SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The Salisbury "Watchman" publishes the article of the Argus on "Free Suffrage," with the following preliminary remarks:

"The clarion notes of party strife in the old North State, are beginning to sound out from mountain top to mountain top, nd their reverberations to wake the humble dwellers in the vales below. Soon the masses, who have enjoyed for some months past the quiet and peaceful pursuits of life, aroused from their repose, will be seen mingling in a civil strife on measures of a political nature—measures which no oppression or necessity felt by them suggested, but for which they may thank or blame, as they happen to feel, the demon *party*. It is rarely the case that the *people* demand a change in the organic law, or the recognition of a new principle of Government. Designing politicians—*party leaders*—men who have not that religious concern for the true interests of the country which they ought to feel, most generally make the discovery of errors, and first groan under the oppression of wrongs, which they afterwards stir up the people to reform. And strange to tell, tho' these wrongs are mostly *fanciful*, yet they too often succeed in making the people believe that they are monstrous, and incite them to carry out their wicked behests."

The same paper says:

"From present indications we are forced to believe that Mr. Fillmore will be the Whig candidate for the Presidency in the approaching election. No man possesses higher claims, and in view of all the questions involved in the approaching contest, no man, we think, stands so good a chance of success."

The Charlotte "Whig" says:

"There can be no good reason given for a man canvassing for Governor to blend questions of State policy with those which relate to and affect the national administration. Indeed when a man canvassing for Governor jumps astride of a popular political hobby in order to secure his own election, he makes of himself a political demagogue, and sinks far beneath the sphere of that honorable post. We for one do not wish to see the candidate of the Whig party riding any such an animal into office; not even that of an unrestricted convention.—Any man, Whig or Democrat, who pursues such a policy not only degrades himself and the office itself (when he is in it,) but he is concerning himself about that which neither the constitution, nor his moral duty, nor the people's interest, nor any other consideration, demands at his hands. Then we say, let those persons, who shall be found canvassing the several counties as candidates for the State Legislature during the coming summer, discuss these questions of constitutional reform as they should be, and our word for it, the Whig party will not suffer in the result. By this process we will elect our candidate for Governor by a triumphant majority, and secure for our party an overwhelming majority in the Legislature.'

The Wilmington "Commercial" of the 12th has the following paragraph:

"The time has not arrived for the discussion of the matter relative to the amendment of our State Constitution, but we will not fail, on proper occasions, to continue the expression of our sentiments in favor of and our reasons for an open Convention, in which the voice of the people may be expressed. There are some errors prevailing in regard to the effect of such a Convention, which we trust will be cleared up to the satisfaction of the people.

There is a disposition among some of our friends to avoid the issue of the Convention subject, in the canvass for Governor—because they think it has no legitimate connexion with it. This is very true—but still it will be an issue of paramount importance, in spite of all that can be said or done by any body. So all hands may as well go to work with this consequence in view. It may be disagreeable, but if it were the small pox you would be obliged to take it—so keep cool about it."

The Milton "Chronicle" perceives from Wheeler's History, that—

"C. N. B. *Webb* is publisher of the Milton Chronicle. We have no acquaintance with this man "Webb." We wish he would show himself just about this juncture of affairs and face some "duns" (arising from the publication of the paper,) like a man, and not keep himself concealed from the sight of every body. Wheeler ought to write one more History, and then go up *that tree* of his—what do you call it? A Map Tree, we suppose. Never saw a tree like it—we have seen weather, however, when we would have given "our pile" for a few hours protection under a tree like that from the hot sun."

The "Chronicle" asks—

"Why not re-elect Mr. Fillmore? Why put him aside—when he has administered the Government to the almost entire satisfaction of every Democrat in the Union, excepting the Office-hunting portion and their peculiar tools? No man in America could administer the Government more satisfactoliry to the People without regard to parties, and we cannot see anything to be gained for the Country by turning Mr. F. out and putting in another man. All acknowledge him a good President—and being a good President we submit if it would not be wise in the American people to elect him President for four years from the 4th of March next? Why not? What will the Country gain by putting another man in his place? That is a question which demands the serious reflection of every man in the Union."

The "Albemarle Bulletin," in an article on State Reform says:

"The wry faces, contortions and "sputterings" of those who swallowed the "Free Suffrage" *pill*, last winter, may have been amusing enough to the spectators, but they also were significant symtoms to all who attempted a *prognosis*, under the circumstances. They showed that although "the patients" were willing to take a "nauseous dose," in order to avoid one, not only unpalatable in itself, but fatal in its consequence, it would be a difficult task to force another such "nostrum" down their reluctant throats. Utterly disgusted with a practice, by which they have been seriously *injured already*, they have resolved to discharge their Doctors, and prescribe hereafter for themselves. "Free Suffrage" or a Convention were the alternatives presented to "the patients;" as sensible men, they selected the *lesser evil*, and swallowed the *milder dose*. Is there any thing strange in this? Was there any compromise of principles or independence in such a course?—Could they as conscientious men act in any other way?"

The Plymouth "Villager" says:

"The Fisheries on the Roanoke, are doing a pretty fair business; those on the sound, are not doing so well. It is thought, the run of fish will be good during the season."

A correspondent of the "North State Whig" comments upon the oppression attempted to be exercised towards purchasers of Swamp lands by the Literary Board. We quote:

"In looking over your paper of the 25th of Feb., past, I there find a copy of the regulations made by the Literary Board, for the purpose of enabling persons wishing to purchase Swamp Land to get a title for the same. 1st. they say the person wishing to purchase must, at his own expense, have the land surveyed by the County Surveyor, and have two fair plats made. 2nd. he must apply to the Clerk of the County Court, get him to appoint two gentlemen to value the same under oath; he must then get a Justice of the Peace to certify to that point. 3rdly. he must then get the Clerk to certify, &c. These things all being done, he must send the papers thus made out to the Literary Board, who will, they say, decide upon the application, and if the valuation &c. appears reasonable &c. they will confirm the same. Now, sir, you will perceive the enormous expense a person must be run into in order to prepare the papers for the decision of the Board, all at the risk of having his whole proceedings negatived. Now I would ask if any one living or dead ever yet has seen such an attempt to exercise authority in this republican country? Here, you will perceive, are five persons, all acting under oath, the Surveyor, the valuers, the Justice, and Clerk; and although they have thus acted, yet the Literary Board must nevertheless set themselves up as judges of the value,—notwithstanding they have pointed out the manner in which said land shall be valued. Now certainly the Literary Board cannot be so very weak as to suppose any person, save an idiot, could be kidnapped by these spider-web regulations."

The Wadesboro' "Argus," in an article about Presidential aspirants, expresses the opinion that—

"Mr. Buchanan is evidently the favorite of the Democracy of North Carolina. Mr. Douglass is, however, the prime favorite of his Accidency, the Governor of North Carolina—and, of course, of his Accidency's organ, the North Carolina Standard. This difference of opinion between the Court and its organ on the one side and the masses of the party on the other, is not without substantial reason: Mr. Buchanan is much better qualified for the office of President than Mr. Douglass, is much more conservative in his views, and therefore more acceptable to the unsophisticated masses. Douglass on the other hand is a near relation, by marriage, to his Accidency, and most assuredly would, if elevated to the Executive mansion in the Federal City, bestow upon his cousin David S. of North Carolina the Mission to Spain; and upon the Standard, the advertising for North Carolina and the printing of sundry fat jobs for the Departments.—Nay—we do not know but that his Ugliness might be transplanted to Washington City itself, to edit the Administration organ.—How the man would suit the master! Douglass and Holden—*Arcades Ambo!*"

The Graham "Democrat" says—

"Our neighbors of the Greensboro' Patriot need not give themselves any uneasiness about locofoco fears of Gen. Scott. As to the British and Mexicans, it was, we believe, very much against the wishes of the party to which the editors of the Patriot belong, that *they* should fear him; and it was hardly to have been expected, that they should have abused one, who stood so high with *their friends*. The charge "that he is a granny and coward," we have no doubt the editors of the Patriot would like to see made; especially the latter as it is on his military fame that the whig party base their hope of electing him. When the charge of "grannyism" is made, we think it would not be hard to show that the Gen. has exhibited on more than one occasion, to say nothing of the "hasty plate of soup," decided symptoms of that infirmity; and if his own statements are to be credited we are authorised in saying that he is at least, afraid of a 'fire in the rear.' But we do not say that he is either "a granny or a coward." There are enough objections to Genl. Scott, (without gratifying the whigs by making these) which the editors of the Patriot cannot answer, and which the people will not overlook."

The Weldon "Patriot" exhorts its neighbors in the following words:

"Whigs of Halifax, you cannot be indifferent in regard to the Convention to be held in Raleigh the 4th Monday of next month—When your brother Whigs from every part of the State shall assemble tn the Capitol, to deliberate upon matters pertaining to the best interest of the party, you should be there to utter forth a voice expressive of your determination in the day of battle to "fight a good fight." You should be there to cheer your brother Whigs elsewhere to strive for victory. You should be there to imbibe afresh renewed zeal in behalf of the principles of our party, and the welfare of our common country."

The "Newbernian" is occupied with the farther discussion of the Terminus difficulty, concluding with the question,—

"On the whole, is it not adding insult to injury to attempt to make those who are concerned in the river interest believe that this change cannot effect them injuriously?"

On State policy, the Newbernian says:

"If the convention question must come, let us at least drop it for the present, so far as is practicable, move in solid phalanx against Locofocoism, and rescue the State from its baneful influence. Who knows too, but this may be the most certain means of putting a quietus upon one of the humbugs at least which the Locofoco success in the State has forced upon us, and which the western Whigs so much abominate? We mean the amendment of the constitution by the Legislature. We can all unite in opposition to that."

The "Telegraph" gives a syhopsis of two lectures delivered by Professor Emmons, in Goldsboro', on Agricultural Chemistry.

The "Old North State says:

"The Whigs of North Carolina have made selection of Mr. Fillmore because they are proud of, and well satisfied with his entire course of policy, since a dispensation of Providence has called him to fill the Executive Chair; because he has been tried and found to possess all the traits of character, fitting him to fill the highest position among an enlightened and free people; because he has proved himself true to the South, and to the whole Union, by his course upon the Compromise; because he is determined to uphold the National character for probity and strict regard to treaty stipulations; because he is opposed to involving us in entangling alliances with foreign nations, or of mixing us up with European politics; and finally, they are in favor or him because he is a true Whig, devoted to their policy, and, of course, to the prosperity of the country."

The Greensboro' "Patriot" has articles upon "State issues," and the Eastern Terminus. We transfer part of the first to our columns.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In Senate, March 9, Mr. Rusk reported a joint resolution authorizing the appointment of an additional assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Pratt reported adversely on the petitions of deputy marshals asking additional compensation for taking the census. Mr. Bayard's resolution referring the printing of the census returns to a select committee was adopted. Mr. Stockton introduced a bill granting bounty land to sailors engaged in the Mexican war.—The joint resolutions on the subject of non-intervention were then taken up, and Mr. Seward addressed the Senate in favor of some amendments he had proposed affirming our right to intervene in the affairs of Hungary by protest, &c., after which Mr. Jones of Tenn. obtained the floor and the subject was postponed to Wednesday week.

In the House, a bill granting right of way and public lands for a railroad in Alabama came up, and Mr. Clingman moved an amendment exempting iron to be used on this and all other roads from duty; bonds being given that it shall be used for that purpose within three years after importation; and rendering it ultimately subject to double duty if not so used. The speaker decided the amendment out of order in this bill. Mr. Orr appealed from this decision, and the appeal was laid upon the table. Mr. Phelps presented the petition of A. W. Reyholds, contesting the right of R. H. Weightman to his seat as delegate from New Mexico. The subject was laid over. The homestead bill granting land to every head of family, was then taken up, and Messrs. Wilcox and Rantoul made violent political speeches. The House adjourned.

In Senate, March 10, Mr. Downs reported resolutions in relation to defective census returns from California; and to direct that the number of electoral votes to which each State shall be entitled in the election of President and Vice President of the United States in 1852, shall be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which each of said States will be found entitled by the apportionment under the enumeration of 1850, as provided by the act "for taking the seventh and subsequent censuses," approved May 23, 1850. The bill granting lands to Iowa for railroads was taken up, and Mr. Borland addressed the Senate in support of it. Mr. Cass obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Clingman made an unsuccessful attempt to proceed to the consideration of appropriation bills for the Library, and capitol buildings. The homestead bill was taken up, and Mr. Richardson, of Ill., defended Senator Douglas against Mr. Breckenridge's charges in a former speech. Mr. B. rejoined. Mr. Washburn spoke on the European and North American Railroad. Mr. Marshall of Cal. obtained the floor, and the committee rose. The bill appropriating $75,000 for repairs of Congressional Library room was then passed. Mr. Stanly offered a resolution to close the debate on the homestead bill to-morrow at 3 o'clock, in order to consider the deficiency bill, and asked the yeas and nays on its passage, that the country may see who are responsible for the delay in public business.—They were ordered; pending which, the House adjourned.

In Senate, March 11, the credentials of Mr. Brooke, U. S. Senator from Miss. were presented, he was sworn and took his seat. A resolution appropriating $5,000 out of the contingent fund of the Senate to pay the expenses attending the reception of Louis Kossuth in Washington city, was debated, and passed by the following vote: yeas 31; nays, Messrs. Borland, Cass, Clarke, Mason, Morton and Pratt—6. The Senate held an executive session, and then adjourned.

In the House, the resolution of Mr. Stanly proposing to close debate on the homestead bill on Thursday was adopted, yeas 121; nays 29. The bill was then postponed to Tuesday week, after to-day, by unanimous consent. Being now taken up, Mr. Marshall of Cal. made a political speech in favor of Douglas for President, and in reply to Mr. Breckenridge, who questioned and rejoined. The democratic battle was quite hot. Messrs. Bell and Cable also addressed the House. Mr. Fuller of Maine, obtained the floor, and the committee rose. The House adjourned.

In Senate, March 12, the private calendar was taken up, and 13 private bills ordered to be engrossed, and 3 passed.—Other bills were postponed, and the Senate adjourned to Monday.

In the House, the joint resolution authorizing the continuance of work on the two wings of the capitol was taken up, and gave rise to a long debate. Mr. Brown of Miss. made a party speech, and defended the State rights democrats against the Union democrats of Mississippi. Mr. Wilcox took the floor, and the following "harmonious" scene ensued.

Mr. Wilcox said: I was informed that I was to be devoured this morning by my friend, for such I hail him to be, and he is such; but, really, the storm is past; the missiles of my colleague were weak, and have fallen harmless at my feet. My colleague says that the Secession party in Mississippi existed as a chimera, and that there is no party in favor of secession. I had thought that the gentleman had too high a regard for truth as to rise and make a declaration so baseless of truth.

Mr. Brown. I desire to ask my colleague whether he means to say that I have been guilty of a falsehood? That inference may be left upon the minds of some gentlemen.

Mr. Wilcox. I have spoken boldly; my language cannot be misconstrued on that point.

Mr. Brown (who was standing near the gentleman.) Do you mean to say that what I have stated is false?

Mr. Wilcox. If you mean to say that there is no party in Mississippi in favor of secession, it is false. [This we believe to be substantially the purport of the dialogue.]

Mr. Brown, directly the last word was uttered, struck Mr. Wilcox a blow in the face, which was returned. The parties then closed. In a moment they were surrounded by the majority of the members of the House. The utmost alarm and excitement prevailed in every part of the Hall. There were calls for the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Doorkeeper. In vain the Chairman of the committee endeavored to enforce order. Messrs. Brown and Wilcox were separated at about the time the Speaker resumed the chair amidst great confusion. Calls were made for the Sergeant at arms to take them into custody; but when the tumult subsided, Messrs. Brown and Wilcox apologised to the House, and there was no more of it. Mr. Clingman's resolution to close debate on the capitol extension bill in one hour after the House again goes into committee, was passed, and the House adjourned.

On Saturday last, the Senate was not in session. In the House, Mr. Polk stated that the difficulty between Messrs. Brown and Wilcox had been adjusted in a manner highly honorable to the parties, who again occupy the position which they did previous to the occurrence. The joint resolution for the enlargement of the Capitol was taken up, in committee of the whole, and a long debate followed in five minutes speeches. The amendment appropriating $500,000 was then put and agreed to; after which the committee rose, and reported the amendment. A motion to lay the resolution on the table was negatived, yeas 43, nays 124; the amendment was adopted, and the House adjourned.

In Senate, on Monday, petitions and resolutions of inquiry were presented; after which, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the joint resolution making an appropriation for the continuation of the work on the wings of the Capitol, with the House amendment increasing the appropriation to $500,000. A debate ensued upon the propriety of referring the resolution, in which Mr. Borland made a violent attack upon the administration for extravagant expenditures of the public money, and called upon the Democratic party to stand firm and resist this encroaching march of consolidationism, by arraying themselves against the lavish expenditures of the irresponsible Whig head at the other end of the avenue. Mr. Manguin replied. He thought there were others to blame for the increased expenditure by the General Government. The Senator's own party were here in a majority; they had the control of both branches of Congress. The Senator—nor could any one else—did not pretend to say that the administration expended a single dollar except by warrant and authority of law. The blame was with the party who were in the ascendency here. The President could do nothing himself; he had no troops; with both Houses of Congress opposed to him by large majorities, he could expend only what the other party appropriated. He would pursue the subject no further now, but at some future time would reply to the gentleman's speech. The subject was then postponed; and the Iowa railroad land bill was taken up; when Messrs. Cass and Downs advocated the passage of the bill, and Mr. Broadhead opposed it. The Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Phelps called up the memorial of A. W. Reynolds contesting the right of R. H. Weightman to his seat as Delegate from New Mexico, and proceeded to speak of the charges made in the memorial, of corruption on the part of Gov. Calhoun in his official capacity.—Mr. Weightman replied in defence of the Governor. The memorial was then referred to the committee on Elections, and the House adjourned.

THE COMING ELECTIONS.

Present indications favor a warm and interesting political State campaign, next summer, for the election of Governor and members of the Legislature. And already the notes of preparation are being heard in the land for the Presidential campaign, in which sectional prejudices, we fear, will again be stirred up.

Gov. Reid will be the Democratic candidate for re-election to the Gubernatorial Chair. In connection, free suffrage, or another *mere taste* of the wholesome Reform measure will probably be again held out to the people.

The Whigs, we believe, are yet somewhat in a fog, as regards their candidate for Governor, which the Raleigh Convention will, no doubt, dissipate, and bring out the most available candidate to full view.

The next Legislature will have the responsible duty to perform of redistricting the State, and the political contest for the ascendancy in that body, will be a warm one.

As we do not see how the Convention question can be kept altogether out of the canvass, it may be proper to state for the information of the public, that all the Democratic State papers, which fall under our notice, are opposed to a free Convention of the People, freferring amendments to the Constitution by Legislative enactment, which with all due deference to our Western cotemporaries, seems to us like playing into the hands of the East at the expense of the West! The East has the power in the Legislature, under the *present* arrrangement of the basis of representation, to defeat any measure in that body. Therefore it is policy for the East to oppose a free Convention. We, however, again say, as there may be a difference of opinion as to the *propriety* of a Convention,—Put the question to the sovereign people!

But how a Western man can come out and honestly oppose this great movement, in which his section of the State has so much at stake, (Representation and distribution of the School Fund on the White basis,) we cannot divine, unless there be sinister objects to accomplish by *piecemeal* Legislative tinkering at the Constitution, in which *Politicians* are the principal actors! However, if we mistake not the signs of the times, the people are tired of this maneuvering, this political log rolling, and want no more of it. And he who will not freely trust the Sovereigns with the affairs of State, is unworthy of their countenance and support.—*Salem Press.*

Good deeds, though they sometimes are not rewarded in this life, are sure to be in that beyond the tomb.

WHIG MEETING IN PITT.

In pursuance of a call previously made a very respectable meeting of the Whigs of Pitt county, was held in the Court House in Greenville, on Thursday evening, the 4th instant (being Superior Court week,) when F. B. Satterthwaite, Esqr., was called to the Chair, and in a short address explained the object of the meeting.

On motion of Dr. Elias J. Blount, Jno. A. Selby was appointed Secretary.

The meeting being thus organized, Edward C. Yellowley, Esq., arose and addressed the meeting, and concluded by offering the following resolutions for the consideration of the meeting:

Resolved, That we approve the purpose of the Whigs to hold a convention in the city of Raleigh on the 26th of April next, to nominate a candidate on the Gubernatorial ticket; and also the purpose of the Whigs of this Congressional District to hold a convention in the town of Greenville on Wednesday the 5th day of May next, to appoint Delegates to represent this District in the Whig National Convention.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint sixty delegates to represent this county in the State and District conventions.

Resolved, That while we intend unanimously to sustain with all our zeal, whatever thorough conservative Whig the State convention may nominate, we nevertheless cannot let this opportunity pass, to express our great admiration for the distinguished personal and Whig character of John Kerr, of Caswell, and the earnest hope we entertain that he may receive the nomination of the convention.

Resolved, That in this connexion, as citizens of our noble State, who glorify in her prosperity and lament her shame, we feel it a duty to express our regret and indignation at the official conduct of David S. Reid since he became Governor—that the course he has pursued compels us to regard him as an intriguing politician, and not as a statesman—as a man who looks more to the reward of party followers than the patriotic administration of his office—and that his conduct particularly in regard to the improvement of Tar river, as provided by an Act of the Legislature, indicates the time-serving and reckless partisan.

Resolved, That in Millard Fillmore we recognise the model Statesman—the noble and fearless Patriot—the President of the Union; and that with him as our candidate for the presidency, and the equally unexceptionable Graham for the Vice Presidency, the Whigs of this State—the *people* of this State, would march to a complete victory over the Secessionist and the Free-soiler.

The question was put upon the adoption of said resolutions, and they were unanimosly carried. Delegates were then appointed, and the meeting adjourned.

New Orleans, March 10.—The Democratic Convention assembled at Baton Rogue, and declared Cass the first choice of the party in Louisiana, the vote being 101 for Cass to 72 for Douglas. Mr. Buchanan was withdrawn, and his friends joined the Cass party. Resolutions were passed, approving of the Democratic platform of the last National Convention, and declaring that the party will vote for any nominee of the Baltimore Convention.

A resolution declaring, Douglas the second choice of the Convention, was voted down.

There was no harmony in the Convention, which adjourned *sine die* last evening.

Washington, March 13.—The Presidential receptions closed for the season last evening and was unusually brilliant. Music's soft strains from the Marine band reverberated through the spacious halls, and gave animation and inspiration to the scene.

The appearance of a distinguished lady from the Empire State, (the widow of the late illustrious De Witt Clinton, who is now for the first time in Washington,) wearing the high crowned cap of Queen Elizabeth, like unto the last cocked hat of the revolution, worn by President Monroe, gave increased interest—and when the President appeared in the east room, sustaining with his arm her light and graceful figure, followed by Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Hall, and other of the families of the Cabinet, there was a profound sensation throughout the dense mass of beauty, fashion and rank, running from the President to the humblest citizen who chooses to occupy the white house on these occasions.

The rumor of the expedition under Commodore Perry being destined to wage open war upon the Japanese is too absurd to require contradiction. If any of our citizens have been confined and detained there, their release and deliverance will be insisted on, as has been done in repeated instances heretofore. The Administration has been stigmatized as too pacific—now as furiously belligerent. Such is the madness of party, on the eve of a great political contest.

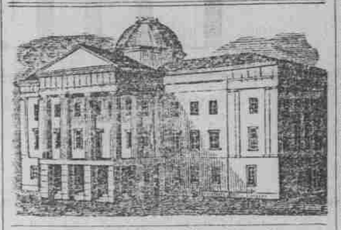
☞ The Richmond *Dispatch* expresses surprise that the circulation and popularity of the *Southern Literary Messenger* are not greater than they are. To us, it is a matter of no surprise at all. The merit of the Messenger, and its claims upon the South particularly, are fully conceded, yet its merit is really hid under a bushel. No efforts are made to bring it to the notice of the public. The press of the South, we feel confident, would take pleasure in giving it a helping hand; yet it is almost if not quite impossible to get an exchange. We venture to say that the circulation of two hundred exchanges with Southern papers would secure it a thousand additional subscribers in twelve months We have published its Prospectus once or twice, and noticed occasional numbers that have fallen into our hands, yet we have not received a single number from the Publisher. The Northern Magazine men understand their business better.

Goldsborough Patriot.

The Maine Law.—The Ohio State Temperance Convention has voted out the Maine Law as not calculated to promote temperance, and resolved, in effect, that a true reformation must depend upon moral suasion.

The Ohio Legislature has indefinitely postponed the resolutions referring the Maine Liquor Law to the vote of the people. The vote was—yeas 44, nays 48.

RALEIGH TIMES.



RALEIGH, N. C.

FRIDAY MARCH 19, 1852.

Mr. C. W. James, No. 1 Harrison Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, is our General Traveling Agent for the Western States, assisted by John T. Dent, Dr. J. A. Wadsworth, Alex. R. Laws, James Rutherford, Dr. Lott Edwards, C. M. L. Wiseman, and H. J. Thomas.

Mr. Henry M. Lewis, Montgomery, Ala., is our General Traveling Agent for the States of Alabama and Tennessee, assisted by C. F. Lewis, James O. Lewis and Samuel D. Lewis.

Mr. Israel E. James, No. 182 South Tenth Street, Philada., is our General Traveling Agent, assisted by Wm. H. Weld, John Collins, James Deering, A. Kirk Wellington, E. A. Evans, Perrin Locke, George P. Button, Joseph Button, D. R. Goodin, William J. Coxey, Isaac M. Bodine and Walter D. Thompson.

Receipts from either of the above will be good.

☞ Some Whig presses which have lately taken ground against the Free Convention movement, argue the question as if it were discretionary with the Whig State Convention to make or unmake issues on State Reform, and as if the Whigs of the West were endeavoring to introduce new matter into the Gubernatorial canvass.

This little piece of self-deception is only equalled by the Standard's exhortation to its brethren to "cease to refer to the past," with a view of getting clear of its Secession heresies, and giving the go-by to all the Disunion proclivities of its party in the South. As gladly as would the Standard throw the "pall of oblivion" over all that is distasteful in the past, so gladly would these presses smother up and hide Free Suffrage from mortal view.

Can the feat be accomplished in either case? 'Tis just as easy in one as the other. The Whigs have the Secession issue on the Democrats and will hold them to it. The past is on record, and no white-washing resolutions can cover it over.—The Democrats have the Free Suffrage already in the canvass, and neither affirmative or negative action on the part of the Whigs can take it out. Let us meet it with boldness and manliness before the people: let us advocate a measure of settlement at once for all the specific Reforms proposed, by placing them in the hands of the people where they rightly belong. Let us discard all artifice, all attempts at evasion, abandon the *false attitude* of opposition to popular rights, by which we have heretofore been defeated,—and take from the political jugglers who are making party capital out of the fundamental law, the possession and occupancy of the public offices, to which, as the minority party in the State, they have no just right and title.

"There is no use in mincing the matter; if the Convention of next month, shall require its candidate, to advocate a free Convention, to amend the Constitution, *the people of the East will not support him.* We may as well understand each other in the outset, in order that future heartburnings and mutual criminations and recriminations may be avoided."—*Wilmington Herald.*

We have elsewhere given our readers the explanations of the Herald in relation to the Whig meeting in Wilmington.—This paper assumes to speak for "the people of the East"—and the language is quite emphatic and decided. No hope is held out that any accommodation can be effected between the Whigs of the West and "the people of the East"—short of the abandonment, on the part of the former, of their desire to end the agitation of constitutional amendments by the assembling of a Convention of the people for constitutional revision.

If we understand this matter, the sentiment of the West in regard to a Reform convention will not be changed by *the action of any party* or the candidates of any party, or by *the results* of the coming State election. They are in favor of State Reform, and they expect opposition from "the people of the East." The preliminary discussion upon this subject will serve to open the eyes of many people in the West and teach them where their true friends are to be found.

No allusion is made to the Herald when we say that presses which, during the session of last Legislature, *were extremely desirous of being considered as favoring a free Convention,* now strongly oppose the discussion of the subject, and are considered the opponents of any amendments of the constitution in any way.

It is due to the Whigs of New Hanover to say, that they do not take the Locofoco ground upon which we understand (from their papers) those of the Albemarle country are willing to stand, namely a preference for legislative amendments—but they are opposed to all amendments, being satisfied with the constitution as it is, and unwilling to vote for any man who favors a change in any way.

We have endeavored, with calmness and modesty, (as becomes us,) to impress upon the Whigs of the State the necessity of taking some conservative position in regard to the free suffrage question, on which the masses of the party may act together, and carry the State elections. We are met again and again by the question, "What has the Constitution of North Carolina to do with a mere contest between parties?" Is it not a sufficient answer to say that from a *victorious*, we are now a *defeated* party? Reform by piecemeal is conceded by the one party—all reform is denied by the other—and while this state of things shall last, opposition to popular rights will throw the balance *against the Whigs*, until they become a hopeless minority in the State.

A rally has been attempted at the two last elections upon the ground of opposition to Free Suffrage *per se*, as a mere humbug and electioneering device. Are we to learn no wisdom from the past?—Has no lesson been taught us by the success of the party which started it, and the incipient success of the measure itself?—*The success of that measure by the Legislative mode is the success of the party which supports it*, and which depends upon it ALONE for its triumph in the State. The Democratic candidate will not be dragged from it. It is the GREAT GUN of the campaign; and all National issues will be mere fire crackers compared with it. Gov. Reid is a prudent and sagacious politician—clear-sighted to see his advantage, and demagogue enough to avail himself of it. You may put your Whig candidate upon the stump, and let him go it like lightning, thunder and earthquakes upon National politics. The Governor will slide over them all, with great dexterity, and declaim until he is hoarse upon Free Suffrage! Free Suffrage!! Free Suffrage!!!

Now this is very plain speaking,—but we appeal to the unprejudiced good sense and candor of fair-minded men whether we do not represent the condition of things truly. It is for the Whig State Convention to decide whether, any and what grounds shall be maintained by the candidate of the Whig party. It is impossible for us to change in our advocacy of a free and open Convention of the people. But we shall defer to the wisdom of the only properly constituted exponent of the Whig sentiment of the State, and support their nominee in all fidelity as becomes a true Whig who yields to no one in zeal for the honor and success of the party.

☞ Sensible people, who look calmly upon the discussions of the newspaper world may well be astonished at the unaffected squeamishness, not to say unfeigned terror, with which the presses of the East regard the idea of a Convention of the people for the amendment of the Constitution. That great humbug that *the wealth* of the State is to govern in the distribution of political power has got to be exploded. The number of white males in the State is 272,369. The number of land owners, as given in the census returns, is 56,916—not one-fourth—and about one-third of those land owners live in the East, and rule and govern every thing! Equality of political rights has never been known in North Carolina! The astonishment is that any free people on earth has ever submitted to such a government!

MEETING IN WILMINGTON.

The Herald, of the 13th, brings to our knowledge that great dissatisfaction exists in consequence of the passage of a resolution at the late Whig meeting, affirming that the Republican mode of amending the Constitution is by the people themselves in Convention assembled; and several of the Delegates appointed to the State Convention have publicly declined attending, in consequence. We give the commencement of the Herald's article, by way of explanation:

"We wish to say a few words about the Whig meeting, which was held in Masonic Hall, on Monday evening last. As far as numbers are concerned it was a failure, a small portion of the party only being present. We stop not to inquire the reason of this, but merely announce the fact. Ample notice was given, and if gentlemen thought proper to absent themselves from the meeting, they alone are to blame for its short comings. They are not justified in censuring its action, because it was their duty to have given to the deliberations the benefit of their advice and votes. Considerable dissatisfaction, we learn, exists in consequence of the passage of Mr. Loring's resolution. When all things are taken into consideration,—the thinness of the meeting—the circumstances under which this resolution was introduced, and the vote upon its passage, it will be divested of that importance which seems to be attached to it. We presume it will not be contended, even by the mover, that it is a true reflex of the popular sentiment of the Whigs of Wilmington, or that it can be regarded as committing them at all to the measure of which it treats. The people of this section are with their brethren in all the Eastern counties on the subject of the Convention question. They are opposed to it, decidedly and firmly. We assert it without the fear of contradiction."

Murder.—We learn that a man called Billy Falkner was killed in Franklin on the 11th instant, having been shot by a Mr. Bledsoe, after due warning. Falkner was attempting to remove Bledsoe's fence, which gave rise to the quarrel. He was quite a desperate character, having been heretofore branded for the manslaughter of a relation of this same Bledsoe some years ago. We have not heard all the particulars—but the world is very well rid of Billy Falkner on any terms.