

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

THOMAS LORING, Editor and Proprietor; BENJAMIN I. HOWZE, Associate Editor.—ONE DOLLAR Per Annum, invariably in Advance.

VOL. 4.

WILMINGTON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1851.

NO. 21.

ADVERTISEMENTS.
For a limited extent, will be inserted in the *Weekly Commercial*, at the following rates: 1 square, insertion, \$0.50; 1 square, 2 months, \$2.00; 1 square, 3 months, 2.50; 1 square, 6 months, 4.00; 1 square, 1 year, 6.00; do. lines, or less, make a square.
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INAUGURAL ADDRESS of Gov. REID,

Delivered before the two Houses of the General Assembly of North Carolina, the 1st day of January, 1851.
Senators and Members of the House of Commons.

Impressed with a deep sense of gratitude to my fellow citizens, I enter upon the duties of the station to which their kind partiality has called me, with the earnest invocation to Almighty God so to direct my official conduct as to promote the welfare, the prosperity, and the happiness of the people of the State.—The duties of the Executive, at all times delicate and responsible, are magnified by the importance of the crisis; and I should approach the fearful task assigned me with greater reluctance, were it not for the fact that I find myself surrounded by the Legislative authority of the State, confided to gentlemen whose wisdom and patriotism, I doubt not, will be found equal to the emergency.

The misguided fanaticism of Abolitionists in the North threatens the overthrow of the Constitution and a dissolution of the Union. The Slavery question is one of momentous importance to the Southern States of the Confederacy, involving an incalculable amount of property, as well as the domestic peace and security of our people. In the formation of the federal Constitution the institution of Slavery was recognized and provided for in a manner just and satisfactory to all the States. Subsequently, this question deeply agitated the country, and the South made concessions to the North and submitted to the Missouri compromise, with the assurance and expectation that this exciting element of political strife was to be forever put to rest.—After availing herself of all the advantages derived under that compromise, the North urged exorbitant demands which led to the enactment of the series of compromise measures passed by the present Congress, by which the South lost important rights, by again making concessions to the North. The North, having availed herself of all the advantages under this compromise, does not cease to agitate the subject; and now threatens to repeal the only one of the measures which endured to the benefit of the South, accompanied, in many instances, by violent threats to disregard the Constitution and the laws, and to forcibly resist their execution.

We have not been indifferent to the encroachments that have been made on our rights, yet we have patiently suffered them with the hope they would not be again renewed. We now have just cause to fear that this hope was illusive. North Carolina, one of the last States to enter the Confederacy, yields to none of her sisters in ardent attachment to the Union. She would regard its dissolution as an awful calamity, which she would avoid at any sacrifice consistent with her rights and her safety. She came into the Union to be governed by the federal Constitution, and to secure herself against tyranny and oppression; and so long as the Constitution is faithfully adhered to and her rights respected, she will be among the last of the States to desert the Union. But she never gave her consent to enter into a Union which would overthrow the Constitution, violate her dearest rights, and manacle her with the fetters of oppression. To such a Union she owes no allegiance. A solemn sense of public duty impels me to declare, that the encroachments of the North on the domestic institutions of the South, have already proceeded to the farthest allowable point. Entertaining this opinion, I regard it as due to candor that we should make that fact known, that our brethren at the North may be fully informed that "we know our rights, and moving, dare maintain them;" and that if they proceed in their aggressions, they must expect to meet the consequences.

especially in cases where such offenders flee to other States. A judicious system of Internal Improvements by the State has ever been regarded as an object of importance worthy of consideration and action of the General Assembly. Cheap transportation could not fail to add to the wealth and convenience of all classes of our citizens, and the prosperity of the State.—There are various objects which claim the consideration of the Legislature. Feeling a deep interest in the prosperity of every part of the State and believing that the members of the General Assembly, residing as they do in the various Counties, will be fully prepared to give due consideration to the claims of every portion of the State, I do not feel myself called upon to decide between the peculiar merits of the many objects of public improvement which demand the patronage of the State. In carrying out a system of Internal Improvements a large expenditure of money is necessarily required, and it is not to be expected that a State can at once mark in all the spheres that are desirable.—Works of this description should be undertaken with due caution in regard to their practicability and the adequacy of the means of the State to complete them. As a general rule, I think the Legislature which authorizes the construction of works of Internal Improvement ought, at the same time, to provide for raising the means for their completion. Whether public opinion or the condition of the Treasury will justify the State at this time in embarking in other and new objects of improvement, and if so, to what extent, is a question which is submitted to the prudence and wisdom of the General Assembly. While a judicious system of Internal Improvements within the means and resources of the State, is desirable to all, yet a wild and extravagant one, involving the State in a large public debt without the prospect of a return of adequate advantages to the people, is to be deprecated. Such a system would, for a time at least, paralyze the spirit of improvement, and, with it the prosperity of the State. The laws in force for carrying out works of Internal Improvement already provided for and such others as the Legislature in its wisdom may hereafter provide for, so far as depends upon my action as Executive, shall be faithfully executed.

In a State like ours, where the popular voice directs and governs public affairs, education is a subject of general and paramount importance. It is therefore the policy of the State to foster and improve our system of Common Schools, so as to answer the laudable and beneficent purpose for which it is intended. In 1825, an act was passed setting apart certain sources of revenue for Common and convenient Schools, and providing for the distribution of its proceeds among the several Counties in proportion to the free white population in each, whenever in the opinion of the Legislature the same had sufficiently accumulated. This fund did not sufficiently accumulate to put into operation a system of common Schools, until the State received a considerable sum under the deposit act of Congress, the most of which sum, together with stocks belonging to the State, was transferred to or invested for the benefit of the Literary Fund. The State received this deposit from the General Government according to federal population, and the Assembly of 1836, which transferred these new acquisitions to the Literary Fund, expressly stipulated that they should be "subject at all times to the direction and control of the General Assembly." These accumulations had, in the opinion of the Legislature, sufficiently increased the fund to justify the commencement of a system of Common Schools; and in 1838, an act was accordingly passed. The act of 1840 provided that the net annual income of the Literary Fund should be divided according to federal population. Since that time our School laws have been frequently revised and re-enacted, put every time retaining the principle of distribution according to federal population. Human ingenuity can devise no plan for the distribution of this fund that will not operate more favorably to some Counties than others. Such a result is inseparable from the condition of the State; and it is believed that the present mode of distribution is, upon the whole, perhaps as just as any that could be adopted. The difference in the amount received by the larger number of Counties in the States, whether the distribution be according to federal or white population, would be very inconsiderable. Slaves are owned in every part of the State, and each County shares alike in the distribution in proportion to its federal population. Federal population is not made the basis of education, but of the distribution of the fund for that purpose. This principle of distribution has, in a commendable spirit of compromise, been time after time settled by the Legislature. Is the agitation of this question never to cease?

The great inconvenience we have to encounter in relation to our system of Common Schools, I apprehend, is not to be found in the mode of distribution, but in the inadequacy of the fund and in the imperfect manner in which the Schools are regulated. And I submit whether, instead of continuing this agitation, which is calculated to array one portion of the State against the other, our attention may not be more properly directed to the enlargement of the fund and its proper investment, and to the improvement and better regulation of the Schools themselves.

The question of Equal Suffrage has for some time past engaged public attention, and it is believed that a large majority of the people demand this Constitutional reform. The subject embraces the plain proposition, whether the right to vote for the Senate shall be extended to such persons as are at present entitled to vote for the House of Commons. It is not doubted but such voters are

competent to exercise the right of Suffrage in choosing both branches of the General Assembly. To withhold this invaluable privilege from those whom it is proposed to place upon terms of equality at the ballot box, upon the ground that if they enjoyed the right they might abuse it, is an unjust reflection upon their virtue and intelligence, and is denying the fundamental principle upon which all free governments are based. This question embraces no proposition to encroach on the rights of the landholder, but to extend to a numerous and meritorious class of our fellow citizens one of the dearest rights of American freemen. It is gratifying to know that this question of extending the right of Suffrage has not arrayed the landholders against the non-landholders, for such is the love of liberty and equality among our people, that both classes are found actively co-operating in their efforts to carry out this question of Constitutional reform. Efforts have been made to connect with this question a change of the basis of representation. I do not think that either justice or public policy demands such a change. The Convention of 1835, in a spirit of compromise and concession, adopted taxation as the basis of representation for the House of Commons. The Abolitionists at the North wish to destroy the basis of federal population upon which we are represented in Congress. Their course on this subject is viewed as dangerous and mischievous; and I regard a similar movement in relation to our representation in the State Legislature, however well intended, as fraught with equal mischief and danger. The federal basis consists of three-fifths of the slaves added to the whole number of free persons. The white basis would wholly exclude the computation of slaves in representation. Persons other than voters are properly represented. Although federal population prevails as a basis, yet slaves do not vote, nor do white females and minors; still they are represented.—Slaves, although property, are persons, and subjects to legislation in that two-fold character.

Every county in the State is interested in the slave question, and the State should have but one voice on this important subject. Experience has but too recently shown us the sad consequences resulting from the agitation of the slavery question between the different States of the Union. Are these exciting scenes to be brought nearer home to us—to array one section of the State against another, and to destroy the good feeling, the peace and friendship which it is so desirable to cultivate between the various portions of the State? Let us forget that we are partisans and bury this dangerous element of agitation, with the determination to unite our earnest exertions to promote the honor and prosperity of the State. Engrafting the white basis on Equal Suffrage would be an indirect, but a most certain and effectual mode of defeating the latter question. This must be obvious to every reflecting mind. Equal Suffrage, connected with a change of the basis, must fail; standing by itself it must prevail. This amendment to the Constitution may be passed by the present and succeeding Legislatures, and submitted to the people for ratification in the manner provided in the Constitution, without incurring the expense of calling a Convention. In the initiatory step it requires a larger number of the members of the Assembly to call a Convention than to pass the amendment. The Conventional mode of effecting this reform weakens the question, while the Legislative mode does not, and therefore the latter is preferable. It is believed that the success of this measure will be promoted by being submitted and voted upon as an isolated question, without being connected with any other Constitutional amendment.

The election of Judges and Justices of the Peace by the people, and for terms less than for life, are questions of Constitutional reform, which I recommend to the favorable consideration of the General Assembly.—There are other amendments to the Constitution that have attracted public attention, to which, I doubt not, you will give that degree of consideration which their importance demands.

THE LATE BISHOP HENRY BASCOM.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS IN HIS LIFE.

The January number of "The Ladies' Repository" contains several anecdotes of Bishop Bascom, the celebrated Methodist Divine, from which we extract the following:—
HE ESCAPES FROM A PANTHER.
For several years Dr. Bascom's labors were assigned to the wild and unsettled frontiers of Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio. The hardships and privations to which he was subjected on these circuits, would have crushed the spirits of any ordinary man. He frequently had to travel forty miles a day through solitary forests, and after the fatigues of such a journey, deliver a sermon at night. The roads, at that time, were scarcely broken, and there were no bridges over the streams, which, in the winter, were often swollen by rains, beyond their banks. But this was but a slight obstacle to the noble pioneer of the cross. He would force his horse daringly forward, and swim across the foaming billows. To a soul like his, a wet suit, a few hours of chilliness, were trifles not to be avoided. On one occasion, while swimming a small stream in Kentucky, which had been swollen to an unusual height by recent rains, the current was so rapid that he was forced

some two hundred yards below the ford.—The drift was whirling furiously around him; and, on either side, the banks were too steep to ascend. He saw his danger, but with cool self-possession, he clung firmly to his faithful horse, and the noble animal, taking a downward course, finally emerged safely from his perils. "What a contrast does this present to the smooth and luxurious life of most clergymen of the present day!"
The country through which Dr. Bascom's duty led him was wild and very thinly settled. The forests were filled with ferocious wild beasts. He was once followed several miles by a large panther, which threatened at every step to bound upon him, and from which he was rescued by reaching, just at nightfall, the cabin of a settler. At another time he had gone some distance from the house of a friend, where he was stopping, into the forest, and was lying quietly perusing a book, and unconscious of all danger, under the broadspreading branch of a tree, when he heard the voice of a man crying to him, and telling him to lie still 'till he fired; on the peril of his life.

Quickly glancing his eye in the direction whence the voice proceeded, he saw his friend with his rifle elevated, and pointing towards the branches of the tree under which he was lying. Perfectly familiar with back woods life, Dr. Bascom knew that some terrible danger was hovering over him, and without the least perceptible motion of his body, he instantly turned his gaze upward, when he saw on the limb of the tree, not more than twenty feet above him, a majestic panther, whisking his tail and just ready to leap upon him. This was a fearful moment! What nerve is required to retain his self-possession, and thus save his life! For the least motion on the part of Mr. Bascom, would have hastened the spring of the panther and sealed his fate forever! And in that fearful moment, when death seemed inevitable, with a self-control and a courage truly wonderful, he laid perfectly quiet, till the keen crack of the rifle was heard, and the ferocious beast pierced by the merriment aim of the back-woodsman, fell lifeless by his side.

ANOTHER ENCOUNTER.

While on the Circuit of Western Virginia, I think it was, Bascom stopped, at noon, at a log cabin, recently erected by the road side. He sat down, by invitation to dine with the family. A lovely little child, about three years old, which had attracted his attention by its sweet smiles and rare beauty, was playing in front of the door, while the family were engaged around the homely repast, when suddenly a heart-piercing cry was heard from without.

"My child! my child!" screamed the mother; and quick as thought, "I rushed to the door.
"Prayer of mercies! what a sight was here presented to the gaze of a doting mother! A terrible panther had sprung upon her unweary darling, and was ascending a tree, bearing the child in its mouth.
"The gun! quick! for God's sake, the gun!" frantically exclaimed the father.
Dr. Bascom rushed into the cabin, and, seizing the gun from the rack, rapidly returned; but alas, it was too late! He was only in time to see the innocent, lovely babe torn to pieces, in the presence of his frantic parents, by the infuriated beast. Completely unnerved by the appalling sight, it required several shots before Dr. Bascom was enabled to bring down the blood-thirsty animal. "I can never forget that awful scene," said Dr. Bascom, when relating this incident to the writer, some years since. And well might he say so; for a more deeply affecting and heart-rending scene has seldom been recorded in the history of adventurous pioneer life.

HIS COAT.

In the composition of Dr. Bascom there was no cant or ostentatious pretence. He could never be induced to wear the peculiar dress adopted by clergymen of his Church. He believed that true humility is a principle of the soul, and does not consist either in "eccentricity of habits" or the "set of the coat." He always dressed with neatness and taste. This so much displeased the "elder brethren," that he was called to a formal account by a number of senior clergymen. After listening to the arguments urged against the fashionable cut of his garb, Dr. Bascom deliberately arose, pulled off his coat and hanging it on a chair, desired to know whether it was himself or his coat that preached. His censor smiled at the oddity of the argument, and told him to dress as he pleased.

HE ESCAPED FROM A MOB IN NEW ORLEANS.

About the year 1830 it was thought advisable, by the leading men in the Colonization cause, then in its infancy, to send a secret agent to the South, and this perilous and arduous office was tendered to Bascom, by the Board at Washington, which he promptly accepted. A more dangerous position could not have been assigned to him at the time. The movements of the Colonization Society were then regarded with extreme jealousy and distrust by the entire South. The Society was believed to be hostile to the "peculiar institution," and its efforts met with the same violent opposition, denunciation and threatenings, in the South, that afterward attended the action of the abolitionists. Indeed, Colonization was at that time very little understood, and was regarded as synonymous with abolition. The People of the South were consequently most bitterly opposed to it, and in a state of violent excitement at the time Dr. Bascom accepted his mission.
His instructions were, to proceed to New Orleans, and, after conferring privately with a few persons who were known to be favorable to the movement, act as he thought most pro-

dent. On arriving there, and consulting with his friends, he found that it would be a most hazardous undertaking to attempt to hold a public meeting; and, acting under the advice of those with whom he consulted, he determined to leave the city without publicly announcing the object of his visit. He had, however, spoken in several places in Kentucky before going to New Orleans, and his position being known, his arrival had, therefore, treated considerable excitement. This so rapidly increased that a meeting was held by a number of citizens, at which several inflammatory speeches were delivered, and a resolution passed requiring him to leave the city. A committee of furious and excited individuals was appointed to wait on him, and notify him to leave within twenty-four hours, or take the consequences. At this time the Hon. Mr. Dawson, of St. Francisville, afterwards a member of Congress from Louisiana, a bold, gallant, and impulsive man, was on a visit to New Orleans. He was a man of real mettle, and no excitement ever arose, where he was, that he did not join one side or the other, and generally, he was inclined to the weaker side. True to his nature, when the excitement arose against Dr. Bascom, Dawson, although he was, personally, a total stranger to him, assumed a bold stand in his defence, and immediately set about a plan for his protection. How he succeeded we shall presently see.

The committee called on Dr. Bascom, informed him of the excited state of public feeling, and ordered him to leave the city in twenty-four hours, or take the consequences, which they asserted, would be most serious. "Gentlemen," said he in reply, "I had intended to leave to-morrow morning; but now, since you have ordered me to leave, I shall remain three days longer. I am an American citizen, and claim the right guaranteed to me by the Constitution of my country." The committee were thunderstruck by the boldness of this reply, and hastily left the room.

The committee had scarcely disappeared before loud voices and the tramp of men were heard approaching the room. Anticipating something serious, Dr. Bascom rose, approached the door, and, looking into the hall, saw advancing toward him a large crowd of rough men, led by one who had the air and dress of a gentleman. He fearlessly confronted them, and demanded the object of their errand. Mr. Dawson—for it was he who led this uncouth band—laughed, and assured him that he was his friend. The whole party were then invited into his room by Dr. Bascom, when Dawson hugged him who he was, reassured him of his friendship, and explained the nature of his visit.
"These," said Dawson, "are all boatmen from Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, Missouri, and Tennessee. Most of them have heard you preach in times past, and those who have not heard you themselves, have heard of you from their mothers or their friends. When I heard of your danger, Mr. Bascom, I determined to go to the levee, and appeal to them for your protection; and you see the result. We've just met the committee, and I told them if they dared to touch a hair of your head—if they dared to put you in prison, we wouldn't leave a stone of their calaboose standing. There's a thousand more such brave boys as these at the levee, and they all swear they'll die for you."

Overpowered by the chivalry of Dawson, and the madness and affection of the hardy boatmen, Dr. Bascom wept, as the brave and good only can weep as he returned his heartfelt thanks. That night the streets in the vicinity of the hotel at which Dr. Bascom was stopping were lit with the brave honest boatmen of the west, each one ready to perish his life in defence of the "great preacher." But no violence was attempted; and before he left the city, Dr. Bascom had the pleasure of organizing a promising Colonization Society; many of the most influential citizens becoming life members.

THE SAME AT NATCHEZ.

Leaving New Orleans, Dr. Bascom proceeded up the River to Natchez. He had previously written to a friend to procure a church, in which he wished to deliver a public discourse in favor of Colonization. The church of Dr. Potts, who afterwards had the "controversy" with Dr. Wainwright of New York, had been secured for that purpose and when he arrived, which was the appointed hour, Dr. Bascom proceeded directly to the place of meeting. He was met at the door by the leading members of the Methodist Church of that city, and also by Dr. Potts, all of whom implored him not to attempt to speak. They declared that the public mind was highly incensed against him, and that there were at that time a number of armed men in the church determined to use violence if he attempted to speak. This did not in the least intimidate him; but, resisting all their importunities, Dr. Bascom marched directly through the church, and ascended the pulpit. Knowing that delay was dangerous he did not take his seat, but turning to the audience, he told them that he was aware of the excited state of public feeling—aware of threatened violence, but he asked, as a right, to be heard before being condemned—to be heard one hour—and then he would submit to any punishment of which he might be deemed deserving. The words were uttered rapidly, and were promptly answered by a man who arose in the midst of the audience and cried, with an oath, that he should be heard.

This was the same Mr. Dawson who had played so conspicuous a part in his behalf at New Orleans. He had learned Dr. Bascom's destination, and, with the same chivalrous spirit which led him at first to espouse his cause, had undertaken to him, gone to Natchez to aid in his protection. And here his voice triumphantly prevailed. He was answered by an almost unanimous agreement to hear what Bascom had to say, at least for one hour. Accordingly, the address was commenced, and never before did the eloquent speaker labor more powerfully and effectively. The exciting circumstances under which he was placed seemed to act as a kind of inspiration and nerve his soul to one of the noblest efforts of eloquence.
"His words seemed oracles."
That piety's their bosoms; and each man would turn
And gaze in wonder on his neighbor's face.
That with the like dumb wonder answered him.
You could have heard
The beating of your pulses while he spoke."
And when his hour expired, such wonders had he wrought in the mind of his hearers, that the cry of "Go on! go on!" was heard throughout the immense assembly. The orator proceeded for more than an hour longer, and at the conclusion of his address took up a collection for the Colonization Society.—Those who so recently were ready to tear him to pieces, now rushed eagerly forward to contribute in aid of the great cause. The collection of that day was the largest received by Dr. Bascom in any city of the South, with the single exception of the city of Nashville.

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From the Charleston Mercury.

LIEUT. RALPH BELL.

The last arrival from California has brought the sad intelligence of the death of this young man, lately an officer of the Charleston Volunteers. Well known and much esteemed as he was in this City, his early death cannot fail to produce deep and general regret. None, however, will learn this event with more unfeigned sorrow than those who shared with him the same tent, and often the same blanket, in the Mexican campaign.
Elevated from the ranks by his unvarying good temper, he preserved his popularity among those under his command, while he won, by his attention to duty, the esteem of his fellow-officers. He was distinguished among his comrades for his kind disposition, cheerful and prompt discharge of duty, however fatiguing or perilous, patient endurance, and an enterprising and independent spirit. He exhibited great gallantry in positions full of peril—in the face of the strongest batteries, and when death was found in every shot. But his nerve was fully equal to every occasion, as ample and most honorable testimony is afforded by the official despatches of officers and privates who served with him.
A brief recital of the incidents of his services will be the most fitting tribute to his memory. He shared in all the actions in which the Palmetto Regiment bore part. He was present at the siege of Vera Cruz, the battles of Contreras, Churubusco, the storming of Chapultepec, and during the severe contest at the Gate of the City of Mexico. More particularly conspicuous was he, however, in the assault upon Chapultepec.

To carry this strong, well fortified Castle, storming parties were organized in each division of the army. To that from Gen. QUITMAN's command, Lieut. BELL belonged. They rendered good service the day before the assault, in supporting Gen. QUITMAN in a daring reconnaissance pushed by that gallant officer in person, to the very base of the hill, and in the face of a formidable battery. During this observation, the party sustained a heavy fire and lost a number of their men. On the morning of the main attack upon the Castle, this storming party, under command of Maj. TWIGGS, was ordered to assault the battery at the base of the hill on the road leading to Mexico. Gen. QUITMAN thus details the severity of the contest and the result. "The storming party led by the gallant officers who had volunteered for this desperate service, rushed forward like a resistless tide. The Mexicans behind their batteries and breastworks stood with more than usual firmness. For a short time the contest was hand to hand; swords and bayonets were crossed and rifles clubbed. Resistance, however, was vain against the desperate valor of our troops. The batteries and strong works were carried, and the ascent of Chapultepec on that side, laid open to an easy conquest. In a heavy fire and lost a number of their men. On the morning of the main attack upon the Castle, this storming party, under command of Maj. TWIGGS, was ordered to assault the battery at the base of the hill on the road leading to Mexico. Gen. QUITMAN thus details the severity of the contest and the result. "The storming party led by the gallant officers who had volunteered for this desperate service, rushed forward like a resistless tide. The Mexicans behind their batteries and breastworks stood with more than usual firmness. For a short time the contest was hand to hand; swords and bayonets were crossed and rifles clubbed. Resistance, however, was vain against the desperate valor of our troops. 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