WHEELER'S HISTORY.

Mr. Cameron, of the Argus, has done the art of criticism up in the following lively and witty manner. We feel infinitely obliged to him, as a North Carolinian, for this plea and defence of our *native* literature:

"The freedom with which certain critics of the press (as well as private individuals in our hearing) have handled this "important State work," has kindled our indignation to a degree; and we feel half disposed, about the time of this present writing, to give them the but-end of our mind for their Momus-like propensities. A pretty come-off truly, that a native-born citizen of the State cannot write a history for the glory and honor of "poor old North Carolina,"—but these "cut-throat bandits in the paths of fame" must throttle him, overturn his ink-horn, and bedaub his manuscripts with their malevolent observations!

"Bloody dissectors, worse than ten Monroes;
He hacks to teach, they mangle to expose."

We will not stand it. We will raise our weaver's beam—but calm and dispassionate reason is the weapon with which to meet these ungenerous assailants. We propose to examine their puerile objections and show how really unsubstantial they are.

And firstly, it has been said by this generation of vipers—the critics we mean—that although there may be many useful facts contained in the history aforesaid, yet they are so blended with errors and mistakes that no one can tell on what particular statement to rely. And they maliciously quote the maxim, *Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*, to fortify their position. Now we object, *in limine*, to this mode of criticism. The author of our history is a native North Carolinian; and no one has a right to apply to his book a musty British law maxim. Besides we are not sure if the book, being posterior in the date of its origin to said maxim, does not *repeal* the latter. We should like to hear some of the talented young barristers of whom the history makes honorable mention on this interesting question: but this by-the-by. We proceed with our remarks. And let us admit for the sake of argument that there are a few slight discrepancies and very venial anachronisms in the work—is it not all the better on that account? It will afford the ingenious reader an opportunity of correcting the errors for himself; and the facts in question will be thereby the more indelibly impressed upon his mind. Our schoolmaster (and he was one of the most eminent bum-thwackers in the district) used to say to us: study it out for yourself; and when you get it it will stick to you.

Again: It is said that our author quotes false latin. To this objection we answer, The book was not written for latin scholars; and whether the quotations be good or bad, they will be *Greek* to a great majority of those for whose instruction the volumes were put forth.—But this criticism being successfully disarmed of its venom, the objector turns short about and tells us that the history *is not written in good English!* There it is again. We reply, however, That makes no difference. It was written chiefly for English scholars, and they can correct its false syntax for themselves. It will afford an agreeable exercise for their minds. The author was mainly concerned about facts, and had no time to waste on the frippery of style.

Again: These sharp eyed critics (we think they must be hostile to the work, else they would not be so keen) have discovered that one of our most eminent Circuit Judges, now on the Superior Court Bench, was born three years after the death of his father—*according to the History:* and this they say was too long a time, regard being had to the case of Radwell against Henry son of Beatrice, Trin. 18 E. I, in which it was found by verdict, as the Lord Coke hath it, "that Henry, the son of Beatrice, which was the wife of Robert Radwell deceased, was born *per undecim dies post ultimum tempus legitimum mulieribus constitutum.* And thereupon it was adjudged, *quod dictus Henricus dici non debet filius prædicti Roberti secundum legem et consuetudinem Angliæ constitut.*"—Now what we have to say of this case is, that although Edward the First was called the English Justian, and the case purports to have been tried *Coram Rege*, yet it is well known that this king was more generally designated by the epithet of *Long Shanks*, and that the *Coram Rege* part of the business is mere fiction, notwithstanding the fact that Lord Hale, as as well as Lord Coke, so reports it. The truth is the case was tried *coram judice* and not *coram rege*—and of this we are ready to put ourselves upon the country. And now having shown this case is of no great authority any way, for the reasons above stated, we remark further, that *ultimum tempus legitimum mulieribus Angliæ* is not to be a criterion for republican wives of the United States. We scorn the poor beggarly idea. Mecklenburg Declaration, the heights of Bunker, and the plains of York Town, all forbid it. But suppose the fact to be just as the historian has stated it, was not that a very good reason for putting it in the book? Had the child been born in the usual time, would it have been necessary to record a circumstance of such frequent occurrence in a grave and dignified history of the State?—History, we take it is a record of remarkable events, as well as "Philosophy teaching by example."—Besides the Historian does not say, *in totidem verbis*, that the judge aforesaid was born three years after the death of his father; but the critics draw this inference from dates given and circumstances related in the history: the fact itself then is related by the critics and not by our author.

Again: it is objected to our historian, that he makes but slight mention, and in many cases no mention at all, of the illustrious dead of the State.—While the very smallest of the living (on the Democratic side) are bedaubed with the most fulsome adulation, in his pages. Well, did any body ever hear of such an objection before! The book, we think it reasonable to suppose, was made, in part at least for the purpose of being sold; and dead men buy no books. Besides the author may never have heard of those illustrious citizens of the State whose names he omits in his book—and if so, the omission is certainly excusable. Of a number of the distinguished sons of North Carolina, he says but little, it is true, as of John Stanly, for example. But why should he have paused in his narrative to inform the people of the State who John Stanly was? They all know his history by heart. They know that he was Lord of the ascendant in the Legislature of the State for many years. They know that he was emphatically the orator of North Carolina, as Patrick Henry was of Virginia. Therefore it was not necessary for the historian to tell them these things. But had he not taken the trouble to inform the public that many of those whom he mentions in his book *are great orators and statesmen*, no person would ever have thought of such a thing in the world. We want a historian to tell us something we never knew before—not what every body already knows.

But lastly, and worst of all as we do seriously incline to think: our author is charged with giving himself too much prominence in his history: in fact the accusation amounts to little less than a charge of *egotism*. They say that he is particular not only to inform the reader that he is a native of North Carolina, but also in what particular part of the State he was born, to whom he has been married, and of almost everything that he has done, said, read or written, in his whole life. And pray why should he not impart to the curious reader this important information? Shall a man not be allowed to sound his own praise in his own book? We like to see an historian hold himself up in his work. It shows a proper self-respect. It shows that he is not beneath his own notice. Besides, if our author had not given himself and his actings and doings a place in his own history, he might, out of a mere fastidious modesty, have missed his only chance for immortality—it being altogether doubtful whether he ever would have been noticed in any other history upon the face of the earth. He acted wisely then to embrace the opportunity that presented itself. No prudent man would have let so fine a chance slip. "A sparrow in the hand is worth a bustard on the wing."

Thus have we disposed of the most prominent objections to this valuable work that have as yet fallen under our observation: and we hold ourselves in readiness to meet and grapple with all such as may present themselves in future.

One observation, only of our own, we venture to make, and that is touching the Tree—a beautiful specimen of arborescent architecture which the author has ingeniously slipped in between the volumes of his work, as a sort of Map of the State, for the instruction of the young. Springing up in the East, where the first settlements were effected in the State, it spreads its flourishing foliage out Westerly, and the counties are perched on its limbs or hang to its branches, as they came into existence. Standing at the starting place, at the root of the Tree, with our backs to the salt sea and our faces to the going down of the sun, it appears to us that Anson, Richmond, Robeson, and all the other Southern counties are placed on the Virginia side of the Map. This, however, may be only one of those usual devices of the ingenious author, to call into play the faculties of his reader and to impress the more indelibly upon his mind what every man ought certainly to remember.—And for the furtherance of this object, the impressing of the facts of the narrative upon the mind of the reader, it, would perhaps be well enough for some friend of the author (some intimate personal friend we mean, for we are as friendly to his book as any body can be) the propriety of bringing out his second edition in verse. It is the opinion of many learned and ingenious critics that verse can be retained in the memory, especially of the young, much better than prose: and it would not be the first time in the progress of human events that the Muse of History had ventured to stalk across the stage on the stilts of lofty rhyme—as the success of the popular history of Old King Cole and his Fiddles three to say nothing of the narrative of Mother Hubbard and her Dog as well as others that might be mentioned) abundantly proves;—Every man to his own taste; but we go in for a *poetical edition*.

PRESIDENT FILLMORE.

The present Administration has certainly won the confidence and respect of a large majority of the people of the United States. It has been thus far an administration of justice, of right, and of common sense. There has been no easy work for the President and his Cabinet since they came into power. Questions involving considerations affecting the nation internationally have been handled with that masterly dexterity significant of the broad and comprehensive mind. Since the days of our illustrious Washington we have not been blessed with a President who has given such universal satisfaction to the people, both with reference to his private behavior and his public acts. Called into the highest position in our Government by the act of God, he effectually suppresses that wild Cuba invasion, and of late he effects the redemption of his unfortunate countrymen. He has been no less wise in his doings respecting other subjects, which his position has made it a duty to determine upon. In fine, he has safely conducted thus far the ship of State through one of the most stormy periods, of our existence, added new strength to our institutions, acquired more respect for them from abroad and more regard for them at home.

Mr. Fillmore's character is of the extraordinary cast. Prompt to discover and correct wrong—vigilant in the performance of his duty—determined and just he nevertheless exercises that manly moderation which has conducted his measures to such happy ends, and secured to him so many warm-hearted friends.

The rash measures of democratization, which would have precipitated the country into perhaps inextricable difficulties, have been met with a masterly hand—the embodiment of Whig doctrine, and lawful principle, and moral right.

We are struck favorably with the apparent honesty and manliness of purpose which have always been evident in his public acts, as well as in those of more retired life.

Every body must know that, shortly after Mr. Fillmore became President, a series of measures were sanctioned by him, giving universal satisfaction to the people. Nor has he been less fortunate with regard to the troubles in which we have been involved with other nations. His messages unfold the true interpretation of the *law*, and he manifestly declares the determination of the Government to enforce it.

To Kossuth his behavior cannot fail to secure him unbounded regard. His reception of that great man was marked by that true national policy which should be exercised by every republican government—viz., a proper regard for the natural feelings of his countrymen and a just regard to the rights of nations.

(*Jersey City Sentinel and Advertiser.*)

The Proposed Exhibition at New York.—The proposal for holding an industrial and fine arts exhibition at New-York, in the spring of next year, to which we have previously referred, appears likely to realize the best expectations of its projectors. Although no steps have yet been taken for ascertaining the number of persons in the United States who may wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of displaying the varied products of their industry, upwards of one thousand applications for space have already been received by the agents in this country, mainly from British and foreign exhibitors in the late Great Exhibition. We are informed that among the intended exhibitors are his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who has signified his intention of forwarding some of his farm produce; and the Duke of Devonshire, who contemplates sending various articles from his extensive collection of works of art. Baron Marochetti has engaged to execute an equestrian statue of General Washington; Mr. Carew, a colossal statue of Daniel Webster; M. Monti is engaged in the production of one of his veiled figures, and Mr. Manning has consented to send his Prometheus, a statue of her Majesty and Prince Albert, and several other articles of sculpture. The building in which the exhibition is to be held will, it is stated, cover an area of seven acres, and Sir Joseph Paxton is at present engaged in the preparation of a design which he intends to submit to the promoters of the undertaking. The first of February is the last day for receiving applications for space, and the exhibition is expected to open on the 15th of April. Mr. Riddle, the American commissioner, has returned to New York, where the experience which he has obtained in the management of affairs connected with the Great Exhibition will, no doubt, be brought to bear in making the necessary arrangements for the proposed transatlantic exhibition.—*Liverpool Chronicle.*

The Presbyterian Magazine for February.—*The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.*—Our readers are aware of how much interest the matter of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence has created in the minds of the students, of our revolutionary history. The last Presbyterian contains a letter from Mr. Samuel J. Baird, enclosing 'a scrap of history" from Mr. McRee, who is represented as a citizen of Summerville, Tennessee, and "his lady is a daughter of Adam Brevard, to whom he attributes the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Mr. Baird states that Mr. McRee gave him the following statement at his request:

Mr. M'Ree's Statement.—The Mecklenburg Convention, (N. C.) was composed of delegates from each captain's company of militia, in the county of Mecklenburg, perhaps two delegates from each company. Dr. Ephraim Brevard was a delegate, and one of the committee that was appointed to draw up a Declaration of Independence, to be acted on by the convention. *Adam Brevard* was then a student of law, living with his brother, the doctor, who got him to write out the declaration. After it was adopted, Gen Thomas Polk read it, at the court house door, to the multitude that was standing outside, when, after hearing it, they raised a shout and threw their hats into the air. Some of their hats fell on the court house, and they did not get some of them off till the next day.

All the delegates in that convention, and nearly all the citizens of that section of country, were Presbyterians, mostly emigrants from the north of Ireland.

Adam Brevard, whom I got my information from, told me that he took the Westminster Confession of Faith for his guide.

The above I got from Adam Brevard, and it is confirmed by others,

Respectfully yours, James P. M'Ree.

Rev. Samuel J. Baird, New Castle; Tenn.

July 14th 1851.

THE AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

At the meeting held on the 19th inst. various letters were read from missionaries and others in different parts of the pagan and Roman-catholic world, soliciting aid in the distribution of printed truth in many languages. The sum of $18,000 has been appropriated to meet such applications for the year ending in April, much of which remains to be raised.

The receipts for the month of December were $38,207 99, and for the nine months ending Jan. 1, $215,235 57, of which in donations, $67,866 64. Gratuitous circulation for the same period, 35,370,000 pages. The present indebtedness in notes for printing paper, payable in 6 months, is $42,074.

The circulation of the American Messenger is now 200,000 copies monthly, and the Messenger in German begins the year with 30,000 copies. "The Child's Paper," a new and beautiful monthly, starts with a large subscription list. These periodicals are self-supporting.

The daily issue of books and tracts is equal to about 35,000 copies, requiring nearly 300 laborers in the manufacturing department, and supplying some 400 colporteurs, and thousands of voluntary helpers in their circulation, by sale or gift. Few, if any, of the useful institutions of the country, are more enterprising in diffusing religious knowledge among the destitute masses of men, native and foreign. The unsectarian character of this agency renders it all the more efficient and useful, and commends it to the confidence and support of all good men.

Alabama.—The Alabama House, have by the vote of 48 to 37, postponed until the 9th of February, the proposition from the Senate for the election of an U. S. Senator. The term of the Hon. Wm. R. King expires on the 4th of March, 1853.

Kidnappers Arrested.—We learn that two men, known as Beach and Banks, went to Weldon (North Carolina,) from Portsmouth, (Va.,) on the 27th inst., with two small negro girls. On the afternoon of the 28th, a telegraphic despatch was received at Weldon, stating that the men had kidnapped the negro girls, and requesting their arrest. The Sheriff of Halifax County, being present, arrested and committed the whole party to jail. *Richmond Whig.*

HORRIBLE DISCOVERY.

We learn from the Philadelphia papers that on Friday Afternoon, about half past 4 o'clock, the District of Richmond was the scene of the most intense excitement, caused by the finding of what is supposed to have been the body of Jacob Lehman, aged 17 years, son of Aaron Lehman, a German Jew Pedlar, who resides at No. 497 N. Seventh street, near Franklin, Penn District. The boy has been missing since the 8th of January, upon which occasion his father sent him out to dispose of a lot of jewelry, valued at some $200.

About 4½ o'clock, on Friday afternoon, some little girls who were playing near the coal wharf No. 14, just above the iron works of Messrs. I. P. Morris, discovered, frozen in the ice in the flats of the river at that point, three sacks close together. These children informed four young men who were chopping wood on the shore, and they cut out the bags with their axes. They partially opened the sacks, when portions of human remains became visible.

In one sack was a head, and legs and feet; in another a thorax, arms and hands, with the viscera of the chest; and in the third the lower portion of the trunk, and the hips and thigh, with the viscera of the abdominal region. The portions of the body in the different sacks were, with parts of the clothing of the deceased, fixed and tied together, so as to occupy the least space.

On putting the mutilated parts of the body together, and laying the whole out in the coroners' ice-box, they formed the perfect corpse of a youth about 17 years old—the exact age of the lad, Lehman. At one o'clock on Saturday morning the jury rendered the following verdict: "That the lad Jacob Lehman, came to his death by the hand or hands of some person or persons to the jury unknown."

The proof of the identity of the body was complete, and the family of Mr. Lehman who are plunged in the deepest distress are fully satisfied that the mutilated remains are the remains of the missing boy. The Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Church to which they belonged, was called in to examine the body with a view to discovering the peculiar mark of the race. It was discovered.

Philadelphia, Feb. 1.—The investigation is still progressing, and there is strong circumstantial testimony against three Hungarian refugees, who occupied a house in the vicinity where the remains of the unfortunate youth were found. The deceased was last seen about entering this house, and had previously stated that these men had fooled him by pretending they desired to purchase jewelry from him to present to their sister. Before moving away the Hungarians sold their goods and a quantity of geese feathers resembling those found in the sacks with the remains.

The Legislature of Georgia has adjourned *sine die* having previously posponed indefinitely the resolution in favor of nominating Hon. James Buchanan for President and Gen. Wm. O. Butler for Vice-President.

The Best of the Season.—Mr. McCarty, the editor of the Paducah (Ky.) Journal, has a fine young son of some six weeks of age. In a late number of his journal, the proud father thus speaks of his offspring:

"McCarty, Jr. does not meddle much in politics, and is silent upon most vexed questions of the day, but from present indications we are inclined to think he is not for Scott. In fact, after we filled for him the other night a tin cup of whiskey-toddy, which he emptied with grace and dexterity, he cocked up his eye, and said as plainly as youth and age could say Fillmore."

Boston, Jan. 29.—The anti-slavery Convention which assembled here to-day, passed resolutions declaring Kossuth's uncalled for slight of anti-slavery, principles, and his endorsement of the Mexican war, and yielding to the influence of the slaves power, as fatal to his pretensions, and treason against human rights.

The Southern Star, published at Jack, Miss., contains the following:

"The Horrors of Slavery."—On Christmas day our streets were perambulated by a procession of "darkies," numbering from fifty to eighty, and dressed in the regalia of the "Sons."

We could not help admiring their martial deportment, and particularly the arrangement of *colors*, which presented a rich jet ground work, in beautiful contrast to the tri-colored stars and spotless insignias, more honorable to the taste of the author of this movement than to his head.

We learn that the party took of a sumptuous repast which had been duly provided for the select number, and nothing occurred to mar the festive scene, from the removal of the cloth to its final termination."

Gold in New South Wales.—Advices by the Asia give the most flattering accounts of the quantity and quality of the gold in the country about Bathurst. Sydney is nearly deserted. The receipts of the principal towns average from £20,000 to £25,000 weekly. The government armed escort brought about £10,000 per week. The New Zealand and Sydney steamer of the 18th of August brought £12,000 in gold and £28,000 value in diamonds from the newly-discovered mines. It is reported that in Frederick Valley the miners are reaping rich harvests, finding lumps of gold of £12 and £14 value. Two men had produced £250 worth of gold in two days. The gold is found in large quartz veins.

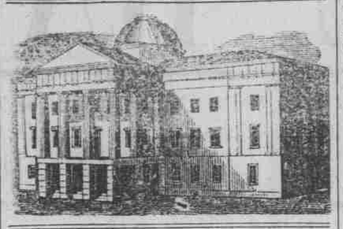
The Three Cent Pieces.—E. C. Dale, treasurer of the United States Mint, contradicts the statement that the coinage of 3 cent pieces had been suspened, or was delayed in consequence of a defect in the law of Congress on the subject. The mint has already issued over six millions of pieces, and is now ready to supply all demands for them in sums of $30, $60, or $150, or their multiplier, the bags of the mint containing those amounts.

New Orleans, Jan. 28.—We have advices from Brownsville, Texas, to the 17th inst. The papers report all quiet, while private letters announce that an attack upon Matamoras, by Caravajal, was then hourly expected.

☞ It is said that the Secession movements in Mississippi have put that State to an expense of forty thousand dollars.

Jacob Gooding has been appointed Post Master of Newbern in place of Wm. H. Harvey, resigned.

RALEIGH TIMES.



RALEIGH, N. C.

FRIDAY FEB. 6, 1852.

PROPERTY QUALIFICATION.

The discussion of this subject is comparatively recent in our State. The limited Convention in 1835, was forbidden, by the act which called it together, to make any change in this respect; and therefore, ever since the formation of the constitution at Halifax, in 1776, this aristocratic feature has remained a part of our fundamental law. It was adopted, when self-government was an experiment; when the democratic principle was comparatively untried; and our fathers, used to the checks and balances of the British constitution, restrictions upon the right of suffrage, and the privileges accorded to landed proprietors and the wealthy classes, may well be commended for the extensive progress they made upon the old systems rather than blamed for not going farther. That constitution, we know, encountered the warm opposition of some of the ablest and purest statesmen of that day, because they thought too much power had been given to the people—the democratic principle had been carried too far. For, said Samuel Johnston, writing to Judge Iredell, on the 9th Dec. 1776:—"Every one who has the least pretensions to be a gentleman is suspected and borne down, *par ignobile vulgus*,—a set of men without reading experience, or principle to govern them." At that day, he objected to the constitution on account of its *radicalism*—although it contains the high aristocratic features of property qualifications for voters and members of Assembly.

We are free to admit, that, until the craft and cunning of the demagogue who is our present Governor, had opened up this subject, no call had been made by the people for a change. They would probably have borne, for long years to come, the disabilities which they suffered, rather than, for such cause, to open up the fundamental law to amendment. When, however, they are called on to abolish the property qualification in one respect. (namely, for voters in the Senate,) what more natural than that the inquiry should arise, "Where is the need of any property qualification at all?"

There is hardly a free government upon earth that requires it for offices and honors. Under the constitution of the United States, any citizen may hold any office of trust or profit, without owning a cent's worth of real property. He may be a member of either House of Congress, a Judge, Member of the Cabinet, President or Vice President of the United States—no property qualification being required. And so may the citizens of almost every State in the Union hold any office to which they may be elected or appointed, whether they do or do not own property.

But in North Carolina, an honest citizen cannot vote for Senator, unless he possesses 50 acres of land—he cannot be a member of the House of Commons, whatever may be his intellectual or moral worth, unless he possesses 100 acres—he cannot be a Senator unless he possesses 300 acres.—He may be the most distinguished for talents and virtue in the State; his learning and reputation may be world-wide—but a man who can neither read nor write, owning 300 acres of land, can hold offices, which the statesman and scholar has every qualification to fill—*except the land.* Strange indeed!—that the constitution nowhere requires a law-maker to read and write; but makes it indispensable that he should own a certain quantity of land! And this is a free country, in the enlightened Nineteenth century! in the 76th year of the independence of North Carolina! "Is he honest, is he capable, is he faithful to the constitution?"—these are the tests elsewhere, and the only ones. But, in *North Carolina*, to these must be added, for Legislators, the truly democratic inquiry, "Does he own 100 or 300 acres of land?" If not, though he may be honest, capable and faithful, in the highest degree, he cannot be a member of either branch of the Legislature.

This feature in our constitution is directly opposed to the 3d section of our Declaration of Rights, which declares, "that no man or set of men are entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services." Are not the men in the State who own 300 acres of land, erected into a "set of men entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges?" Are not the men who own 100 acres erected into a "set of men," &c.? Are not the freeholders of the State another "set," entitled to "exclusive privileges?" What an outrage upon equality of political rights, which we are taught belongs to the free people of a free country!

When this subject comes to be examined dispasionately by the freemen of the State, it would be an insult to their understandings to suppose they will not sweep away this old remnant of aristocracy! It serves no useful purpose at the present day. The experience we have had in self-government, has sufficed to put at rest the fears and prejudices of our fathers upon this subject;—and the people of North Carolina are prepared for every improvement called for by the progress of the age, and sanctioned by the spirit of liberty.

DISTRICT DELEGATES.

There are some Whig papers, we are pleased to see, who agree with the views we expressed last week upon the subject of Conventions in the different districts for the appointment of Delegates. Any plan is preferable to the eternal mode of having everything cut and dried and arranged in Raleigh, and sent out for endorsement by the people of the State. The prejudices thus created, whether justly or unjustly, have cost the Whigs dearly enough already; and we should think no one here would be anxious to bring to Raleigh any more of the responsibility of the business of distant districts than can well be avoided. Let us act our own parts well—let us organize as perfectly as possible—let us see that proper steps are taken in our own district for carrying out the popular system in the appointment of delegates, and urge the same upon the people of every other district we can reach,—and then do all in our power to elect our State and National nominees and Electors—and our whole duty will have been accomplished. No odium can attach to us then for cliques and caucuses in which we never dreamed of participating; and the cry of Central dictation will either be hushed altogether; or, having not even a shadow to rest upon, will be as *harmless* as it has heretofore been *insane*.

We trust this freedom of expressing our views will not be blamed by any one.—If, "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety," surely it is only by a free interchange of opinions that the *best mode* of accomplishing a desirable object can be ascertained: and we desire no weight for our counsel unless it is proper and sound.

☞ We conversed with a Whig friend from the Eastern part of the State a day or two ago, who, after expressing his pleasure at receiving our paper, remarked that he was very much opposed to the call of a Convention for amending the Constitution. Very well—of course all our Eastern friends are free to think and vote upon that subject as they please. We only hope they will allow us the same liberty, as there is no reason why they should not.

We are not putting this issue into the Whig creed by any means,—but yet some choice must be made upon the subject.—There are thousands opposed to *any* amendment of the Constitution, and who will vote against Reid and free suffrage, and all amendments, one by one or collectively; but they will be voting that way all their lives, if they allow the legislative mode of amendment to prevail; and see the constitution of the State degraded by being bro't into the political canvass every two years for a fresh tinkering. Is it not wise to end this thing at once, and oppose Free Suffrage by a Free Convention? The Whigs of the State have the decision to make.—They can, if they choose, cut loose from their Whig brethren in the West, and give the State to the Locofocos rather than carry it themselves. For us, the farthest Whig is nearer and dearer to us than any Locofoco and his schemes; and we shall support our Whig brethren, whether we are destined to triumph or defeat.

HON. W. H. WASHINGTON.

We learn that this gentleman has published a letter in the Newbernian, desiring that his name should not be brought before the Whig convention in connection with the office of Governor. As we have not yet received the Newbernian, we have not seen the letter.

WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The State convention of Maine, on Jan. 28th, adopted a resolution recommending the holding of the Whig National Convention at Philadelphia on the 17th of June next. We hope both time and place will be approved. The Democratic Convention meets in Baltimore on the 1st of June; and we should then have the advantage of knowing who are to be opposed for the Presidency and Vice Presidency.

☞ We are indebted to the Hon. James T. Morehead for a copy of the new edition of Webster's letter to Hulseman; and also for the Report of the Superintendant of the census; for which he will please accept our thanks.

A Democratic Meeting was held at Kenansville, in Duplin, on the 20th ult., at which James Buchanan was nominated for President of the United States, and Robert Strange for Vice President, subject to the ruling of the Baltimore Convention. Delegates were appointed to attend a District convention in Wilmington, on the 23d of April next.

SUPERIOR COURTS.

The Judges of the Superior Courts will ride the ensuing Spring circuits, in the following order:—

1. Edenton,	Judge Battle,
2. Newbern,	Judge Settle,
3. Raleigh,	Judge Dick,
4. Hillsboro',	Judge Caldwell,
5. Wilmington,	Judge Ellis,
6. Salisbury,	Judge Bailey,
7. Morganton,	Judge Manly.

A PLAIN STATEMENT.

We indulged the hope that no one who reads our paper could misunderstand our position on the Convention question; as we also trusted that it would not be the interest of any person to misrepresent it. We will endeavor to make it plain.

Our's is a Whig paper; and we found the subject of Constitutional Reform agitated among the people, first by Gov. Reid and the Democratic party, as to one feature of the Constitution, which they proposed to change by Legislative enactment. In common with the Whig party, we opposed him and his humbug, and, for the time, both were defeated. He was again nominated by the Democratic party, and, besides, free suffrage, another plank was added to the platform, namely, the election of Judges by the people for a term of years,—both these amendments to be made by Legislative enactment. We are opposed to this mode of amending the Constitution.—If extensive reforms are needed, it is wearisome, complicated and annoying; but more, because *party trickery* has been its mainspring, and not an honest desire to perfect the organic law, and secure the rights of the people. Gov. Reid succeeded; but the result of these struggles has been a demand for Constitutional Reform, springing up among the people themselves; and the following amendments have been proposed to the organic law of the State:—

1. The abolition of the property qualification for voters in the Senate.
2. The abolition of the property qualification for members of the Legislature.
3. Election of Judges by the people, for a term of years.
4. Election of Magistrates by the people for a term of years.
5. Election by the people of State officers.
6. Annual sessions of the Legislature, instead of biennial, as at present.
7. Election of Attorney and Solicitor General and Solicitors, by the people of the respective Judicial Districts.
8. To create a Lieutenant Governor to preside in the Senate, to be elected in the same manner, and for the same term as the Governor.
9. A change in the basis of representation in the Senate, from taxation to free white population and taxation combined.
10. The white basis in the Senate.

In view of all these amendments, which find more or less favor among the people throughout the State, and all of which nothing less than insanity could expect to incorporate into the fundamental law by Legislative enactment—a mode anti-republican at the best, as originating with the government and not from the people, the source of all political power,—we lay down the proposition—That the only proper republican mode of amending or altering the Constitution is by the people themselves in Convention assembled.

And we are therefore in favor of an open and unlimited Convention for reforming the Constitution.

Our reasons have been heretofore, and will be hereafter laid before our readers:—we speak now of our position.

We have been charged with advocating the free white basis for the Senate. We do not advocate it. Whether any change ought to be made in the basis, like every other amendment, we are content to leave to the people. Our columns are open to discussions upon the general subject, and upon all the specific amendments which have been or may be proposed. And for ourselves, we shall advocate such as seem to us reasonable and proper. No man will question the power of the people, however, to change the basis; nor do we believe such change would take away *the rights* of any portion of the State. It is a matter of policy whether property shall be represented, or the people who own the property. As a general principle, perhaps it ought to be the latter—but we do not urge any change in this respect to the white basis.

This question of Reform will perplex the State, until it is finally settled—constantly recurring, it will disturb every election;—mingle in the deliberations of the Legislature; harrass and embitter the minds of the people; engender sectional strife and animosity; and thus destroy the peace and retard the prosperity of the State. *A Convention* will most effectually and speedily dispose of it. And we hold it to be the interest of the people at once to take it up—deal with it as becomes freemen, to whom the duty alone belongs, and settle for themselves their own organic law, taking this trouble out of the hands of meddling demagogues and officious party politicians.

These are our views—such our position. We hope no Whig will proscribe us for the free and independent maintainance of what we think right—especially when we prefer the *Republican* to the *Locofoco* ground upon this subject; and choose rather to stand with our Whig friends than to cut loose from them and vote with our opponents.—To us, this is the path of duty.

☞ At a meeting of the Directors of the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road Company, held at Gaston, on the 29th ult., Joseph B. G. Roulhac, of Raleigh, was unanimously appointed a Director, in place of W. W. Vass, resigned.

A dispatch from Washington says the Hon. Mr. Merrick, late Senator from Maryland, is to succeed Lewis Cass, Jr, as charge at Rome. The latter will be transferred.