

## Governor Clark's Message.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of North Carolina:

It is the duty of the Executive at the meeting of the General Assembly to lay before them a statement of the affairs of the State and make such suggestions as may aid them in their deliberations.

Having so recently taken charge of this office, with an extraordinary pressure of business upon it, and with such limited opportunities for preparing a statement of this kind; I might well be excused from this duty. But the very great respect I have for the Legislature, and my earnest desire to secure their aid and co-operation, prompt me to make this communication, however imperfect or unsatisfactory it may be.

For the first time in the history of this State, we have to deplore the death of a Governor. The Hon. John W. Ellis, late Governor of this State, died at the Red Sulphur Springs, Virginia, on the 7th July last. This communication might afford an appropriate place for a tribute to his worth and merit; but his public and private virtues have but recently been canvassed through the State, and their thorough endorsement by the people constitutes his highest reward while living, and a rich legacy to survive him.

The great struggle which now rages throughout our country, excites the most intense interest at home and abroad; it is needless to argue to ourselves, or the world, of the justice or propriety of our course. We patiently yielded to every expedient, and listened to every promise in behalf of that Union, around which had so long hung our interest and dearest affections. But suddenly the mask was raised, and we saw before us the sword of the tyrant, and henceforth there was no hesitation in our course.

An Extra Session of the Legislature immediately convened, and with no dissenting voice, submitted the issue to the people in Convention, which unanimously passed the ordinance of separation and deliverance, and that act has been sustained and ratified by the people with an unanimity unparalleled in the history of the world.

Men who but yesterday were fronting each other in fierce and angry debate on this very issue, are to-day marshaled side by side in the same ranks—banded like brothers, and staking "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," in the common cause.

The unanimity of North Carolina in this great struggle, while it must ensure success, will embellish a page in her history as brilliant as the victory which achieves her independence.

Suddenly thrown into this great struggle, without an army or the organization to support one, we find offered to us an army of volunteers, who have come forward with brave hearts and willing hands to enlist in the cause of their country.

To sustain their course and make it effective in the field, the Legislature have voted ample powers to the Executive, and devolved on those entrusted with the administration of affairs a fearful responsibility.

The Convention which assembled soon after, not foreseeing the increasing demand for troops, and disapproving of the provisions of the Legislature for raising and equipping volunteers, repealed them without providing a substitute.

Under the influence of the action of the Convention, companies were disbanded, and a check was given to volunteers which was likely to prove injurious. These circumstances, with a certainty of a call for more troops, induced me to vary somewhat from the policy prescribed by the Convention—a change which I think they themselves would have sanctioned under the changed aspect of affairs. I might safely say that the defence of the coast, and the call for troops from Virginia, rendered it necessary.

The Convention with ample powers from the people, repealed this law of the Legislature. But they did not repeal or modify the power of legislating granted by the Constitution to the General Assembly; and as it was only a concurrent power exercised by the Convention, the General Assembly have still the same power to legislate on that particular subject as before; and the Convention, making its repeal to take effect only after the meeting of the Legislature, seem to indicate a design or expectation that something should be done. I must therefore, press it on your immediate attention.

In connection with the subject of volunteering, I will suggest the propriety of some regulation whereby it may be equalized among the several counties and among the different districts of the same county. Some counties and parts of other counties have already furnished more than their full quota, while others have been more tardy in their movements, and thus have not the envied privilege of serving their country. This could be done by selecting those counties which have furnished fewest volunteers, and pointing out the mode of enrolling them from those counties. It is fair and equitable, that in each county a just proportion should be observed, between those who remain to take care of the homes, and make provisions for the absent soldiers, and those who go forth to risk their all for the country.

The expenditures of the State have been

and continue to be very large. The great and hurried demand for troops in Virginia has strained every point to equip and send them forward as rapidly as possible, and it has been the aim of the authorities to furnish our troops with every comfort consistent with our means. If we have not been entirely successful we have at least been flattered with the compliment of sending the best equipped troops that have gone to Virginia, and we are taking every means of continuing these comforts. The subject of blankets and winter clothes for the troops has occupied our attention, and we are making efforts and appeals to accomplish this necessary object; and medical aid for the sick and suffering shall be extended by every means in our power.

I should like to communicate to your body the whole defence and armament of the State, the force which has been sent out, and that which is still equipping in the State, the state of the coast defences, and the plans for giving them still more strength. It is your right and duty to know these facts, but from prudential considerations, I consider it best such information should not be communicated in a public message. With your committee I invite a full and free conference, and, through them, hope to communicate all information that may be desired.

I will here call your attention to a heavy source of expense in the equipment of troops. Modern warfare has made a large demand for cavalry and flying artillery, and the furnishing and equipping of horses exceeds all prudent calculations made for the war, and runs up our expenses further than we can meet them in justice to other branches of defence. If the cavalry regiments—one authorized by the Legislature and the other by the Convention—are to be fully equipped, this Legislature must provide more means than we now have the control of.

The great length of coast that now requires guarding has already drawn largely on our funds, but not larger than its immense importance deserves; and whatever amount of men and money it needs must be furnished. In some parts of the coast we have been unfortunate in obtaining proper officers and engineers, but better management, I trust, is now prevailing. This property falls under the care and direction of the Confederate Government. The State naval armament has been transferred pursuant to an ordinance of the Convention, and is now being properly manned and transferred to the defence of our own waters, and I feel a great confidence that it will contribute materially to their defence. An officer of the Confederate States has also been sent to inspect our coast defences and batteries, preparatory to assuming the control of them, but as yet it has not been accomplished. I have lately addressed a communication to the President on the subject, and am daily expecting a favorable reply.

The curtailment of expenses has occupied my most anxious consideration, and I trust to have your efficient aid in this all important matter. The convention postponed the issuing of Treasury notes authorized by your body till the 1st March next, and in the mean time allowed the Treasurer to borrow three millions of dollars of the Banks, less the amount already borrowed under the act passed at your extra session. A large portion of the sum borrowed has been expended, and the additional sum to be borrowed is I fear, more than the banks will be prepared to loan. More full information on this head can be had from the Treasurer's Report.

I would invite your especial attention to any revival that will give more efficiency to the militia. It has been suffered to go down by being undervalued, and the nearer you can bring it back to the old standard, the more likely you are to succeed. The system of exemption is very detrimental. Require the same duty of all, and it will be more cheerfully submitted to. A militia system, with arms in the hands of the people, should be sustained as one of the main institutions and props of a free country. They are the Volunteer National Guards of a Republic—a substitute for the standing army of despotism.

It is mortifying to our State pride to think that we have hitherto been so dependent on the Northern States for even the means of defence, including all the munitions of war, and apprehensions have been felt among us, that the want of these might impair the means and resources of maintaining this war. But from a recent survey made by our able State Geologist, Prof. Emmons, I am gratified to state that we have in our midst, within a few miles of the North Carolina Railroad, a most extensive and valuable supply of lead, now ready to be taken up; and he further reports that we have the material for the manufacture of gun-powder. The most valuable ingredient of powder saltpetre, is found abundantly in the limestone caves in Tennessee, Georgia and North Alabama. A company is now engaged in the western part of the State, for the manufacture of powder, and if any assistance is required, I would suggest that the State should furnish aid for the purpose of facilitating the supply of this necessary material, which the blockade of our coast now effectually cuts off.

The blockade of our coast and the non-intercourse around our borders have established two very important facts. First, that in our commercial relations we have become entirely dependent on the North for almost every article that we use connected with machinery, merchandises, food and clothing, both the luxuries and necessities of life, including almost every article needed for our defence. The second and more important fact is also now established, that we have the means and material for supplying all these wants within our own borders. Necessity is developing these resources and driving us to the use of them.

The continuance of this war and blockade for two or three years may inflict much personal suffering, but it will surely accomplish our national and commercial independence.

If the war were to terminate soon, our political rights might be secured, but trade would resume its old channels. Time alone will successfully divert the course of trade, but when diverted it becomes more difficult than ever to restore it. Once checked and torn off the great flow of Northern trade, and Southern trade, and Southern capital will roll their strength together to establish Southern prosperity and independence.

And it is equally important to us to establish our commercial as our political independence. A decisive victory may establish our political rights in a single day, but a continuance of the war and blockade only can accomplish the other.

To us the blockade and war is a sharp, but temporary pain, but it is a slow consumption preying on the vitals of Northern wealth and commerce.

I must conclude this communication, by stating there are some other subjects that I must submit to the consideration of the General Assembly in a special message, which I will do at the earliest moment.

HENRY T. CLARK.  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, AUG. 10, 1861.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

The proceedings of Monday have been crowded out. The most important action was the suspension of that part of the ordinance of the Convention which disbanded the surplus volunteers on the 30th instant, which might not be accepted by President Davis, and the continuance of the Adjutant General Quartermaster and Commissary departments till otherwise ordered by the Legislature. Both orders were passed by both Houses and enrolled. Any number of military and stay-law or provisional bills for relief are before the General Assembly. It will be seen that the Legislature in its wisdom proposed to disband and destroy the State Convention as an incompetent and useless body, under the cover of submitting to the people the question whether it shall exist after November next. The debates show the animus of the body and the real design, whatever may be the plan of doing it. In this revolutionary movement, there seems to be a strange conglomeration of "white spirits and gray."

Raleigh Standard.

## STRIKING A BALANCE.

A Rochester merchant left his house, on Thursday evening, to "correct an error in his trial balance." His wife followed him, and found that it required a carriage to find the error. She took a vehicle likewise and pursued to "deep hollow." There the driver of the first carriage was hailed to stop—the wife ran to its door and opened it, found the handsome and richly dressed "error" inside. The account was immediately "squared and the balance struck."

**SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY.**—The Ladies of the South east corner of Alamance county have formed a Society and as the result of one week's operations have sent to the sick soldiers at Yorktown articles of the value of more than \$100.

The Fayetteville Society has sent an instalment of articles, but of what value we have not heard.

**DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.**—Jas. Sprinkle, of the Iredell Blues, died at Manassas on the 6th. Wm. Bennett, of Capt. Westmoreland's Stokes county Co., died at Manassas on the 8th. Berry Mayo, of the Confederate Guards, fifth regiment volunteers, died at Bethel on the 9th, of measles. Lemuel M. Howell, of the Stanly county Marksmen, died at Suffolk on the 15th, aged 30, leaving a wife, a child, and a mother.—Fay. Ob.

**JEFF. THOMPSON'S FORCES WITH THE FREMONTIERS.**—The Memphis papers of the 15th inst., contain the following:

A telegraph from Hickman, says a battle was fought at Charleston, Missouri, between Jefferson Thompson's forces and the Fremonters. The latter were driven back with severe loss.

## The Watchman.

RALISBURY, N. C.

THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 23, 1861.

**The Confederate Congress.**—A large portion of the members of this body are insisting on an early adjournment. The Richmond Examiner, Fayetteville Observer, and some other journals think that it ought not to adjourn; but that the condition of our public affairs require it to continue its sessions and be on hand for any emergency that might demand their immediate attention. We are very willing to defer to the judgment of the able men who compose that distinguished body, on the subject; and we trust they will be guided by a patriotic sense of the public interest in deciding upon it. This is the first Congress we have known in many years that almost every body did not want it to adjourn.

The Richmond Examiner has an able article in vindication of Virginia against some unkind and totally unjust animadversions of a portion of the press in the South. It shows that Virginia has furnished 750 companies, an aggregate of 55,250 men, for the Confederate service. That in addition to this, hundreds of her citizens are amateur fighters, rendering valuable services by cutting off scouts and picket guards of the enemy. That the State has actually expended in outfit for her volunteers the sum of \$6,000,000; whilst counties and individuals have expended for similar purposes not less than \$4,000,000 more. But this is not all: Virginia, by becoming the battle ground in this great struggle between the North and the South, has incurred almost indescribable burdens and hardships. Whilst the people of the more Southern States regard the conflict at a distance, sitting quietly around their undisturbed hearth-stones, reading the accounts of battles and marches, the private families of Virginia are toiling, night and day, nursing the sick and wounded soldiers with all the tenderness of parental affection, sacrificing themselves and their property to our common cause. This, and much more, the Examiner adverts to, and upon it demands that the people of Virginia may be spared the unjust censures which inconsiderate and fault-finding writers have attempted to heap upon them. For our part, we have had no hand in wounding our brethren of Virginia, and God forbid we should have. They are a wall between us and a savage and relentless foe; and as such, they are entitled to our love and gratitude, to all the help we can send, in men, money, and every other available means for the common defence.

The Examiner pays North Carolina the tribute of saying she has, next to Virginia, done most for the Confederate cause. This may, or may not be so, as the opinion is predicated upon correct or erroneous information. We are perfectly certain that the hearts of our people are deeply engaged in the work, and that they will not stop now to inquire whether the State has done more or less than any of her sisters, as sincerely devoted to it as she.

**Salt**—Is selling, at Charleston, at \$3.50 to \$4 per sack. In Richmond at \$6 to \$7. Preparations are being made at Salt Works in Virginia; and on the coast in this State and South Carolina, to furnish this indispensable article, in quantity equal to the demand.

**Rice** is selling in Charleston at \$1.75 to \$1.87½ per 100 lbs.—about one half the usual price.

**Missouri.**—A proposition is now before the Confederate Congress to admit Missouri into the Southern Confederacy. The demand of admission is made by the lawful Governor (Jackson) upon the authority given him by the Legislature. There is some opposition on the score of irregularity, but it is confidently believed that she will be unanimously admitted in a few days.

Missouri is a gallant State, and is now exerting herself like a young giant to break the power with which her enemies thought to bind her hand and foot, and alienate her from her Southern sisters. She delivered one blow upon the invaders on the 10th instant which sent them, scattered and peeled, like chaff before the wind. She has an army of fifty thousand in different divisions; and when they have joined their forces, they will sweep the black hearted horde now at St. Louis, from the face of the earth.

Missouri is a grand acquisition to the Southern Confederacy. She is a large and rich State. Her geographical position commands the West, and will, most likely, decide its political relations.

All accounts agree in representing the Federal camp at and about Washington, as affording numerous instances of insubordination and disorder. The elevation of McClellan to an equality in grade with General Scott, and the degradation of McDowell, have been fruitful causes of dissatisfaction, generally. The N. York 79th Regiment threatened a rebellion because they were denied the privilege of electing their own Colonel to fill Cameron's place. It took one or two regiments and a company of artillery to keep them down. The second Maine has also been very refractory, and the ambulance drivers have struck on the reduction of their wages from \$25 to \$15 per month. These are only a few instances which go to show that the Yankees are in a considerable mess among themselves.

**ANOTHER OUTRAGE.**—The private dwelling of Hon. A. R. Boteler, near Shepherdstown, Va., was surrounded by 200 Lincolnites one night last week, and a party entered and demanded the surrender of Mr. B.—Before he had dressed, his daughter, 17 or 18 years old, presented herself and demanded upon what authority they were there. The most decent looking man in the company told her to retire, or he would blow her brains out. By this time, Mr. Boteler came forward, and being unarmed and defenceless, surrendered. He was taken across the river to Gen. Banks' headquarters, but was shortly afterwards released. Mr. Boteler is a private citizen, and these cowardly servants of old Abe had no justification for thus disturbing him.

**WAR TAX.**—The Confederate Congress has levied a war tax of 50 cents on every one hundred dollars worth of property, money, stocks, &c.—Those whose property, money and other effects do not amount in value to a sum exceeding \$500, will be exempt from this tax. This will fall pretty heavy upon the whole Southern country at a time when money is scarce; but we must all square ourselves to the burden and shoulder it like men. If old Abe's blood hounds get into the country they will sweep every thing before them—negroes, money, horses and every thing else. There will be very few disposed to grumble at this demand upon them. Indeed, rather than submit to the dominion of the Yankees, our people have made up their minds to part with every thing, their lives included. *Victory or death, is our motto.*