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STATE CONVENTION.

DEBATE.

ON BIENNIAL SESSIONS.

The Articles of amendment in relation to the number of Members of which the Senate and House of Commons shall consist, being under consideration. Mr. Fisher moved to fill the blank with the word "biennial."

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."

Mr. CARSON of Rutherford, remarked, that he took part in this discussion with extreme reluctance, and felt much embarrassment in rising to do so.

Mr. C. said, he believed the great object which the people had in view in authorizing the call of a Convention, was to correct the inequalities of our Representation. That point attained, the most important and the one which most concerned them, they cared but little about any other alterations.

Mr. C. said, that since the discussion the other day on this subject, at which time he felt inclined to vote for biennial sessions, he had bestowed much reflection on the subject, and the consequence was, that his mind had undergone a change.

upon our Constitution—the principles of which are not new, but have been laid down and recognized from time immemorial. The 18th Section declares "that the people have a right to assemble together, to consult for the common good, to instruct their Representatives and to apply to the Legislature for redress of grievances."

There is another Section, said Mr. C. to which he would call the attention of honorable gentlemen. That is the 21st section which declares "that a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty."

If, Mr. President, the people who have this right to apply to the Legislature for a redress of their grievances, are to be put off for two years, before they can be heard, and run all the chances of disappointment in the end, why Sir, it amounts to a denial of the privilege, and is to my mind, a manifest violation of the true spirit of that clause, and can be no longer considered an axiom in free Governments.

Mr. C. said, that annually, in his section of the State, when people have finished working their crops, they assemble at public places to hear political discussions, then being carried on by those canvassing for their suffrages; and many of these discussions are managed with great spirit and are often replete with instruction to those, not otherwise conversant in political affairs; and of that class, are a large portion of their hearers.

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Mr. F. said, he would very briefly notice one or two of the objections advanced against biennial sessions. It is contended that there ought to be annual sessions of the State Legislatures, in order that they may stand as guards over the

rights of the people against the encroachments of the Federal Government. This was not a new idea to him; he had considered it before he came here, and felt its weight. He believed with those who opposed biennial sessions, that the State Legislatures are the natural and legitimate guardians of the rights of the States and the people, and that it was not only their right, but their duty, to keep a strict watch over the conduct of our Federal Rulers.

A second reason in favor of biennial sessions, is, that the Legislature itself being better selected, will be more cautious in its enactments. The members will consider that the laws they make will have to stand for two years and therefore they will be more careful what they do.

Mr. F. said, he was in favor of biennial sessions, on the score of Economy. Economy is not less a virtue in Governments than in private families. Whenever we see a Government disregarding the principles of economy, we may look out for abuses and corruptions.

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The guardianship, said Mr. F. that the mere action of the Legislature, that is, the passing of a resolution, is a check to usurpation; for, so far as his observation had gone, the Legislature, as often decides in favor of the abuse of power as against it. It depends altogether how the majority of the State stand affected to the Administration. If, for example, they are for the powers that be, then the Legislature will approve; if otherwise, will censure.

Mr. F. said, for these reasons, to which he might add others, if time allowed, he would vote for biennial Sessions of the Legislature.

Judge TOOMER rose to make but a remark or two. This convention, he said, was authorized to provide for biennial, instead of annual meetings of the General Assembly; but it has no authority to deprive that body of any other power conferred upon it by the Constitution.

Judge T. said, we did not now exercise the privilege of convening the Legislature so frequently as our ancestors did. Why was this? One reason perhaps, was the expense, but another was, that the frequency of enjoyment had pallied upon the appetite believed that the liberty of the

people depended upon the purity of the elective franchise, and he was therefore disposed to make it more highly appreciated. Would the sparks of liberty glow with less intensity if the Legislature met every two years, than they do now when it meets every year?

"Coming events," it was said, "cast their shadows before," and though political, Judge T. remarked it was nevertheless true. For years, there have been complaints that the Legislature was too frequently assembled at great expense, without any corresponding public benefit.

Gov. SWAN said, he should vote to fill the blank with the word "biennial," with a view to press the amendment he had alluded to in his remarks.

Judge GASTON said, that the amendment of the gentleman from Buncombe, he thought, was wholly unnecessary. In proposing amendments here, gentlemen did not always advert to the provisions of the existing Constitution.

DEBATE ON BOROUGH MEMBERS.

Wednesday, June 21.

The Report of the Committee allowing the towns, of Edenton, Newbern, Wilmington and Fayetteville each a member, being under consideration:

Mr. J. B. SCRINER said, though he rose to address the Convention on the subject of Borough Representation, he wished to consider the subject only as connected with the great interests of the State at large.

When the subject was under consideration, some days ago, in Committee of the whole, he took no part in the debate, but voted in favor of allowing members to a portion of the Borough towns—to which he had intended to have added Edenton, had he found a proper opportunity of doing so.

The subject, Mr. S. observed, had already undergone a pretty full discussion. The right of representation for the Boroughs, is claimed by the citizens inhabiting them, first, on the ground of being a separate and distinct class, consisting of merchants and commercial men, having a separate interest from men engaged in agricultural and other pursuits.

Mr. S. said, for these reasons, to which he might add others, if time allowed, he would vote for biennial Sessions of the Legislature. Judge TOOMER rose to make but a remark or two. This convention, he said, was authorized to provide for biennial, instead of annual meetings of the General Assembly; but it has no authority to deprive that body of any other power conferred upon it by the Constitution.

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Commerce is carried on through the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and in the waters connected with them; the quantity of corn and naval stores produced, and the quantity of shipping employed to carry them to market is great. It had been estimated, he said, that produce to the amount of five millions of dollars was annually shipped from that section of the State, and that three and a half millions of it went through the Albemarle, and employed 200,000 tons of shipping to transport it to market.

Mr. HOLMES had heard nothing since he spoke on this subject before, to change his opinion as to the propriety of continuing Borough representation. The town of Wilmington, situated in the county which he represented, was the largest and most important seaport in the State; but he saw no necessity for a separate Representation for that town, distinct from the County members. He was satisfied, indeed, that the inhabitants of Wilmington themselves did not desire the privileges contended for.

It has been said, that the citizens of Wilmington had scarcely any voice in the election of a senator. This, Mr. H. said, might be easily remedied, his land sufficient to qualify them to vote, could be obtained at a very low price.

Mr. H. referred to an Act which the town Member from Wilmington had caused to be passed in the year 1826, which had given great dissatisfaction to the people of that town, and certainly was no evidence that they uniformly set a high value on the services of their Representatives.

HEAT LIGHTNING—A writer in the Boston Centinel thus speaks of the vulgar notions of Heat Lightning.

From my earliest recollections, I have occasionally heard heat lightning spoken of. Often, at the close of a hot day in summer, on resorting to the Mail for fresh air, I have seen the west and south horizon almost continually illuminated with lightning, not the fierce blue forked streams, but mild pale flashes, while no clouds or perhaps very small ones only were visible in any direction.

Having always resided in the vicinity of the Common, where this appearance is so frequently seen in the south west and west horizon on the evenings of our hot days in summer, and having consequently heard it so repeatedly spoken of as heat lightning, I had for many years, indeed all the early part of my life, as firm a faith in the doctrine of the existence of heat lightning as distinct from the lightning attending thunder storms, as I had in the existence of the latter.

As soon as I came to reason on the subject, I doubted the correctness of the opinion respecting the existence of any such lightning as is here spoken of. Reflection and a natural or acquired propensity to scrutinize opinions generally, induced me to give this subject a little attention, and the result was that there was no such thing as heat lightning in the circumstances alluded to. I was convinced the appearance is caused by lightning proceeding from clouds below the horizon, in places where at the time a thunder storm is experienced. In this way, the appearance itself, together with its attending and succeeding phenomena, are naturally and very simply accounted for.

We are informed, (says the N. York Gazette) that the U. S. frigate Constitution, now riding in our waters, is ordered to sail for the Mediterranean between this and the 20th inst. On her joining the squadron, the Delaware, Com. PATTERSON, will return to the United States.

EATING SALLAD.—A Yorkshire lad, who had lately gone out to service, having had called served up at dinner every day for a week, ran away; and when asked why he had left his place, he replied, they made me eat grass for the summer, and I was afraid they'd make me eat hay for the winter, and I would not stand that, so I was off.