Published every Friday Morning, by THOMAS LORING.

TERMS. THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE. ADVERTISEMENTS

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STATE CONVENTION.

DEBATE.

ON BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

been stated from the Chair-

Mr. EDWARDS said, he did not rise to detain the Convention; for, if disposed to do so, he felt too unwell to make the attempt. But he owed it to the Convention to state, that whilst concurring in the Articles under consideration, so far as the number of members in each House was concerned, yet he could not vote for them if the blank was filled with the word biennial. He had pronounced tion, and subsequent reflection had gone to confirm the opinion. He could not therefore vote for any adjustment of Representation which would authorize Elections only at intervals of two years .-This statement was due to himself-due to candor-and due to the Convention .-Anxious that every amendment, made to the Constitution should be confirmed, he was sorry to see this matter so pertinaciously insisted on; for in his opinion, if adopted, the people would reject the Constitution. They would not part with the control over their Representatives which annual Elections gave, for the sake of speculative notions of Economy, For the whole matter was open to conjecture, and the experiment was to be tried whether there would be any saving or not. He did not himself believe there would, for the Legislature would sit twice as long every two years, and, in the end, the expenditure would be fully as great.

Mr. Carson of Rutherford, remarked, that he took part in this discussion with extreme reluctance, and felt much embarfastment in rising to do so. The manifestation of sentiment, exhibited the other day, was so clearly indicative of the result of the vote about to be taken on this question, that he should certainly not have troubled the Convention, but that he wished to justify the vote he should be bound

Mr. C. said, he believed the great ob ject which the people had in view in ancorrect the inequalities of our Represenportant and the one which most concerned them, they cared but little about any sions should be preferred. In no part of point action with her contiguous sister

ernment, and enters no where into either ses Elections only once in two years.

the Legislative, Judicial or Executive Departments. It is therefore, nothing more of those rights essential to the preservation of those rights essential to the preservation and freedom, and which the wisdom of our necestors have made sacred by engrating.

Yearly alvertisers, who will agree to pay \$10 lections ought to be often held." The privilege we enjoy, and the danger is, Rulers. The writers of the Federalist, of the other: it is because the people, ex-

to which he would call the attention of one year, and if the election goes wrong, the State stand affected to the Administrative benefit. his opinion as to the propriety of contin-The Articles of amendment in relation section which declares that a frequent Congress are chosen only once in two powers that be, then the Legislature will often called from their farms to vote- of Wilmington, situated in the country to the number of Members of which the recurrence to fundamental principles is years, and has the country experienced APPROVE; if otherwise, will censure. they have complained that their young which he represented, was the largest had Senate and Flouse of Commons shall absolutely necessary to preserve the bles- any inconvenience or injury from this? The guardianship, therefore, does not men met too offen at election grounds, most important seaport in the State; but consist, being under consideration. Mr. sings of liberty." What are fundament I think not. If it be proper to elect mem. consist in the vorz of the Legislature, for purposes of intemperance and dissipa he saw no necessity for a separate Repre-Fisher moved to fill the blank with the tal principles? One of them is the su- bers of Congress, whose powers are vital- but in the opportunity it affords for public tion every class of the community has sentative for that town distinct from the word "biennial." The question having pervisory power the people have over ly connected with the principles of liberty. discussion. The Federal Government is complained on this score. It was expect. County members. He was satisfied, in-

it the other day one of the most import. this right to apply to the Legislature for Legislature; but in old States, like North a proof of the correctness of this view, thought, was wholly unnecessary. In the Treasury of the States a redress of their grievances, are to be Carolina, where every thing is settled, Mr. F. said, he would remind the Com- proposing amendments here, gentlemen It has been said, that the citizens put off for two years, before they can be where the system of laws are established, mittee that the Legislature, 1793, refused did not always advert to the provisions of Wilmington had scarcely any voice in the pointment in the end, why Sir, it amounts no such necessity can exist. When there but the agitation of the subject awakened tion of that instrument gives to the Legis- might be easily remedied, as land suffto a derial of the privilege, and is to my is nothing for the Legislature to do, why the attention of the people to it, and the lature the power of "adjourning them- cient to qualify them to vote, could be obto the right of suffrage, and secure a bout doing what they ought not to do - the arguments went out among the peo- of Government at Raleigh; but the pow- had given great dissatistaction to the ped he was lifted in joyous transport, at each | ry thing. anniversary of this our political jubilee .a high value upon this privilege.

it and are often replete with instruction to laws are enacted at one session and are and vice versa. But to bring them on at voted in favor of allowing members to a heat lightning, I had for many years, inthorizing the call of a Convention, was to those, not otherwise conversant in politic. repealed at the next. The sess on addifferent times, the minds of the people portion of the Borough towns—to which deed all the early part of my life, as firm al affairs; and of that class, are a large journs in January-the Acts usually come being less distracted with conflicting he had intended to have added Edenton, a faith in the doctrine of the existence of tation. That point attained, the most im- portion of their hearers. If it be true, out in May, and the elections take place claims, will be able to make better and had he found a proper opportunity of do- heat lightning as distinct from the hightthat one of the best securities of the rights in August. So that the laws are scarce- more disinterested selections. When the ing so. and privileges of a free people, is to en- ly promulgated, before the new members Congressional election is pending, Feder. The subject, Mr. S. observed, had al- in the existence of the latter. How many other alterations. In the discussions we lighten them on these topies, I would say, are elected. It often happens, said Mr. al Politics will be mostly discussed, and ready undergone a pretty full discussion. hundred times have I heard it said, "O have had on this question, economy and in proportion as you take away or dimin- F that an act is passed at one session, is when the State elections are pending, The right of representation for the Bo- that is heat lightning, that never does retrenchment have been assigned as pri ish their elective rights and prevent op- repealed at the next, and at the succeed. State and local matters will engross attention roughs, is claimed by the citizens inhablany harm." mary considerations why biennial ses- portunities of mingling with and hearing ing one re-enacted. This was the case tion; so that each will stand fairly before iting them, first, on the ground of being a As soon as I came to reason on the subpublic men, and profiting by public dis- with that important act abolishing Impri- the people, and candidates will have less separate and distinct class, consisting of ject, I doubted the correctness of the opin the State, of which he had personal know- cussions, in the same degree, you weaken somment for Debt. Now, if there were chance of combining to aid each other in of merchants and commercial men, hav- ion respecting the existence of any such ledge, had this question been fairly put in and detract from the stability of our free biennial sessions, the people would have their schemes of ambition. all its bearings before the people; and re- institutions. His own observation and time to see the operations of the law, and ally, the more he heard it touched upon, experience warranted him in saying that could determine better, whether it ought he might add others, if time allowed, he this were the only ground on which the scrutinize opinions generally, induced the stronger was his conviction, it had these discussions in politics now-a-days, to be repealed or continued. better be left as it was. There are, said though more frequent, yet they were list Mr. F. said, he was in favor of biennial Legislature. he, but three or four States in this whole tened to, and were often delivered in a session's, on the score of Economy. Eco-Union, where biennial sessions are require style to make useful impressions on the nomy is not less a virtue in Govern- mark or two. This convention, he said, which he thought these Boroughs were ces alluded to. I was convinced the appropriate the said, which he thought these Boroughs were ces alluded to. I was convinced the appropriate the said. red by their respective Constitutions .- people, and served to put them in posses ments than in private families. When was authorized to provide for biennial, in entitled to consideration: it is because of pearance is caused by lightning proceed-With three of those, to wit: Delaware, sion of the public topics which at the par- ever we see a Government disregarding stead of annual meetings of the General the existence of a distinct commercial in- ing from clouds below the horizon, in Mississippi and Missouri, we can have ticular juncture were of the greatest mo- the principles of economy, we may look Assembly; but it has no anthority to de- terest in this portion of the country, pecu- places were at the time a thunder storm is no connexion and can have no sort of ment. It might be said, that there are o- out for abuses and corruptions. If there- prive that body of any other power con- liar and important, which requires a dis- experienced. In this way, the appearance practical intercourse; but in those States ther sources of political information; for fore, biennial sessions, in addition to other ferred upon it by the Constitution. That tinet consideration The question is, is itself, together with its attending and sucbordering on us, with which we might instance, the newspapers of the day .- advantages, will occasion a considerable instrument does not declare that the Le- this interest of sufficient extent to require creding phenomena, are naturally and be presumed to have legislative interThis species of reading is extending and saving in public expenditures, surely we gislature shall meet annually, but certain separate consideration? He thought it very simply accounted for. The heat of becoming more diffused; but it is not confined to Boroughs on the preceding day causes thunder clouds are prescribed in it, which are to United States, all have their annual Sesteral, and is not half so good as a spirited Will this be the case? Some gentlemen be annually performed. But it contains by. It extends throughout the country as usual; these clouds sometimes pass sions and it might often occur in the discussion before the people. In the Nor- say not, but he was certain it would. We also a provision, that the Legislature wherever trade is carried on. But the round just below our horizon, carrying to course of all future time, that great and thern States, the people have the advantage of the Leurgent matters might require that we tage of free Schools, and education is more
gislature has been, for a good while past,
so that if the amendment prevails, and
principally conducted on our seaboard; or thunder gust; during the continuance should have simultaneous sessions. So universal. Here, we are not so general- about \$40,000. At the last session, our we declare the Legislature shill meet bi- it matters not so much what number of of which, we see the reflection of the far therefore as this State might require ly educated, and therefore need all the Legislature consisted of 202 members; states, it would be an advantage to have and other sources. Collision of sentiment these, and leave in future 170 members in journ to meet annually, or considered. Agriculture and Commerce thunder; the clouds give rain on the tracte Mr. C. said, that since the discussions when the people know the truth, and it is, said Mr. C. a before day on this subject, if which is productive of great evils, has no force, for the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great in 100 or 110 days Mr. F said, he telt certain that a Legislature of 170 members, can do the same at our of the consequence of the subject of the supply of our immediate wats, the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great in 100 or 110 days Mr. F said, he telt certain that a Legislature of 170 members, can do the same at our of the supply of our immediate wats, the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great in 100 or 110 days Mr. F said, he telt certain that a Legislature of 170 members, can do the same at our of the supply of our immediate wats, the next way if the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great will be productive of great evils, has no force, for the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great will be productive of great evils, has no force, for the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great will be productive of great evils, has no force, for the people are in favor of more frequently have a first way great will be productive of great evils, has no force for the supply of our immediate wats, the productive of great evils, has no force for the supply of our immediate wats, the productive of great evils, h Rights is declared to be a part of the State institutions. Being in favor of annuState Constitution, yet it forms no portion of the organic part or body of our State Gov
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This of our political rights, the people will will
to meet all its wants in relation to Inspections, Insurance, Exchange, &c. This one bad salled served up at dinner every

which are not new, but have been laid place only once in every two years, he ments of the Federal Government. This elective franchise, and he was therefore down and recognized from time immemo- thought the people would be more partic. was not a new idea to him; he had con- disposed to make it more highly apprecirial. The 18th Section declares "that ular in the choice of their members. I sidered it before he came here, and felt ated. - Would the sparks of liberty glow the people have a right to assemble to- am in favor of frequent elections, said Mr. its weight. He believed with those who with less intensity if the Legislature met

gether, to consult for the common good, F. but there may be such a thing as hav- opposed biennial sessions, that the State every two years, than they do now when to instruct their Representatives and to ing them too frequent. Whenever a thing Legislatures are the natural and legiti- it meets every year? Why is it, that the apply to the Legislature for redress of becomes very common, it ceases to be grievances" The 20th Section declares much valued, and when we cease to prize and the people, and that it was not only est than the elections of members of the "that for redress of greivances, and for a- it, we are careless how we use it. The their right, but their duty, to keep a strict Legislature? It is because the duties of State, and that three and a half million mending and strengthening the laws, E- elective franchise is the greatest political word often might be regarded as used in that we undervalue it by the frequency of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James ercising the right of suffrage but once in a qualified sense, and it might be said, relections. By having our State elections Matison, take this view of the subject in two years, are more circumspect in the to judge, therefore, whether the comme that once in two years is often, within the only once in two years, the people will the 26th No. of that able work. I do not selection of their agents, and attach great- cial interests of this portion of the country true meaning of the Bill of Rights. But value the privilege more highly, and ex. believe, however, said Mr. F. that the er value to the privilege. he believed this construction to be incon- ercise it more judiciously. As it now is, mere action of the Legislature, that is, the "Coming events," it was said, "cast whether the towns in which the Com sistent and unreasonable, seeing the prac- in many places we see that the people passing of a resolution, is a check to usur- their shadows before," and though poeti- merce of the Country is principally car tical exposition given of it by the framers care but little about going to the polls, pation; for, so far as his observation had cal, Judge T, remarked, it was neverther ried on ought not to be distinctly repreof our Constitution themselves, in fixing and often times give themselves but little gone, the Legislature as often decides in less true. For years, there have been sented upon annual sessions.

It is a sented trouble to inquire into the qualifications of layor of the abuse of power as against it. complaints that the Legislature was too Mr. There is another Section, said Mr. C. the candidates: They say, it is only for It depends altogether how the majority of frequently assembled at great expense, he spoke on this subject before, to change honorable gentlemen. That is the 21st next year they can correct. Members of tion. If, for example, they are for the The people have found fault, because so using Borough representation. The town their Representatives, and may be found only once in two years, can it be less so far off from the people—the State Gov- ed, on every hand, that if a Convention deed, that the inhabitants of Wilmington in the first Article of the Bill of Rights, to elect in the same manner members of erament is close by. The people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private the private the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private that the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private that the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private that the people of N. were ever called, this subject would be themselves did not desire the private that the people of N. were ever called the private that the people of N. were ever called the people of N. were ever called the private that the people of N. were ever called the which declares "that all political power the State Legislature, whose sphere of ac- Carolina, send to Congress 13 members; examined and revised, and therefore, there contended for Mr. II denied that the is derivable from and belongs to the peo- tion is more limited and less dangerous they send to the Legislature 202. They could be no surp ise about the matter - port of Wilmington and the large amount the right of suffrage, so you weaken and States, where there is a constant filling what takes place in the State Legislature Gov. Swarn said, he should note to fill had been represented. Listend of paywill not hastily repudiate and set it at de- and where new laws and regulations be- Raleigh, than from Washington, and the luded to in his remarks. heard, and run all the chances of disap- and all the institutions of the country fixed, to condemn the Alien and Sedition Acts, the existing Constitution. The 10th sec- election of a senator. This, Mr. 11, said mind, a manifest violation of the true spi- bring it in session? It is with Legisla- State was soon revolutionized in politics, selves to any future day and place." That tained at a very low price. departed from. His motto was-annual too much, than from too little legislation, ture, the guardian of the people's rights, the Legislature, the General Assembly is live. Elections and short sessions. By this When we look around, and see the Legis. against federal encroachments. But the competent so to provide. means, we would have a rational system latures of the several States, and of the question is, will a change to bicanial ses- The Ayes and Noes were then taken on portions To be blotted out of political the rate of five thousand a year, it is a Mr. F said, at first, he thought it would, as heretofore stated, in the affirmative. existence for two years, the very thought matter of wonder that our political institute further reflection brought him to a chilled his blood and made him feel for tutions can remain permanent under this different conclusion. It is only on electhe safety and prosperity of the State - annual flood of enactments, changes and tions that these discussions in the Legis-Before manhood, and in his boyish days, innovations. It looks like unsettling eve- lature can act, and elections for members

upon our Constitution-the principles of biennial elections. When elections take | rights of the people against the encroach- | people depended upon the purity of the mate guardians of the rights of the States | Congressional elections excite more interwatch over the conduct of our Federal one station are more important than those of Congress take place but once in two A second reason in favor of biennial years. If therefore, our sessions can be The spirit, the joyial animation with sessions, is, that the Legislature itself be- held during the winter, before the elecwhich the people of all ages and conditing better selected, will be more cautious tions take place, then the people will have tions press forward to the polls, prove by in its enactments. The members will con the full benefit of all the light and inforthe manner of its enjoyment, that they set sider that the laws they make will have mation that were called forth during the Mr. C. said, that annually, in his section | will be more careful what they do. As | these biennial elections will be, that it of Borough Representation, he wished to | was heat lightning. of the State, when people have finished it now is, laws of doubtful policy are of can be so arranged, that our State elec. consider the subject only as connected working their crops, they assemble at ten enacted, because if they do not work tions and our Congressional elections with the great interests of the State at public places to hear political discussions. well, they can next session be repealed. shall not come on in the same year. As large. then being carried on by those canvass. A third reason is, that there will be it now is, both come on together, and the When the subject was under consideratives there will be it now is, both come on together, and the ing for their suffrages; and many of these more steadiness and consistency in our consequence is, that very often, the State tion, some days ago, in Committee of the days in summer, and having consequence discussions are managed with great spir- legislation. It now often happens, that elections influence the Congress election, whole, he took no part in the debate, but ly heard it so repentedly spoken of ar

of Legislative economy and preserve our Federal Government all in full operation | sions make the Legislature less a check the question-"Shall the blank be filled Buston Centine thus speaks of the val Institutions in their happy and just pro- at the same time, manufacturing laws at against encroachments, than at present? with the word "biennial?"—and decided, gar notions of Heat Lightning.

DECATE ON BOROUGH MEMBERS.

Wednesday, June 21. mington and Fayetteville each a member, being under consideration:

ing a separate interest from men engaged lightning as is here spoken of. Reflection Mr. F. said, for these reasons to which in agricultural and other pursuits. If and a natural or acquired proneness to would vote for biennial Sessions of the citizens of Boroughs claimed a right to be to give this subject a little attention, represented, he should not insist on their the result was that there was no sue Judge Toomer rose to make but a re- right. But there is another ground on thing as heat lightning in the circumstant ennially, yet it will be perfectly compel persons are engaged in it, but the amount lightning although we see no cloud, or benefits of knowledge derived from these the new Constitution will throw off 32 of tent for that body, when assembled, to ad. of property employed in it, ought to be the skirts of one merely, and we hear no elicits the truth; and it is, said Mr. C. a both Houses. For several years pas: the somer, if the public good may seem to ought to go hand in hand; for whatever over which they pass, and consequently

Commerce is carried on through the bemarle and Pamplico Sounds, and in waters connected with them; the quant of corn and naval stores produced, the quantity of shipping employed to car ry them to market is great. It had been estimated, he said, that produce to the mount of five millions of dollars was at nually shipped from that section of th of it went through the Albemarle, at employed 200,0000 tons of shipping t transport it to market. He left gentlemen were not deserving of consideration, and

Mr. Holmes had heard nothing since ple." So far as you postpone or put off to the rights of the people? In the new therefore have better means of knowing He hoped the amendment would prevail. of duties to the General Government that cut up this most excellent principle of free up of the country, where new country, where new country the blank with the word biennied, with a ing 100,000 dullars in duties to the Clea-Governments. This Convention, I trust, are every year springing into existence, can speak to them with more effect from view to press the amendment he had all eral Government one fourth of that a mount was not paid; and whatever was come necessary, it is certainly proper that people will listen to the arguments of the Judge Gaston said, that the amendment collected in this way, went into the Treat If, Mr. President, the people who have there should be annual sessions of the minority as well as of the gentleman from Buncombe, he sory of the United States, and not into

rit of that clause, and can be no longer tive bodies, as with every other mass of So, also, in 1832, the Legislature of N. part of it which authorizes the adjourn- Mr. H. referred to an Act which the consider ed an axiom infree Governments. men, if they have nothing to do that ought | Carolina approved Congressional Cau- ment to any other place, was annulled by town Member from Wilmington had caus-Again Sir, frequent Elections give value to be done, they will be very apt to set a cusses, by refusing to censure them; but the Ordinance fixing the permanent seat ed to be passed in the year 1826, which prompt and faithful accountability from For my part, said Mr. F. I think, at pres- ple, and they declared against Janeusses er to adjourn to any future day still re- ple of that town, and certainly was no the Representative to his constituent, and ent, there is more danger to be apprehend- It was the discussion then, that took place, mains, and, if it shall be found, that the evidence that they uniformly, set a high in the law-making branch ought not to be ed to the institutions of the country from and not the Vote, that made the Legisla- people desire more frequent meetings of value on the services of their Representa-

HEAT LIGHTNING -A writer in the

From my earliest recollections, I have occasionally heard heat lightning spoken of. Often, at the close of a hot dry in summer, on resorting to the Mail for fresh air, I have seen the west and south horizon almost continually illuminated The Report of the Committee allowing with lightning, not the fierce blue forked the towns, of Edenton, Newbern, Wil- streams, but mild pale flashes, while no clouds or perhaps very small ones only were sisible in any direction. On meet-Mr. J. B. SEINNER said, though he rose ing a friend, if our conversation was to stand for two years and therefore they preceding session. Another advantage of to address the Convention on the subject turned on the subject, I was informed it

> Having always resided in the vicinity of the Common, where this appearance is so frequently seen in the south west and ning attending thunder storms, as I had