadkin Railroad; and the Beaufort, Fayetteville and Greensborough Railroad. The House of Commons have passed the following: the Atlantic Railroad; the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad; and the French Broad Railroad.

Nearly all charters provide either for an endorsement of the bonds of the companies, or for a general construction of the roads by sections. The present Legislature has shown a liberality upon the subject of "Internal Improvements" that clearly borders on extravagance. A balky horse is hard to start—but furious when started. There can be no doubt, however, but that *log-rolling* has given the impetus to this State liberality.

Another Fatal Catastrophe by Fire.—We learn that on Monday last, a little child of Mr. Bame, of this county, standing or playing near the fire at his residence, its clothing was caught in the flames; the child ran to its mother, who caught it up in her arms. Her clothing immediately took fire, and she was so badly burned that she died in a few hours afterwards. The child, at last accounts was still alive, but no hope entertained of its recovery.

And we learn, also, that the wife of Mr. Thomas Burke, of this county, narrowly escaped a similar fate: Her clothing caught while standing near the fire, and on discovering it, she was so badly frightened as to render her own efforts to extinguish the flames unavailing. The timely assistance of others saved her, or she would inevitably have perished. As it was, she was pretty badly burned on the arms, shoulders and neck, not dangerously.

These distressing accidents should have the effect of warning all of the danger of venturing too near the fire. The cold weather of the present season, we cannot doubt, has sent thousands of children and older people, shivering, into dangerous proximity to the fire for comfort. Parents cannot be too watchful of their little ones, when the biting frosts drive them in doors from their romps without. At such times how unwarily they rush to the fire, with eyes sparkling with merry life. Their innocence is no protection against the lack of caution, and but for a mother's watchfulness how many cherished ones would be swept off every year by relentless flame.