

The issue, then, has been fairly presented... Free Suffrage, or a Free Convention, unrestrained by anything but the will of the People.

We have chosen to support a Free Convention. We opposed Free Suffrage, not because we thought the people ought not to have it, but because we did not like the manner of getting it. We can never sanction the propriety of amendments to the Constitution by Legislative enactments.

Now, is it not perfectly obvious that, by this mode, the will of a majority—nay, of two-thirds of the people, may be defeated? We have already shown that, after 1852 thirteen Senators will represent a majority of the people of North Carolina.

But if you do get it, it will only be after four more years of agitation. And every other amendment is to be made with the same difficulty. A generation may pass away, before even one amendment may be made to the Constitution.

Suppose there are not two-thirds of both Houses of the next General Assembly in favor of Free Suffrage—in what situation will you be? The whole battle is to be fought over again. You begin where you first started.

The mode of reforming the constitution which we advocate avoids all these objections. There is no possibility of mixing it up with the political intrigues of the day.

Let such a body assemble in North Carolina, and take into consideration the whole Constitution. Let their wisdom determine whether any alterations should be made, and if any, what they are.

We beg our Eastern brethren not to suppose we desire to encroach upon their rights. Not a Western man harbors such a thought.

Then why persist in charging that our object in seeking to obtain a Convention is an attempt to deprive the East of any one of her just rights? We solemnly avow it to be

our belief that every cause of complaint that either has against the other, can be easily, readily removed by a Convention; that all differences will be adjusted fairly and wisely; and that we will then form one brotherhood, united in feeling, and interest, and speedily assume that proud stand amongst our sister States to which our resources and the character of our people so eminently entitle our noble old State.

If this one object can be attained we shall have done more for North Carolina than a quarter of a century of legislation under our present system can accomplish.

The mode of altering the Constitution by Convention is much the most economical. The time already consumed by the Legislature in the agitation and discussion of this one proposed amendment, has cost the State more than the whole expenses of the Convention of 1835.

Entertaining these views, we have opposed in the present Legislature, the attempt to take initiatory steps to incorporate Free Suffrage in our Constitution by legislative action. We believe the mode is anti-Republican, and contrary to the free spirit of Free Institutions.

Studios efforts have been made by a portion of the public Press to misrepresent our views, and to attribute to us motives which we never entertained. This is a stratagem frequently resorted to, to ward off the force of truth.

We have an abiding confidence in the honesty and integrity of the people of North Carolina. We have stood up as the advocates of their rights. Their good alone has governed our utterances.

- JOHN GRAY BYNUM, Rutherford. CALVIN J. WEBB, Rutherford. JESSE B. SLOAN, Buncombe. N. W. WOODFIN, Buncombe. MARCUS ERWIN, Randolph. W. B. LANE, Randolph. J. M. A. DRAKE, Randolph. J. THORNBURG, Randolph. J. A. LILLINGTON, Rowan and Davie. A. H. CALDWELL, Rowan and Davie. O. G. FOARD, Rowan and Davie. STEPHEN DOUTHIT, Rowan and Davie. G. F. DAVIDSON, Iredell. G. M. KOV, Iredell. E. M. CAMPBELL, Iredell. JOS. M. BOGLE, Iredell. FRANCIS LOCKE, Stanly. A. M. FOSTER, Wilkes. JOHN A. GILMER, Guilford. D. F. CALDWELL, Guilford. C. H. WILEY, Guilford. PETER ADAMS, Cabarrus. RUFUS BARRINGER, Cabarrus. J. W. SCOTT, Cabarrus. JOHN SHIMPOCH, Davidson. A. G. FOSTER, Davidson. JAS. M. LEACH, Ashe. A. B. McMILLAN, Macon. DAVID W. SILER, Caldwell. JOHN HAYES, Chatham. J. H. HAUGHTON, Moore and Montgomery. ANGUS R. KELLY, Montgomery. Z. RUSSELL, Yancey. S. FLEMING, Henderson. H. T. FARMER, Henderson. T. R. CALDWELL, Burke. T. G. WALTON, Burke.

ANECOTTE OF GENERAL JACKSON.

The Hon. \*\*\*\*\* who, as a Baptist preacher and lieutenant governor had at one and the same time been in the service of the Lord, and of the State of Illinois, became dissatisfied with the honors or profits, or both, of the posts he held, determined to resign them, and devote his time and talents to the assistance of the administration in carrying on the general government of the country.

"I am, sir," was the reply. "Then, sir," said the General, with his usual quiet dignity, "you hold already a higher office than any in my gift—an office whose sacred duties, properly performed, requires your whole attention; and really I think the best that I can do for you will be to leave you at liberty to devote your whole time to them; for, from what you tell me, I fear that hitherto, they have been somewhat neglected."

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C. FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1851.

STATE OF THE THERMOMETER—WEATHER. 24th. Tuesday, 1 o'clock, 79. 25th. Wednesday, 1 o'clock, 80.

FOURTH OF JULY. Next Friday being the 4th of July, no paper will be issued on that day, agreeably to long established custom.

NEW ILLUMINATED FAMILY BIBLE. We have been shown a copy of PERRY'S Illuminated Family Bible, which for beauty and cheapness surpasses any work of the kind yet published, that we have seen.

NEW SCHOONER. The new schooner S. R. POTTER, Tolson, came up to town on Monday last. She was built at Smithville, by Mr. R. B. Potter; is a fine vessel, built of live oak and cedar and copper fastened and intended for the coasting trade; 106 x 110 tons burthen. She was launched on Saturday last.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. We conclude the address on the subject of Constitutional Reform in this number. We believe all the essential points connected with this important subject, have been presented in a candid and intelligible manner, and it is now left for our readers to decide upon the course they will pursue.

As a Convention is proposed, we hope our friends will take into consideration the propriety of sending Delegates to it. We presume there will be no difficulty in obtaining the services of a sufficient number of our fellow citizens for this purpose, if a meeting will give them authority to go. It will be a pleasant trip and answer the double purpose of advancing the cause of equal rights, and of forming a more intimate acquaintance with our good friends of the West.

We shall now lay the subject of Constitutional Reform "on the table" for the present, where it will remain for a season, unless called up by some of our friends, or by some movement of its friends elsewhere. We will, in due and proper season recur to it again.

In the management of this affair, we see no cause for the least excitement. If our people will send Delegates to the Reform Convention, our Western fellow citizens will be highly gratified, and they may be assured of a kind reception and the administration of a hearty and generous hospitality.

NORTH CAROLINA RAIL ROAD.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the Report of the Chief Engineer, Mr. WALTER GYNN, on the Survey of the N. C. Rail Road, printed by Swain & Sherwood. This excellent report has already appeared, in whole or in part, in most of the papers of our State. We make a short extract from the concluding matter of this Report, which is as follows: "The home market built up by the Manufacturing establishments will stimulate, encourage and foster the agricultural interest which is the great interest of the State. And thus the great ends of government will be accomplished by the silent workings of the system of internal improvements, without doing violence to the theories or prejudices of any one. The greatest benefit will be conferred on the greatest number. In fact all will be benefited. For the North Carolina Rail Road is not a mere line of Railroad accommodating a single line of travel and operating on a narrow section of the State; there is scarcely any portion or any interest in the State that it is not benefited by this work. It traverses nearly the whole length of the State; it is the Central Rail Road projected by the old and ardent friends of internal improvement, crossing the channels of some of the principle water courses, bringing their water falls and Manufactories into the actual vicinity of the Seaboard. It would be difficult to plan a work, so properly so obviously and so essentially a State work. The people themselves have made it so by their wide spread and unprecedented individual subscription of a million of dollars, and by their endorsement of the copartnership of the State from one end of it to the other, in her subscription of two millions more."

LATER FROM TEXAS.

Galveston dates to the 13th, and Brownville to the 14th, have been received at New Orleans. The crops have suffered in some of the interior counties for want of rain.

A Mr. McDONALD, charged with stealing several thousand dollars from Mr. Tate, at San Antonio, has been made to convict himself of the theft, and disgorge the money, by a stratagem—rather a delicate one—of the sheriff. It was agreed between the sheriff and the prisoner that the sheriff should receive one thousand dollars of the stolen money, as a consideration for aiding the thief to escape. The prisoner was to retain the remainder, and the sheriff was to provide him with a fleet horse and arms; he was released from the jail and proceeded to the place of deposit, in company with the sheriff, and the money was disbursed. The thief was then re-arrested, and unless he finds some other means of escape, will doubtless go to the penitentiary for his pains. The Western Texan doubts the propriety of the sheriff's course in the matter.

MORMON OUTRAGE.

The last reported piece of rascality practised by J. J. Strang and his gang, occurred at Grand Traverse Bay, on Lake Michigan, about 40 miles from Beaver Island, on the 16th April. He purchased goods, for which he paid in bogus half-dollars. When the cheat was discovered, the Sheriff, with a posse, started in pursuit of Strang and his gang, who when overtaken, turned and took deliberate aim at their pursuers, and drove them back.

THE CODDEN MASSACRE.

The Jury in the case of Nicholas Murphy, charged with the murder of William Codden, and participating in the massacre of the family, returned a verdict of guilty, on Saturday last. He was tried at Elkton, Maryland. We reported the conviction of Taylor, a few days ago. The Cecil Democrat, in announcing the verdict against Murphy, says: "The condemned man sat firm and motionless. He did not move a muscle of his face. He was taken back to the jail—then his self-control forsook him; his spirit fell, broken by the awful weight it had been upholding—the last prop of hope was knocked away, and he wept loudly and long."

POST OFFICE STAMPS.

Mr. Editor—Would it not be well to call public attention to the propriety of procuring Stamps for all their correspondence! After the 1st of July the rates will be 3 cents when pre-paid and 5 when not paid. No Gentleman will think of imposing the difference upon his friends, surely; and if I mistake not, Fashion will soon put her seal upon it, so that an unpaid letter will be considered from a questionable source, and be permitted to remain uncalled for.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER ARCTIC.

4 DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. New York, June 22d, 8 P. M.—The steamer Arctic arrived this afternoon, in 11 days from Liverpool, with 97 passengers. She experienced fresh westerly winds during the whole passage. The Cambria arrived at Liverpool on the 8th.

ENGLAND.

Hyde, a cotton broker, has failed. His liabilities amount to £200,000 to £300,000. The Messrs. Finch, iron merchants, have also failed, whose liabilities are £180,000. The committee on India steam navigation have reported against the Panama and in favor of the Cape of Good Hope route. Parliament has adjourned for the Whitsuntide holidays. The visitors at the great exhibition average nearly 5,000 daily at a shilling per ticket. The Dublin and Glasgow Railroad will be opened on the 1st of August. The crops throughout England and Ireland promise an abundant harvest, though the season is backward.

FRANCE.

The committee appointed to report upon the revision of the French constitution, stand 9 in favor of revision and 6 against it. Lamartine made a powerful Speech in favor of revision, subject to the decision of the people by universal suffrage. The President is about to make another tour through the Provinces, where his popularity is on the increase. The accounts from Paris of the state of trade are satisfactory.

PORTUGAL.

It is reported that Saldanha is becoming unpopular with the army. A French fleet had arrived in the Tagus.

SPAIN.

A new levy of 25,000 troops was about being made to enable the Government to interfere in the affairs of Portugal.

TURKEY.

The Prussian troops had completely evacuated the Danubian provinces.

GERMANY.

A collision had occurred between some sailors and the Austrian troops at Hamburg, in which six lives were lost and many wounded.

HOLLAND.

Accounts from Amsterdam represent that trade is completely stagnant. Coffee and Sugar were unchanged. Rice dull.

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

We received the Alta California yesterday, of the 15th May, from which we gather a few additional items.

The loss by the great fire of the 4th of May has got down to seven millions. The California contains a list of the sufferers, which occupies too much space for us to copy.

The officers of the Custom House saved the specie of the office by casting it into a well. About \$1,000,000 were saved in this way.

When Burgoyne's safe was opened \$1,500,000 was taken out not singed or damaged in the least. The books and all the papers, deposits, &c., came out fresh and free from the least blemish.

The California says: "It is impossible to even guess at the number of buildings or the amount of property destroyed. A thousand buildings is within the bounds of truth, we judge, and ten millions of dollars could not replace the terrible destruction. Some place it twice or three times as high. It is sufficient to say that more than three-fourths of the business part of the city is nothing but smouldering cinders. It is impossible to give a list of the buildings burned or the names of the sufferers."

"But the most lamentable part of this sad story is the loss of human life. How many have lost their lives cannot be known at present—perhaps it never will be known how many; but several are known to have lost their lives. The following have been reported: "About 2 o'clock a man on Washington street dropped dead from prostration."

"One man was taken out of the store of Starkey, Janion & Co. about 5 o'clock this morning, burned to a crisp."

Mr. Mudge was dangerously burned. He, with

MESSRS. LEIGH AND DEEMS.

The following is from the Raleigh Spirit of the Age, of Friday last: On Saturday and Sunday last, the Second Quarterly meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church for this station, the current year, was held in the City, and on the Sabbath morning we had the pleasure of hearing an eloquent and able discourse from the Presiding Elder, Dr. Hazzekiah G. Leigh. We had not seen or heard this distinguished gentleman for many years, and were agreeably surprised to find him looking so well, though rendered somewhat decrepit by age and extreme labor. The strength and energy of his intellect, however, remain unimpaired; and the fire and zeal manifested by the venerable Minister, carried us back to the good old days of Primitive Methodism.

The name of Hazzekiah G. Leigh is identified with our earliest recollections, almost, and we recall with delight to the lessons of instruction recorded in his hands around the paternal altar. He may be alive to enjoy in a green old age the blessings of a well-spent life.

At night, Professor Deems, President of the Greensboro' Female College, preached to a very large and attentive audience. His theme was the importance of the improvement of the present hour—3d day, if you will hear his voice. The unadorned earnestness and solemnity of Prof. D.'s style, the rich vein of thought and intellectual culture, which run through all his efforts, and the inobtrusive purity and humility of his character, always command for him the undivided attention of his hearers—and on this occasion, the marked silence which prevailed, gave evidence that his words were being treasured in the hearts of his congregation. Though rarely effeminate in constitution, and physical ability, and health be spared, he is destined to be a tower of strength to Religion and education in the North State. May a long, prosperous and useful life attend him.

REVOLUTION IN PERU. The New York Tribune has published an account of a revolution in Peru, from which the following account of a revolution in Peru is obtained: General Echique, the new President, received the executive authority on the 20th of April. The occasion was signalized by two events of very different character—the opening of the railroad from Callao to Lima and the breaking out of a revolt in the city of Arequipa. It appears that a company of the friends of Gen. Echique, were assembled together on the 20th of April, celebrating the inauguration of the new President, which took place the same day in Lima. In the heat of their enthusiasm they hung out a banner, inscribed "Viva Jose Rocio Echique!" and saluted it with cheers. This was distasteful to the population, a majority of whom were friends of Vivanco, the defeated candidate. They collected in groups, and began to cry out "Down with the banner!" One of the opposite party, a Col. Lopez, ordered out a troop of cavalry and attempted to disperse them. This brought on a collision; barricades were thrown up, a general fight commenced, and each party began a plunder of the houses of the other. The Prefect of the city attempted to quell the disturbance, but without effect.

The people fired on the town of San Francisco and the barracks of the soldiers; the bells were rung in all the churches to call them together, and after 26 hours of incessant fighting, the troops were driven from the city. Some of the prominent inhabitants then exerted themselves to restore peace. A deputation was sent to the Prefect, who entered the city on the 24th, amid general acclamation. During the fight 89 persons were killed and wounded, the soldiers being the greatest sufferers.

At the latest date, the 23th of April, there was still some excitement among the citizens, and it was feared that the troubles were not wholly quieted.

FROM OREGON.

Oregon papers have been received up to the 10th of May. The accounts from the gold mines on the Klamath all agree that the mines will yield a fair equivalent to the miner. Some beautiful specimens had been discovered, weighing from five dollars to seventy-five dollars.

The newly-discovered coal region is said to be inexhaustible, and coals can be delivered on the bank of the Columbia river at less than ten dollars per ton.

The population of the whole Territory, ascertained by the census of 1850, is 13,323; houses, 3,078; mills, 45.

A steamboat is about to ply between the Cascades and the Falls of Columbia. The company at the Cascades have already nearly completed a railroad around the portage.

The Western Star says that the last steamer brought quite a number of passengers from the States. Mr. Preston, Surveyor General for Oregon, and family, and Mr. Nelson, Chief Judge of Oregon, are among the number. Also, five female teachers.

William Kendall, convicted of murder, was executed at Salem, on the 18th of April, amid a large concourse of spectators.

ADDITION TO THE CAPITOL.

The National Intelligencer of Saturday says the corner-stone of the addition to the Capitol, authorized by the late act of Congress, will be laid by the President of the United States on the 4th of July next, in the presence of such officers of the Government as may then be in the city, and of all citizens who may see fit to assemble to witness the ceremony; and that an Address to that occasion will be delivered by the Secretary of State.

MEXICAN BOUNDARY.

Intelligence is received that Commissioners appointed by the two Governments have settled the initial point on the Rio Grande, where the southern boundary of New Mexico strikes that River in lat. 32 deg. 20 min. north. The Joint Commission had agreed to meet at the initial point above determined, on the 21st April, to ratify the decision of the astronomers, and to lay the corner-stone of the monument which was to be placed thereon.

THE PRESIDENT AT OLD POINT.

The Norfolk Beacon of Wednesday says that the President and his Cabinet have accepted the invitation of the proprietors of the Hygeia Hotel, at Old Point, to pay them a visit. He started on Saturday last.

MONSTERS OF THE DEEP.

A Shark, of the Tiger species, measuring eleven feet nine inches in length, and six feet two inches in circumference, was taken in our harbor yesterday morning; and shortly afterwards, another was caught, measuring nine feet four inches in length. We understand that the harbor is full of these "monsters of the deep."—Charleston Courier.

THE CHINA BOYS.

Quite a large number of the Celestials have arrived among us of late, enticed hither by the golden romance which has filled the world. Scarcely a ship arrives here that does not bring an increase to this worthy integer of our population. And we hear by China papers and private advices from that empire, that the feeling is spreading all through the seaboard, and as a consequence nearly all the vessels that are up for this country are so for the prospect of passengers. A few Chinesemen have returned, taking home with them some thousands of dollars in California gold, and have thus given an impetus to the feeling of emigration from their fatherland which is not likely to abate for some years to come.

Through their Chief here, and their Agent, Mr. Woodworth, they have got possession of a large tract of land on the Moquelumne, which they have commenced cultivating, and are fast settling it. They are among the most industrious, quiet, patient people among us. Perhaps the citizens of no nation except the Germans, are more quiet and valuable. They seem to live under our laws as if born and bred under them, and already have commenced an expression of their preference by applying for citizenship, by filing their intentions in our courts. What will be the extent of the movement now going on in China and here is not easily foreseen. We shall undoubtedly have a very large addition to our population, and it may not be many years before the Halls of Congress are graced by the presence of a long queued Mandarin sitting, voting, and speaking, beside a Don from Santa Fe, and Kanaker from Hawaii.

While writing the above, a letter from a Chinese in China to a China Boy in this country has been shown us by Mr. Gregory, and it will be forwarded by his Express to its destination at the Indian Gulch where its Celestial recipient is digging gold and will feel himself happy by the news from home. Many letters pass to and fro between China and California, and at each departure of ships for the Celestial Empire, its children here send off to their friends, beyond the Pacific great numbers of California papers. It may be seen from this how intercourse is increasing and knowledge extending. The day of fencing the world and information out of China has forever passed away. The glitter of our gold has passed the gates of the con-in of the sun and moon, and the disciples of Confucius are coming and have come to qualify his philosophy with the wisdom of Washington and the utility of Franklin.

Gradually their wooden shoes give way to the manufactures of Lynn and kindle a fire for barbecuing a rat dinner. The long queue eventually passes away before the tonsorial scissors, and stuffs a saddle or is woven into a lariat. The yard wide nankeen umbrellas are found unsuited to our windy climate and neater fashions, and are succeeded by a much better fit. Hats and other American garments succeed and soon the chief distinction consists in the copper color, the narrow angular eyes, the peculiar gibberish and beardless faces. When these national costumes shall have passed away, national prejudices, whether of politics, morals or religion are pretty certainly on their road to amalgamation. The China Boys will yet vie at the same polls, study at the same schools and bow at the same Altar as our own countrymen.

The New York Express says a man was seen near Broadway on Saturday morning in petticoats, and with a bonnet on. When asked by the police why he wore this costume? he replied, "My wife has taken my clothes, and I have taken hers."

"This kind of notoriety," adds the Express, "is not likely to be convenient for modest young ladies, or even for respectable old women to acquire, and hence our comparative freedom from Bloomerism in Gotham."

MONSTERS OF THE DEEP. A Shark, of the Tiger species, measuring eleven feet nine inches in length, and six feet two inches in circumference, was taken in our harbor yesterday morning; and shortly afterwards, another was caught, measuring nine feet four inches in length. We understand that the harbor is full of these "monsters of the deep."—Charleston Courier.