

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

The Tarboro' "Southerner" devotes its columns mostly to Agriculture and local matters. It publishes, however, Mr. Buchanan's Wheatland letter, containing the following bid for Southern Secessionists:—"Madison's Report and Jefferson's Kentucky Resolutions are the safest and surest guides to conduct a Democratic Administration of the Federal Government. It is the true mission of Democracy to resist centralism and the absorption of unconstitutional powers by the President and Congress. The sovereignty of the States and a devotion to their reserved rights can alone preserve and perpetuate our happy system of Government."

The Weldon "Patriot" contains an account of a trip to Petersburg; of course the Editor was well treated; and we may add "very" grateful. He mentions one strange thing though—"the arrival in the city of two lots of cotton, consigned to two different houses, and all belonging to one editor!" After that we are not surprised to find him popping into Ghina Stores and "Tin" shops.

The "Mountain Banner" has trouble about many things. "Some lazy scoundrel has stolen another axe from us." It was a broken axe. "Watch out, blacksmiths, as it will probably be brought to some of you to be mended." It is next exercised about mail facilities, and then about the mails. "Growling (we are told) seems to do no good, but we can't help it." It then pitches upon those "spungers" of society, "newspaper borrowers," and thinks "mighty little of the man that depends upon others for a newspaper, when they are so cheap, and he can so easily have one of his own;" and we agree with him.

The Editor also continues his "Tom Fannon, the celebrated Tory Partisan; a Revolutionary Romance" of which we wish him a successful delivery.

The Greensboro' "Patriot" addresses its Whig brethren at the East upon the Convention question; from which we quote in another column. We also give its article about the Mutual Insurance Company. To the "Standard's" several questions, "Where are you, gentlemen? What are you up to? who are you for? what are you for?" it answers, "We are here, sir! Up to snuff! For Fillmore and Graham now, and the Union forever! And afraid of nothing but the elephant!"

The Warrenton "News" says something of Venable's speech which "the crowded state of its columns" prevents it from giving at length. But it makes no mention of Abraham's political cuts at the "doggery" of Cass and Douglas. It goes for "harmony," we reckon, though it thinks it "probable that Hon. James Buchanan will get the nomination of the Baltimore Convention;" and "if the Whigs ever agree upon a time and place of holding a Convention, they will doubtless nominate General Scott." The Editor don't appear to be well posted up on either side. He must look sharper at the political world.

The Graham "Democrat" is easily suited with a candidate for the Presidency. "We prefer Buchanan, and shall continue to press his claims until the nomination is made. We hope he may receive it—be our first choice; and we believe the choice of the Southern Democracy, but if that distinguished honor is assigned to Cass, Douglas, Dickinson, Marcy, Butler or any other good and true Democrat we shall support him with no less zeal than if it was our favorite Buchanan whose claims we were pressing."

The Wilmington "Herald," in remarking upon the release of Thrasher and others, commends the Administration very highly for the course pursued.

"We consider the management of this Cuban affair difficult and irritating as it was, as a proud feather in the cap of the Administration. It is the result of a sound discretion, and of a calm and dignified policy, the most proper under the circumstances, and must be so regarded by all unbiased minds."

The "Herald" also has articles upon the French constitution and Valentine's day—the last a skittish subject, as appears from the following—"The question meets us, 'Do you expect a Valentine?' No! We are going into our 50th year now, according to history,—therefore none of your jokes. What do we care for fat Cupids with wings. Chubby pug-nosed rascals, don't bring your bows and arrows to this way. None of your blarney. Queer. Is Cupid an Irishman, or a native American?"

The "Observer" of the 12th commends Judge Strange's Address at the first anniversary of the Agricultural Society of Cumberland. We quote—"We presume that this country is now one of the richest in the State,—made so by its timber, lumber, and turpentine. If to this our farmers will only add the gain which may be made by skillful cultivation, it will vie with any, in the State or out of it, as a desirable place of residence. Its pure springs, its water power, its healthfulness, its contiguity to this and the other markets of the world, are pointed out in the Address; and it needs only that we should establish and pursue a system of skillful farming, to add to that tide of immigration which has already largely increased our population. It should no longer be our reproach, that corn, and flour, and bacon, and hay, are brought to us a thousand miles by sea, instead of being supplied at home and shipped to, instead of from, other States. We have within a few weeks repeatedly seen Northern hay going into the country from this place, in waggons and carts. The sight was humiliating."

The same paper says, in regard to the Bladen meeting—"We learn that our information was mistaken as to the vote in the Whig meeting in favor of a district convention. We now learn that there was no opposition to the proposition; namely, for a District Convention to appoint a Delegate to the National Convention."

The "Carolinian" gives up the point of having Delegates appointed to Baltimore, by the Democratic State Convention, in favor of a District Convention.—It refers, however to precedent in Tennessee and Alabama, where the Delegates were appointed by or at the State Convention. We have not heard how it

was in Tennessee; but in Alabama, they nearly all turned out to be Secessionists. The Carolinian has also the proceedings of the Democratic meeting in Cumberland on the 10th, in which they recommended Reid for reelection, and express their choice for President and Vice President, Buchanan and Strange. Delegates were appointed to the State and District Conventions; and Democracy in general glorified by addresses from Messrs. Dobbin, Wright, McDuffie and Shepherd. No accident occurred, we believe. The Carolinian remarks—"It is perfectly immaterial who the Whig party nominates,—David S. Reid will be Governor for two years more."

The Wadesboro' "Argus" follows up the nomination of Hon. John D. Toomer for Governor, with the following remarks:—"If Judge Toomer shall be the nominee of the Convention, he will receive a most hearty and enthusiastic support from all the true and faithful Whigs in this region of the State. Indeed we know of no man in the whole State for whom our people have more affection than they do for Judge Toomer. He has been amongst them much; and there is a daily beauty in his life that charms them always. We believe that he would be triumphantly elected. Surely the people of North Carolina would not select David S. Reid in preference to John D. Toomer. It would be taking a Satyr for Hyperion."

The "Argus" also takes "a stare at the face and platform of Democracy," in which it exhibits its two-faced portrait on the slavery question, North and South, on the Tariff, on Internal Improvements, National and State, &c. "At one time it looked with the utmost benignity on internal improvements, and seriously urged the State to borrow three millions of dollars for the purpose of building roads for the convenience of the dear people. In a very short time afterwards, when two or three attempted works of internal improvement had in a great measure miscarried, and the subject had become unpopular, this same Democracy set its face against all improvements whatever and denounced the Whigs as the 'Internal Improvement party.'"

Again it set its face against the Banks, and raised such a Hue and Cry that it succeeded in getting a majority of its disciples into the State legislature, where it Gerry-mandered the State in a most abominable manner, but left the Banks in all things untouched. Last summer it was an enemy to the Compromise measure of the last Congress and red-mouthed advocate of the right of a single State to secede from the Union whenever it thought itself aggrieved by the Government of the United States. Since the elections of the last summer, and fall it has declared that it will support no man for office who will not pledge himself to maintain the series of acts known as the Compromise Measures of the last Congress! Verily, "Democracy has but one face and but one platform"—at the same time."

But the platform. The platform, we acknowledge, "is large enough for all sections." On it we see, cheek by jole, Rantoul and Rhett, Secession and Abolition, Free trade and Restriction, Intervention and Non-intervention. It is such a platform as Burke once described in the British Parliament; a tessellated pavement. Here a bit of black stone, and there a bit of gray. And if it were not for the "cohesive power of public plunder," it would instantly fall to pieces beneath the feet of those who occupy it."

The Concord "Mercury" noticed "that the contractors were at work on a large proportion of the sections on the Railroad line between this place and Salisbury, and are progressing finely in the noble enterprise. This road bids fair, under the present energetic management, to be completed in a shorter time than any other road of the same length has been in the United States."

The Plymouth "Villager" calls public attention to the re-opening of Nag's Head Inlet, which it thinks better worthy of the attention of the nation than the Kossuth humbug: Hear! Hear!—"Let our Representatives from this State, again, lay the matter before Congress in its proper light, and inform that body, that it is the will of the people, that an appropriation should be made for the purpose of re-opening Nag's Head Inlet; and then, if that honorable body shall refuse, let it go on with its Kossuth humbug and five hundred a day, until its cup of glory shall have been filled, even to overflowing. Kossuth, like a ship's keel, widely displaces the waters where he moves, but when he is gone, every thing resumes its old place"—so we hope to hear from Congress, something concerning an appropriation for the re-opening of Nag's Head Inlet.

The Goldsboro' "Republican and Patriot" comes out for Buchanan as its first choice for President, as belonging to the "State's Rights school of politics," and for Robert Buchanan, an appointed (not attending) Delegate to the Nashville Convention, for Vice President. It thinks "that Mr. Buchanan is preferred by the Democracy of nearly every Southern State. Concert of action among them will enable them to take a strong position in the Baltimore Convention, and, even if Mr. Buchanan is not nominated, the Convention will be compelled to select a man entirely agreeable to the Southern Democracy."

Mighty well! mighty well!—the same papers, it is likely, who are so zealous for Buchanan now, after the Baltimore Convention, will be equally as fervent for W. O. Butler, the Free Soil candidate, whom Van Buren, Blair, Benton, Giddings and the rest of the Free Democracy, are moving Heaven and earth to place in nomination. We shall see. The object of these presses is very plain—to unite the Democracy on the nominee, so that, at the proper time, they may be bodily sold to Van Buren, Butler & Co. "State's Rights school," indeed!

The Charlotte "Whig" has a statement of the operations of the Branch Mint at that place, from which it appears that the receipt of gold bullion in 1851, amounted to \$316,000 52; and the gold coinage, same year, to \$24,454 50. Total, since 1838, gold bullion \$3,071,584 32; coinage \$3,053,984 50. The "Whig" also has an article upon the Governor's Proclamation, in which it takes ground against Legislative amendments to the constitution, and in favor of an unre-

stricted Convention. We quote—"The whole history of this question (free suffrage) from the first proves that the people have twice condemned it as a matter of constitutional reform. His Excellency was beaten upon it in 1848, and would have been in 1850, but for the unfortunate position which Gov. Manly occupied towards certain sections of the State. This is proved, first, by the fact that Manly's vote was increased from 1848 to 1850 in those sections where he was not personally unpopular; and secondly, by the fact that those members of the Whig party who represented those sections were Gov. Manly was rendered obnoxious, and whose votes and influence elected Gov. Reid, every one, we believe, voted against the present proposition to amend the constitution. Then, we say, let the Legislature not attempt to dictate to the people any longer, but give them the right to amend their own constitution. Give them an unrestricted convention, where they may amend it in all the particulars they desire."

The Salem "People's Press," on this same subject says:—"Amendments of the State Constitution by Legislative enactment, we consider very uncertain, at best, aside from other objections, which the passage of Free Suffrage through the last Legislature clearly shows. It is well known that that popular measure, barely escaped defeat in the Legislature by the reluctant votes of a few Eastern members, who finally concluded to grant this boon to the People, in hopes that it might at least put off the Convention question, if not silence it forever."

The Asheville "News" says, "The platform laid down by the Whigs of Buncombe, has secured the unqualified approbation of the friends of an unrestricted Convention throughout the State."

The "Messenger," we believe has quit writing Editorials, and gone to making money. How are you friend "Jeeves," and what are you for, now-a-days, besides Temperance? Any Whigs up your way?

The Milton "Chronicle" reads Mr. Venable something of a lesson, and puts him through in this way:—"We are glad to see that he has such a horror of Federalism and Abolitionism. What does he think of the democratic papers of this State advocating James Buchanan for the Presidency? We are no lawyer, but we can take a jury of 12 honest, common-sense men, and convict Buchanan not only of black-cockade federalism, but of Abolitionism. We can do it by democratic testimony. By democratic testimony we can prove him a federalist of the deepest die, and the bitter opponent to slavery. Can Mr. Venable swallow him? If so he'll swallow a bitter pill, as we can show should he (Mr. B.) be the candidate for the Presidency. 'Old documents are dangerous things,' and well would it be for Jimmy Buchanan if they were all in ashes."

The "Chronicle" also gives us to understand that "next to our countyman, John Kerr, Esq., Henry W. Miller is our choice for a candidate for the gubernatorial chair." Mr. Miller would make a Governor creditable in the highest degree to North Carolina; and so too would Mr. Kerr. Either of them would do honor to the office.

THE GREENSBORO' MUTUAL.

We have heard of three dwellings, with their contents, being recently destroyed by fire in Randolph county.

How comforting the owners would now feel, had their property been covered by policies in the Mutual Insurance Company of Greensboro'. For risks are taken on dwellings, barns, &c., in the country, as well as all sorts of town property. And the percentage is generally so much cheaper on the former than the latter, that company proprietors can afford themselves this protection without feeling very sensibly the expense.

Our merchants and business men are beginning to understand the beauty of effecting their insurance at home; and instead of sending North, are successfully building up State establishments. Right! If any profits are realized to any body let it be by our own people.

The Greensboro' Mutual Insurance Company has already assumed a permanent and flourishing stand, under the auspices of the indefatigable Secretary Mr. Adams. He remarked to us a fortnight since that he had issued over a hundred policies, and that applications were constantly coming in for consideration. If our jocular remark, made some weeks ago, about keeping the office in his hat had been indeed true,—an enlargement and fixed locality would now be required, for the amount of business is such that the documents are no longer portable.

We trust that no pains will be spared by the friends of home enterprise, to turn the attention of all who have been in the habit of insuring their effects, and all who ought to insure, from the wealthy and overgrown corporations of the northern cities, to the equally safe and more deserving establishments within our State.

Patriot.

NEW ORLEANS Feb. 9.—The four Massachusetts free negroes, charged with attempting to abduct a slave, and sentenced to be sold to slavery, in consequence of their inability to pay the fines, at Galveston, Texas, have been sold to the highest bidders, as follows: Sam'l Enalls, of Alabama, bought Anthony Hays for \$325; Levana Smith for \$370; and Wm. Brown for \$505, intending to resell them again at Mobile. John Fourty, of Galveston, bought Jacob Thompson for \$395, on speculation.

The Spanish steamer Colon, from Havana, arrived to-day, having on board Mr. Laborde, the late Spanish consul for this city, who now returns here to resume his official duties. The Spanish flag saluted on the arrival of the steamer, and all proper honors shown to the returning consul.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMER PACIFIC.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. NEW YORK, Feb. 12th.—The American Mail steamer Pacific arrived at her wharf at 4 o'clock this afternoon, after a stormy passage of 15 days, bringing Liverpool dates to the 28th of January.

PARIS, Jan. 27th.—The Moniteur to-day publishes the names 72 member of the new Senate and officers of government.—M. Baroche is named as Vice President, and is to preside over the Senate in the absence of President Napoleon. There are also 34 Counsellors of State named. The Ministry has been definitely constituted by the following appointments: Casabianca, Minister of State; M. Starnand, Minister of War; and M. Turgot, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Moniteur contradicts the rumors of fresh measures of severity about to be adopted on the part of the government. M. De Montalembert, and several other members of the consultative committee have resigned their functions in consequence of the severity of the decrees relative to the Orleans family.

Three persons were arrested on the 23d, at Montreal on the charge of having engaged in the insurrection of the 4th of December. Forty-six persons were also arrested in Loinen Garonne, to be transported to Cayenne and Algeria. M. Jules Fabre, president of the civic tribunal of Roden, has been arrested on a warrant charging him with having incited the inhabitants to civil war.

Accounts of trade in the provinces of France are generally favorable. Among the French Senators are Prince de Beauharnois, Murat, Gen. D. Polliers, Count de Cambaceres, Drouin del' Huys, Dumas, Dupin, Count Lamorcier, Gen. de St. Armand.

Napoleon is nominally president of the Council, M. Baroche is Vice President, with a salary of 80,000 francs. The presidents of the Sections, are to have 35,000 francs, and the Councilors 25,000 francs. Napoleon has published a decree abrogating that of the late provisional government abolishing all titles of nobility.

The impression is gaining ground in Paris that Louis Napoleon will seek an early opportunity to provoke a war with England, the probabilities of an invasion being earnestly discussed. The attention of the whole country is thoroughly aroused in regard to the national defences, and extensive measures of preparation were contemplated.

The French papers state that in consequence of the engineers strike in England large orders for machinery have been received in France.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 18th, noon.—The latest intelligence by telegraph from London brings the announcement that the report of the threatened invasion of England by Napoleon was current in that city. The government has ordered 30,000 stand of arms from Birmingham and 25,000 troops to London.

The London Daily news says that an order has also been sent recalling three of the principal ships of war on the Tagus to return with all despatch to England.

A Paris correspondent, writing to the London Standard, says that the President entertains no warlike intentions, and that the conscript system will be abolished. The formation of volunteer rifle corps in London is attracting much attention.

The cotton mill of Messrs. Frost, at Manchester, was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 24th. Loss 30,000. The mill contained 40,000 spindles, and 300 hands have been thrown out of employment.

AUSTRIA. Prince Windischgratz has definitely accepted the post of civil and military Governor of Hungary.

The Customs Congress of Vienna, having agreed upon no material points would be dissolved on the 28th of January.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 25th.—McHenry's Circular of the 27th says that in Cotton since the sailing of the Europa, that country has an increased demand, the sales of the three days being 32,000 bales, fully 12,000 of which were for export or speculation. Prices had barely advanced 1d. The exports are in qualities below middling.

At a concert recently, at the conclusion of the song, "There's a good time coming" a country farmer got up and exclaimed: "Mister, you couldn't fix the date could you?"

ARREST OF A FUGITIVE SLAVE IN NEW YORK.—The arrest of James Tasker, the fugitive slave of Jonathan Pinkney, Esq., Secretary of the senate of Maryland, took place in New York. According to the testimony of Mr. Walter Phelps, Tasker ran away in May, 1844, in company with several others. He had, it appears, been in the employ of Messrs. Battelle & Renwick, in New York, for eight years, and has three children in that city.

Tasker stated to the U. S. Commissioner that he had been enticed away, and that he was perfectly willing and anxious to return home with Mr. Pinkney, who had always treated him well, but desired to take his children with him. The Commissioner after a brief examination, ordered him to be delivered up to Mr. Pinkney who accompanied by the Assistant Marshall, started immediately for Maryland.

AN INSULT TO THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER.—MOBILE, Feb. 10.—Chevalier Hulsemann, the Austrian Minister to the United States, who arrived in this city yesterday, was grossly insulted last night by a crowd of persons, composed of Germans and other foreign residents, who assembled around his hotel, greeting him with jeers and shouts, and closing with a chariaty serenade of the most discordant sounds. Great indignation is felt by our citizens at the conduct of these disorderly persons; and it is believed that there was not a single American citizen among them.

DIVIDEND.—The Commercial Bank of Wilmington has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent. A country editor having received two gold dollars in advance, for his paper, says, that he 'allows his child to play with the other children as usual.'

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

At a meeting of a portion of the Stockholders of the North Carolina Rail Road Company (representing \$26,000 of said Stock) held at Newberne on Wednesday the 4th day of February, 1852, on motion of J. Blackwell, Esq., Dr. J. G. Tull was called to the Chair, and on motion of Alonzo T. Jenkins, Esq., Richard N. Taylor, Esq. was appointed Secretary.

The Chairman stated the object of the meeting to be, to take into consideration a change of the route and Eastern terminus of said Road, made at a recent meeting of the Directors; whereupon,

On motion of Dr. John R. Justice, a committee of five persons, viz: Wm. H. Washington, John Blackwell, John R. Justice, M. W. Jarvis and Edward R. Stanly, were appointed by the Chair to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting on the subject which had called them together, to be reported to an adjourned meeting on Friday at 3 o'clock, P. M. and on motion, the chairman was added to the said committee.

On Friday the 6th of February, the meeting having assembled according to adjournment, the Committee through their Chairman, W. H. Washington, reported the following resolutions, viz:

1. Resolved, That we concur in it to have been clearly the object and intention of the Legislature in granting the Charter for the North Carolina Rail Road to connect the same with Neuse River as well as the Wilmington and Raleigh Rail Road; to establish a great State work for the benefit of the people of the State at large and not to build up any particular town or towns; to give to the farmers of the country a choice of markets for their produce and not to furnish a monopoly to any particular people or place, and we cannot but regard any unnecessary departure from the provisions and intention of the said charter by which a preference is shown to a particular section of the State and a large portion thereof denied a participation in the benefits arising from said improvement, as a violation of the spirit of the Charter; and an act of gross injustice and wrong not only to the stockholders and people in this section of the State, but to all persons who may have occasion to send their produce on said Road.

2. Resolved, That we had supposed the route of the said Road and the terminus thereof had been definitely settled not only by the provisions of the Charter itself, but also by actual survey and by a solemn vote of the Directory in full meeting assembled.

3. Resolved, That we have heard thereof with surprise and regret, that at a recent meeting of the Directory in which our views and interests were neither represented or regarded, a change was made in the route of said Road and in the Eastern terminus thereof, which we consider an act of self and tending to the manifest wrong and injury of this section of the State. And though we have not seen the report of the Engineer on the subject, yet we are compelled to say that the reasons assigned for said change in a recent letter to the President of the Company, are wholly unsatisfactory.

4. Resolved, That while as members of a large tax-paying community, as good citizens of the State and (under all the circumstances) liberal subscribers to this great improvement, we are not only willing but sincerely desirous to do all in our power for the accomplishment of so noble an enterprise in the true spirit of the Charter, and in good faith to all the parties concerned, yet we are determined to resist all means to resist a violation of the Charter and to prevent gross infractions of our rights, and an utter ruin of our interests.

Said resolutions were unanimously adopted. J. G. TULL, Chairman. R. N. TAYLOR, Sec.

JUSTICE TO MR. CLAY.—The clunies heaped upon Henry Clay have been legion. No man ever suffered more from slander, and few there are living who have not better merited reproaches than Mr. Clay, who has received so many without cause. Of all the falsehoods, the most atrocious and the most blighting upon his political prospects was the cry of "Bargain and Sale" in 1825. It was a most foul conspiracy, which some of the parties to it have done what they could to atone for.—The recantation of Carter Beverly, the pious and credulous follower of Andrew Jackson; the frank letter of Gen. James Hamilton; the long sought after letters in the possession of Francis P. Blair, have all been published as so many evidences, not only of the innocence of Mr. Clay, but of the sad consequences of this stupendous plot. Mr. Buchanan's agency in the great crime of the year 1825, is well known. Charged with the most serious character have rested upon him for the past seven years, with an overwhelming accumulation of affirmative and negative testimony. His friends have not come forth to defend him. He has offered no apology. In view of Mr. Buchanan's position, a correspondent of the Boston Journal says:—

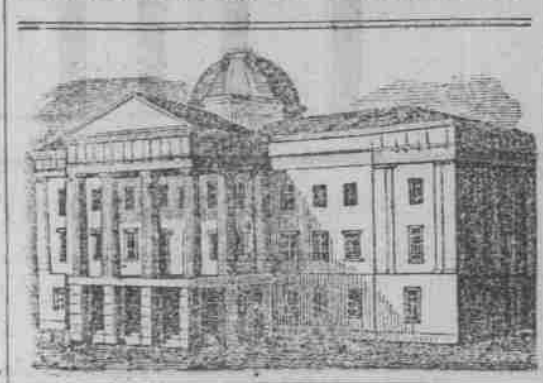
He has imposed upon himself a sentence that betokens the consciousness of having wronged. It is in his power to do justice to Henry Clay, while he yet lives, so that his setting sun, whenever witnessed, shall be what it is in its mid-day splendor.—But he will not do it. Magnanimity, an attribute of genuine greatness, does not belong to his character.

Perhaps the writer may be wrong in this, but it is most certainly true he knows that the falsity of slanders, which, if not by speech, by silence at least he has done more to propagate than any other public man.

The Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot says that Mrs. James Brooks has been presented with a splendid carriage, and appropriate harness and equipments, as a tribute of respect to her husband for his judicious and patriotic course in sustaining the Compromise measures of last Congress, and generally for his statesmanlike and high minded career in favor of the Union, the best interests of the country, and the whole country without regard to sectional or geographical lines. The writer says:—"It was accompanied by a complimentary and appropriate letter from Messrs. Tomlinson & Co., carriage makers, setting forth the motive for the public spirited act, without communicating the names of the contributors."

A country editor having received two gold dollars in advance, for his paper, says, that he 'allows his child to play with the other children as usual.'

RALEIGH TIMES.



RALEIGH, N. C. FRIDAY FEB. 20, 1852.

CONVENTION QUESTION.

Attention is invited to the articles we publish from other papers upon this important subject.

We are very much pleased to have this preliminary discussion go on now, before the meeting of the State Convention. If we are in the wrong, we are willing to be set right. Our desire is to advance the interest of the State, and promote the success of the party to which we belong.

It has been said that we ought not to bring the question of a Convention to amend the constitution into the canvass for Governor, because it has no legitimate connection with the office, and we should have regard to the fitness of things.

The subject of Reform is already in the canvass for Governor—it is Governor Reid's strong, if not his only point. It is the platform adopted by the Democratic Convention in 1850, upon which he was elected, and carried out in part by the Legislature of '50-'51, in the Free Suffrage bill. If it were not so, it would be sufficient to say that our wishes do not govern in this respect. In all the States where the Governor is elected by the people, the candidates are expected to canvass on all matters before the people: It would be strange if it were not so. How would it look? Here is a question agitating extensively the people of his State—controlling, in many portions of it, the legislative elections—one candidate for Governor, and his party, have already taken ground upon it, and his election is urged mainly upon this ground, with the prestige of a former election upon it in his favor.

The other candidate, instead of meeting the subject of Reform fairly, as becomes a true man and a good Whig, is desired to stand up before the people and say—"I take no ground on this question—my election or defeat will decide no issue in regard to it—it does not belong to the canvass for Governor, because he has nothing to do with altering the constitution—the candidates for the Legislature must discuss this question, for they will have the power to decide it."—Well—then he must turn a deaf ear to every question put to him in relation to it; and refuse to answer what he is for, or what he is against. What a position will such a man occupy? Really, we cannot contemplate such a state of things.

Again, this kind of reasoning will shut out from the canvass almost every other question that comes before the people.—The Presidential question usually enters largely into the gubernatorial canvass—but the Governor's election has no legitimate connection with it, upon the same principle. The office of Governor has less to do with National than State policy—that then must come into the canvass for members of the Legislature who will have the right and duty of passing upon National measures. So of almost every issue that may be presented. Yet we see that all these questions, and every other discussed by the press and the people,—most of which have no legitimate connection with the office of Governor—invariably come into the canvass, and the people expect to hear clearly the views of the respective candidates upon them all.

It is only necessary to refer to the manner in which this subject of State Reform was intruded into the canvass in 1848, to bring before the minds of all, the necessity which demands its presentation now, and the insuperable obstacles against its being altogether diverted from the gubernatorial to the Legislative campaign. The Convention which nominated Gov. Reid, in 1848, was silent in regard to it, and brought him out on National grounds alone. He first introduced it in his public discussions at Newbern and Beaufort,—it was immediately taken up by the presses and partisans of Democracy, discussed and advocated.—Governor MANLY found himself compelled to take ground upon the subject, and he opposed the proposition of his opponent, believing the people to be satisfied with the constitution at it was. He was sustained by the Whig presses and the people of the State—but his majority was less than a thousand votes.

Gov. Manly took the very ground now urged upon us, that this subject did not belong to the gubernatorial canvass. In 1850, accepting the nomination of the Whig State Convention, he recapitulated his experience as follows:—

"Knowing full well the excitement, the sectional disturbance and the paralyzing influence on the progress of our State in times past, caused by the agitation of this question of constitutional reform; having no authority as the organ of the Whig party to declare their sentiments in regard to it, and neither opportunity nor time afforded during an ardent contest in now time afforded during out the topic; to exclude it from the canvass; to warn my party friends to beware of such political trickery, and not to permit themselves to be divided upon this new issue about amending the Constitution of the State—An issue which had not been mooted by the people," &c., &c.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING. A meeting of our Democratic fellow-citizens was held at the City Hall on Monday afternoon. KIMBOROUGH JONES, Esq. was called to the chair, and W. W. Holden acted as Secretary. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. Saunders, Wilder, Branch and Busbee. Gov. REID was nominated for reelection, and delegates appointed to the State and District Conventions. A resolution was also adopted, calling a National Convention at May Court, for the nomination of candidates for the Legislature. The meeting was a respectable one, and very harmonious.

Hon. GEORGE E. BADGER will please accept our thanks for the Mechanical part of the Patent Office Report, 1850, & 51.

"They knew full well that such questions of reform pertained exclusively to the legislative power and to the people in their sovereign character—that the governor had no power to adjust this measure; no voice to establish it, no veto to prevent it. That his election on the one side or the other would neither advance nor retard a single step the progress of such reforms."

"It became my steady aim and effort to shut out the topic; to exclude it from the canvass," &c. Did he succeed? Did he neutralize its influence? Did he even find himself able to abstain from its discussion in the canvass which succeeded. By no manner of means. We all know the contrary; and every man may estimate for himself, the power it had in deciding the contest of that year—the result no one will dispute. We lost the Governor and the majority in both branches of the Legislature.

Since that time, the subject has increased in importance; if it was found impossible to shut it out of the canvass in 1848 and '50, how are we to exclude it now? It must be met in some way. It is not optional with the Whig party to discuss the Free Suffrage bill or not. That is presented before the people in every paper of the State by the authority of the Legislature. If the Whig party divide upon it, as now seems likely, we regard the chance of electing a Whig Governor desperate. Our desire is to obtain some ground upon which we can all stand—for the idea of inaction or neutrality is clearly out of the question.

1. Shall we occupy our former ground, on this question? 2. Shall we advocate the call of a Convention to amend the Constitution? 3. Shall we leave it to our nominee to meet his opponent upon such grounds as to him shall seem best?

These are questions for the wisdom of our State Convention to decide, upon a comparison of views among the Delegates, in April next. We expect to support their nominee, as every body knows. If our views do not prevail, though they appear to us right, it will cause no abatement in our attachment to the cause, or zeal in its service. If there is no way of stopping this trading in Reform by Democratic aspirants for the Governor's chair, why then we must submit to it; and it bids fair to go on for very long time to come.

RUMORS OF WAR.

Our readers are referred to the news by the Pacific relating to the threatened invasion of England by France. The anticipation of war between these two great powers, we confess we hardly know how to entertain; and yet it is not stranger in our mind, than the coup d'etat by which Louis Napoleon, overthrowing a settled constitution, under which his rank and power had been obtained, erected a government dependant upon his own will, and subject to his own revision. The French nation followed him blindly—ratified his acts by such a vote as the world never saw—and stooped the neck to the yoke with a yielding pusillanimity which we never expected to see among any civilized people on earth. How his purposes require war and the invasion of England, who can doubt that his actions will be approved and his designs seconded by the French nation? If Napoleon really embark in this business, will not the consequences be most disastrous to France, and therefore to himself? We cannot doubt it. England is too powerful—too strong in fleets and armies—for France at any time. She proved so in the great struggle which ended in her splendid victory at Waterloo—but all time which has since passed has added to her strength and resources—and, at the present day, with perfect tranquility at home, and with prosperity pervading all her wide-spread empire, she will undoubtedly prove the most formidable antagonist in the world, under the able and sagacious statesman now at the head of her affairs. Who can have the same confidence in France, under Louis Napoleon?

Further intelligence will be looked for with great anxiety. What we know is that England is engaged in extensive preparations for defense, 25,000 troops having been ordered into London, and the principal ships of war re-called from the station in the Tagus. The Morning Chronicle publishes a letter from its Paris correspondent, the statements of which are quite alarming.

"I am credibly informed that at the present moment the President's whole idea is with respect to the invasion of England;—that he has consulted generals, studied the plans of the Boulogne expedition, received reports on the feasibility of the Channel. There is not a man connected with the Elysee that does not affect to speak of the invasion as an affair that is not only practicable, but which will be attempted. Let it not be supposed that a pretext is necessary. There are, unhappily, too many points on which it would be easy to rouse the feelings of the French nation, and any one of which would be an excuse for war."

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