

# THE RALEIGH TIMES.

"GIVE ME THE LIBERTY TO KNOW, TO UTTER, AND TO ARGUE FREELY, ACCORDING TO CONSCIENCE, ABOVE ALL OTHER LIBERTIES."—MILTON.

NEW SERIES.

VOL. V. NO. 13.

RALEIGH, FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1852. *W. H. Wood*

R. I. WYNNE, Publisher.

C. C. RABOTEAU, Editor.

## TERMS.

The Times is issued every Thursday, and mailed to subscribers at Two Dollars per annum, in advance; Two Dollars and Fifty Cents if not paid in six months; and Three Dollars if payment be delayed to the end of the subscription year.

To Clubs, we will send Six Copies for Ten Dollars, and Twelve copies for Eighteen Dollars, when the money accompanies the order.

Not exceeding sixteen lines, will be published one time for One Dollar, and Twenty-five Cents for each subsequent insertion. Court orders and Judicial Advertisements will be charged 25 per cent higher. A reasonable deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

Letters to the Editor must be post paid. Money for the Office may be sent by mail at our risk, in payment for subscriptions, advertisements, jobs, &c.

OFFICE ON PATENTVILLE ST., ONE DOOR BELOW POST OFFICE.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

—We give the spirit of the article of the *Narbonian* on this subject. No man shall say that we neglected any means to preserve the unity of the Whig party—and if our other Eastern Whig Editors, instead of seeking an impossibility,—namely to evade this issue—had set themselves earnestly at work to look our difficulties in the face and provide for them, as we advised them to do, and as the Editor of the *Newberman* is endeavoring to do, some compromise might have been effected, or may yet be effected, which would mend our prospects greatly. Let good Whigs consider of this matter, with an earnest desire to do right; let them come to the Whig State Convention in this spirit; and we shall have no fears of the result. The Editor says:—

Upon a statement and review of the whole ground, we ventured to suggest a platform, that in its main features should be similar to this, viz: That the Whig convention and its candidate, should agree to take a decided stand against amending the Constitution by legislative enactment.

2. A bold decided stand in favor of Free Suffrage, election of Judges and Justices of the Peace, &c. by the people.

3. The submission of the question of Convention or no Convention to the people, and in favor of a call for one if they sustained it, or what would in our estimation be better, as more definite and direct, an open stand for a convention, to be called in either case on the same basis as that of 1835, and to be free to make any changes in the constitution except that of changing the basis of representation in the Legislature.

That such a platform could be laid down by the Convention, would carry the Whigs safely and triumphantly through the canvass, we have not a shadow of a doubt. We feel equally confident too that a canvass conducted upon the above named grounds, would have the happiest effects upon the harmony and the best interests of the State. No man who loves the Old North State, who has a sincere concern for her good name, and who desires to see her citizens in all sections of the State cherish friendly and kindly feelings towards each other, who is zealous for the promotion of her best interests, and who sees that to place her, in the condition which Providence designed she should attain, when such abundant elements of wealth, of resources, of prosperity, were lavishly bestowed upon her, that it is absolutely necessary that the east, the west and the centre should cordially co-operate; no man who cherishes these views and feelings, can contemplate the present state of things between the eastern and western portions of the State, and see this feeling of alienation and heartburning on the increase, as it is, and see no prospect ahead, but that it must inevitably continue and grow worse and worse for an indefinite period of time, no patriotic man we say can see all this without the acutest feelings of pain, of regret and mortification. Now we appeal to the good sense of every worthy son of the Old North State in both sections, and ask if there is any possibility that the present controversy between the east and the west is ever to be settled on a basis that will not increase the evils that exist, except by a compromise in regard to the extreme grounds; that each section is disposed to insist on?

What are these extreme views and sentiments on which each section insists? They may be briefly summed up in this way. The people in the West are strongly in favor of Free Suffrage, and more or less favor the election of Judges, Justices of the Peace and certain State officers by the people. They desire too, to have the White basis of representation in the Legislature, substituted for the present basis of Taxation in the Senate and Federal population in the Commons. They insist also on their right to the call of an open unrestricted convention, for the purpose of seeing whether the majority desire that these amendments should be incorporated into the Constitution.

On the other hand the Eastern people are satisfied with the Constitution as it is. They are opposed to all changes, especially to any change in the basis of representation, and as a matter of course, they are opposed to the call of any convention, but particularly an open unrestricted convention, on account of their fears that the basis will be changed. Both sections are equally honest in the reasons they give for their respective views.

The West says that an open unrestricted Convention is the only Republican mode of altering the fundamental law.

That it is the only mode recognized by the principles of American Constitutional law, of the bill of Rights, &c. They regard the refusal of the East to concede a Convention as a gross wrong, and a tyrannical exercise of power.

The East on the other hand insists that the basis question has been definitely settled. That it was placed in the Constitution, upon principles recognized by our forefathers, that are just as much in accordance with the maxims of American liberty, and of the bill of rights, as those on which the west insist. That taxation and Representation should go hand in hand.

That this principle was recognized in settling the basis in the House of Representatives in Congress, &c. They would regard any violation of this principle as a gross violation of their undoubted rights. But perhaps the West will say, and in fact does say to the East, you are unnecessarily timid and apprehensive in regard to this point. We have no intention or expectation of ever abusing the Legislative power that a change of the basis of representation would place in our hands. We insist on your conceding it because we regard it as our unquestionable right, and shall never use it to the oppression or unjust taxation of any portion of the people of the State.

To this we reply that the Eastern people just as honestly and sincerely regard the present arrangement under the Constitution as a just and legitimate shield for the protection of their rights and interests, under the different circumstances of the Eastern and Western counties, as does the West. This being so, is it reasonable or fair or respectful even to demand that we should surrender them into the hands of the West, merely upon their promise of not abusing the power such a concession will place in their hands?

But again, some will say, and many do say that by no means follows, that by conceding an open unrestricted Convention, you give up the basis question. A large portion of the Western people see your position, and have no intention of fixing the White basis on you against your wishes. Indeed, say they, the idea is a mere bugbear at best; a Convention called on the same basis as that of 1835 would not have the power to change the basis, i.e. the West press the measures as it will. We have not the power in an open Convention if we had the will.

Now, for ourselves, we admit in all candor that there is more force in this view of the subject than in any in which it has been presented. Considering the difficulty if not the impossibility of getting a bill through the Legislature, for the call of an unrestricted convention, considering too the great probability that if one were called, that the East would be strong to control the Convention, with the aid of the conservative members in the central and Western counties, we for ourselves should have very little apprehension that the basis in any event would be disturbed. But this admission does not alter in the least, the policy of placing a candidate for the next election upon the call of an unrestricted convention. The stubborn fact meets us on the threshold, that a majority of the Whigs as well as Democrats, in the Eastern counties, differ with us on this point. Everywhere, particularly in the Albemarle and Northern counties, there is a fixed hostility to an open unrestricted convention—a settled and perfectly uncontrollable conviction, which no reasoning within the compass of one campaign could eradicate or modify, that the call of an open unrestricted convention, is but another name for a proposition to change the basis of representation. It is useless at present at least, to fight against this apprehension. Defeat would probably be the consequence. What then, in any view of the question is left, but some such proposition as we have suggested? The effort and influence of a canvass carried forward on these grounds, on the party, and on the best interests of the State, we will consider in our next number.

## CONVENTION—AGAIN.

A Free Convention, say some of our Whig friends, is not included among the principles of the National Whig party—is not one of those ancient land marks which we have all been taught to revere, and therefore, should not be pressed at this time.

In reply to the first proposition, we submit that neither is State Internal Improvement one of those long established principles, but yet two years ago the Whigs all over the State—particularly along the line of the Central Rail Road—protested against running any man for the governorship who was not known to be a unequivocal internal improvement man. And it was charged that David S. Reid, the Democratic candidate, was either opposed to the Rail Road or occupied an equivocal position. But circumstances alter cases—and sometimes most strangely, so thought the unjust Judge. Whether favoring a Convention or a Rail Road scheme is a settled principle of our party, we will not now discuss, but we are sure the Whigs always contended, and carried it out in practice, that they were conservative and went for the good of the majority, and submitted to the will of the people cheerfully. It has always been a maxim of the Whig party that the people are sovereign and their will should be the law: Why then let them alter the constitution in their own way? Shall we let our Democratic opponents, whenever it suits their pleasure, take up these amendments separately,

throw themselves astride them as hobbies, and ride over us rough shod? We protest against such a course. In this manner we will be beaten for years to come; for the people, if they can't get these amendments by Conventions, will take the Democratic Free Suffrage, humberg pill.—The spirit of reform is rising among the masses.

Many Western Whigs went for Free Suffrage two years ago, notwithstanding they knew it to be the hobby of a demagogue, who was seeking promotion by its means. And how did the Eastern Locos go? They swallowed the nauseous dose without once making a wry face, even though in heart, they were bitterly opposed to it. They went for their party, right or wrong, and they will do so again if necessity requires it.

But it is said this question should not be pressed now. Why not? Will a more favorable time ever come? The question of Free Suffrage will be forced upon us—Gov. Reid will not canvass the State without calling us out on the subject. We must stand up to the 'racket fodder or no fodder.' It won't do to fold our arms quietly and remain mum. If we go against all constitutional amendments we will be snowed under suddenly and without remedy.

If we advocate an alteration of the Constitution at all, we must either go for legislative enactments or a convention. We are already committed against the former, and unless we oppose all change of the fundamental law, we must choose the only true republican plan of the latter—a free Convention. And why put off this question? If it distracts the party now, will it not do so two years hence—our four, six or eight years from this time—indeed during any gubernatorial canvass hereafter? It will come and the sooner the better. But still we do not insist that the Whig Convention should adopt any platform of this kind. We think though, if our candidate should advocate a Convention, he would be elected by a large majority.

## CONCORD MERCURY.

The State of Maine, through her Representatives in Congress, has asked for a grant of the lands of the United States to aid in the completion of some of the railroad enterprises of that commonwealth. The grant is asked both on national and local grounds, and we can see no good reason why Maine, as one of the old States of the Union, is not as much entitled to the Public Lands as the new States of the country. We can see no reason, indeed, why the old States are not as much entitled to the Public Lands as the new. They are the common property of the whole country, were acquired by a common sacrifice of blood and treasure, and any partial distribution either of the Lands themselves, or of the proceeds arising from their sale, is unjust to those not included in the benefits bestowed.

We hope, therefore, that the request of Maine will be granted, whether the Land to be acquired under it be expended upon what is called the European and North American Railroad, or upon other objects of public improvement. Whether the one million of acres asked for be too much, we are not prepared to say; but that the claim to some of the hundreds of millions of acres belonging to the Government is justly due to Maine, as one of the old States, there can be no question. The State of Illinois, from the liberal land grant made by the last Congress, has just insured through that grant the completion of a railroad of between four and five hundred miles, and a perpetual profit from its entire income of seven per cent. on all the receipts. The completion of the road itself is a fortune to the State, but added to this, comes a certain income nearly adequate to the entire annual expenditures of the State. To have done so much for Illinois may have been wise, but while doing so much, to refuse to make grants to the old States is a discrimination against them which every fair-minded man must acknowledge to be unjust. The applications now before Congress for Public Lands include over 40,000,000 of acres, in aid of over 10,000 miles of railroad. The Iowa bill takes 1,500,000 acres. And yet the old States cannot get an acre either for internal improvements or educational purposes.

## STEAM APPLIED TO THE ORGAN.

A few evenings ago, Mr. David, a French gentleman of education, now resident in New York, delivered a lecture of considerable research upon the History and Influence of Sacred and Theatrical music, at the close of which he took occasion to speak of an invention he has obtained a patent for, of the application of steam power to organs, and stated that he was now ready to dispose of the right to purchasers. What next?

## SOUTHERN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.

The Southern Press, taking it for granted that Gen. Cass will be the Democratic, and Gen. Scott the Whig, nominees for the Presidency, urges the Southern rights party to refrain from going into the national conventions of either party. It prefers the organization of a third party, which, it thinks, will hold the balance of power, and thus control the Presidential election.

## OLD AMERICA AND YOUNG AMERICA.—

The Virginia Democracy has just passed in Convention the two following resolutions: "That the true relations between the States and federal government, and the true rules for the construction of the Constitution, are correctly set forth in the resolutions and report of 1798 and '99 of the general assembly of Virginia, and the doctrines therein expounded are hereby adopted and reaffirmed."

Now, '98 and '99 is nothing but "old Foggism." Young America repudiates that and everything as old as '98 and '99. Young America looks only to 1890 and 2039. Virginia Democracy is thus altogether behind Douglass, and behind the age.

Again, it was resolved in Virginia: "That we reaffirm the resolutions of the Baltimore Conventions of '44 and '48, as far as applicable to the present condition of the country."

This is Oracular! In 1844, it was Democratic to annex Texas, and to extend slavery there, with several Slave States to be made therefrom; but in 1848 it was Democratic, at least, in every free State (but Iowa) to instruct Senators in Congress to vote for the Wilmot Proviso. If '48 doctrine then be good doctrine now, we can go on yet, and put the Proviso to New Mexico and to Utah.

Democracy is, indeed, very like India Rubber—of which, if there is any doubt, see this additional Virginia Resolution:

"That Congress has no power to appropriate directly or indirectly, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, or to grant, directly or indirectly, the public lands to the purposes of internal improvement."

Now, Illinois is just taken what is worth to her full twelve millions of dollars in these grants of public lands, under the special urging of its Senator, Mr. Douglass, to make railroads therewith, from Galena to Chicago, and from Chicago to Cairo. Iowa, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas, all Democratic States, demand grants now to the amount of about forty millions of acres for just such purposes as Illinois has had hers. According to the Democracy of Virginia, in Convention assembled—the State where "Democracy" was born, and cradled in "the principles of 1798, '99," "Congress has no such power."

## THE CUBAN GENTRY.

The Cuban gentry whom the country has rescued from Spanish and African prisons, after a world of trouble, cost the country something beyond the navy and army movements to watch them, and the costs of courts to try them. The quieter and the more obscure these gentry keep, all their brigandage is forgotten, the better for them. Congress, on the 10th of February, appropriated \$6000 to bring them home, and the other day the House had to add \$3000 more. Mr. Whittlesey, the Comptroller, submitted the following details of their expenses home: J. D. Hughes and F. B. Hough, 52 00 Paid Capt. Woodbury for 95 passengers from Vigo to N. Y. 3,800 00 For G. H. McDonald, 30 59

A draft was drawn by Mr. Barreco, on 23d of February last, in favor of Frederick Huth & Co., of London, upon the Department of State, at 15 days sight, for \$4,134 00 The above sum undrawn, 2,117 50

This sum deficient to cover expenses, \$2,017 55

Accounts accompany this draft or bill for board, clothing, & medicines, to an amount equal to the draft or bill, which are stated with great minuteness; and I have no doubt they embrace such expenses as Congress intended to pay. It is not improbable that other bills to a small amount may be presented. It is necessary to have an additional appropriation to pay the draft last mentioned.

I think an estimate of \$3000 would be sufficient to cover all the expenses that may be presented. E. WHITTLESEY.

In alluding to Prof. Emmons' notice of marl, on the Banks of the Cape Fear, the Wilmington Commercial states that the existence of this marl has been long known there, and successfully used.

[But that *Shark* one hundred feet long was a new discovery, or rather its "fossil remains, principally teeth," and we don't want to see that story diminished in its general interest.]

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.—The Democracy of New Hanover, at their recent meeting, stung out their "fundamental principles" at great length. To our surprise, the patch upon Gov. Marcy's breeches was not embraced in the catalogue—but that, we suppose, is one of the fundamental principles of the New York Democracy.—Argus.

## SALARY TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

A bill has been introduced into Congress by Mr. McMullen, of Virginia, giving to members of Congress a salary of \$1,500 a year instead of the present allowance of \$8 a day. The substitution of a fixed salary for the present *per diem* would tend very much to shorten the sessions and save a vast deal of money to the treasury.

Lentze's great picture of Washington crossing the Delaware has lately been sold in Washington City for \$13000.

## CONVERSION OF A DEMOCRAT.

The most bigoted and unreasonable party man I ever met with, was Jack D—, now a prosperous and influential attorney in South—county, in this State.

At the hour of which I am writing, he was a red-hot Democrat, and his chief pleasure seemed to consist in making the fact as notorious as possible. His friends and acquaintances, with one consent pronounced Jack a bore, and his politics a nuisance; but with a stranger, the thing was essentially different. Seized by the button at the moment of introduction, Jack would astonish him by a rapid rehearsal of the articles of his political creed—branch out into interminable rhapsody of the manifest destiny of the great progressive party—and, if the victim was unusually passive, wind up with an eulogy on the great "I did," as the embodiment of his peculiar opinions, in consequence the greatest man of the age.

Such was Jack D— at the time of our story; acknowledged on every side as a firm and incorruptible Democrat. But alas!

One unlucky day Jack met at the house of a friend, a young lady of great personal beauty and accomplishments. Attracted by her loveliness and captivated by her intelligence, he became assiduous in his attentions, forgot for a while his 'principles,' and without inquiring what might be the political preferences of his lady love, imprudently proposed, and was accepted, and they were married.

The wedding was over—the guests had departed—and the happy pair had retired to their chamber, and were snugly ensconced in bed, when Jack in the course of a quiet conversation with his wife, unwittingly alluded to his favorite subject, by casually speaking of himself as a Democrat.

"What!" exclaimed she turning sharply and suddenly towards, "are you a Democrat?"

"Yes, madam," replied Jack, delighted with the idea of having a patient listener to his long restrained oratory. "Yes, madam, I am a Democrat—a real hard money, free trade Democrat—attached to the principles of the progressive party—a regular out and outer; I'm double dyed and twisted in the wool."

"Just double and twist yourself!" out of this bed then," interrupted his wife: "I'm a Whig, I am; I will never sleep with a man professing the abominable doctrines that you do!"

Jack was speechless from absolute amazement. "That the very wife of his bosom should prove a traitor, was horrible; she must be jesting. He remonstrated in vain; tried persuasion—'twas useless; entreaty—'twas no go. She was in earnest, and the only alternative left him was a prompt renunciation of his heresy, or a separate bed in another room. Jack did not hesitate. To abjure the established doctrines of his party—to renounce allegiance to that faith that had become identified with his very being—to surrender those glorious principles which had grown with his growth and strengthened with strength, to the mere whim and caprice of a woman, was utterly ridiculous and absurd, and he threw himself upon the bed and quitted the apartment.

A sense of insulted dignity, and the firm conviction that he was a martyr, to the right cause, strengthened by his pride, resolved him to hold out until he forced his wife into a capitulation.

In the morning she met him as if nothing had happened; but whenever Jack ventured to allude to the night previous, there was a laughing devil in her eye, which bespoke her power and extinguished hope.

A second time he repaired to his lonely couch, and a second time he called upon his pride to support him in the struggle, which he now found was getting desperate. He vented curses "not loud but deep," on the waywardness and caprice of the sex in general, and of his own wife in particular—and wondered how long she would hold out—whether she suffered as acutely as he did, and tried hard to delude himself into the belief that she loved him, and would come to him with morning—perhaps that very night, and sue for reconciliation. But then came the recollection of that inflexible countenance—of that unyielding will, and of that laughing and untypical eye—and he felt convinced that he was hoping against hope; and despairingly he turned to the wall for oblivion from the wretchedness of his thoughts.

The second day was a repetition of the first—no allusion was made to the forbidden subject on either side. "There was a look of quiet happiness and cheerfulness about his wife, that puzzled Jack sorely, and he felt that all idea of forcing her into a surrender must be abandoned.

A third night he was alone! His reflections were more serious than on the night previous. What they were, of course was only known to himself; but they seemed to result in something decided, for about midnight three distinct raps were made at his wife's door. No answer—and the signal was repeated in a louder tone; still all was silent, and the third time the door shook with the violent attack from the outside.

"Who's there?" cried the voice of his wife, as if just aroused from a deep sleep. "A little the best Whig you ever did see!"

The revolution in his opinions was radical and permanent. He removed to another county—became popular—offered himself as a candidate on the Whig ticket

for the Legislature—was elected, and for several sessions represented his adopted county as a firm and decided Whig.—(St. Louis paper.)

## NORTH CAROLINA WAKING UP.

Old 'Rip Van Winkle,' as our dear old native State, North Carolina, is sometimes called, in derision, is fast waking up in matters pertaining to Literature and the Fine Arts. We speak by the card, when we say that the Press of that State is not behind that of any other in the Union, in point of ability, appearance, &c. For example, we are now in the receipt of three weekly papers from Raleigh, all of which are capital in their way. The *Times* is a well printed and sound political sheet that we always welcome to our table. Next comes an interesting Family Journal under the title of the 'Weekly Post' which deserves ample encouragement; and last but not least, is the *Live Gossip*, by W. Whittaker, which is one of the raciest, best natured animals that we have met with, for many a day. It is specially recommended to the 'lean knee' of the human family who wish to 'grow fat,' as laughter brings good digestion and good digestion is followed by Aldermanic rotundity of person.

Geo. Citizen.

The New Haven (Conn.) "JOURNAL AND COURIER" in an article on the Presidency, says:

"The recent letter of Mr. Clay, advising the nomination of Millard Fillmore by the Whig National Convention, has been extensively published and commented upon, and while it meets with the acquiescence of the great mass of the Whig party, it excites the apprehension of the Opposition more than any thing which has yet been brought to bear upon the Presidential question."

Since the early days of our existence, there has never been an administration which has so successfully carried on the Government of the country through so many difficulties, both foreign and domestic, and settled so many exciting and troublesome questions, with honor to the country, and credit to itself.

The Whig party never approached a Presidential election more deserving of success than at the present time. The officers of their choice have proved their fitness to hold the reins of government; and though an ever-vigilant opposition has succeeded in State elections, by taking advantage of every local issue that could be brought to bear, the Whig party stands firmer and more united upon national questions than it has ever done before, while the Opposition, by the admission of its most distinguished members never stood in greater danger of defeat.

The weakening of party ties among the Opposition has strengthened the present Administration among the masses; especially at the South, where it has a popularity not confined by party lines, and where the nomination of President Fillmore would receive a most enthusiastic support. In the North, too, with the exception of the unfortunate differences in New York, Mr. Fillmore occupies a commanding position as an available candidate.

We believe that Mr. Clay has estimated rightly the value of Mr. Fillmore's services to the country, and that good policy as well as justice demands that he should receive a re-nomination."

THE LENET-MONAT.—The month of March, among the old Romans, was under the protection of Minerva. When Numa altered the computation of Romulus, the custom of entering upon public offices on the first of March was still established; and so it continued until the first Punic War, when it was transferred to the first of January.

It is mentioned as a coincidence that our Chief Magistrate's term of office commences in the month of March. With the Romans this month was very remarkable. Macrobius says that the first day of it, being the first day of the old Roman year, the sacred fire on the altar of Vesta was renewed from the rays of the sun, concentrated and reflected by a polished mirror.

In France, chroniclers tell us, March was generally reckoned the first month, up to A. D. 1564. Then, by an edict of Charles IX. (of St. Bartholomew bloody memory) January was decreed the first month. Scotland followed the example of France, in 1599. In England, (says the "Clavis Calendaria,") the alteration did not take place before 1752.

By the ancient Saxons, March was called Rheda or Reth-Monath, rough or rugged Month, as explained by some writers. Other authorities state that it is so termed because sacrifices to an Idol, called Rheda, were made during it. On the Christianization of Britain, the name was changed to Lenet-Monath, or, according to a still more recent improvement in the orthography of our language, Lengeth-Monath, (long month), "because," (says a venerable chronicler,) "the days did then first begin in length to exceed the nights; and this month being by our ancestors so called when they received christianity, and consequently therewith the ancient christian custom of fasting, they called this chief season of fasting the fast of Lenet, because of the time of this fasting always fell on Lent; and hereof it cometh that we now call it Lent, though the former name of Lenet-Monath be long since lost, and the name of March borrowed instead thereof."

"Lent," with us of the present day, we may here remark, is that period of forty days which immediately precedes the Festival of Easter. Good Friday is the day of the Crucifixion of Christ. Lent commences on Wednesday, called Ash-Wednesday, and is observed as a special season of penitence for sin by the Anglican, American Episcopal, and Roman Catholic churches. Baker in his "Chronicles," says that Lent was first observed in England, by command of Erconbert, King of Kent in 600. The primitive Christians did not commence their Lent until the Sunday, now called the first Sunday in Lent.—The four previous days were added by Felix, III, so that the number of fasting days should be forty.

Brady, in his "Clavis," notes that in old paintings, March is portrayed as a man of tawny color and fierce aspect, with a helmet on his head,—typical of Mars. But as appropriate to the season of the year, and the labors of the peaceful husbandman, he is represented leaning on a spade, holding almond blossoms and scions in his left hand, with a basket of seeds on his arm, and bearing in his right hand the sign *Aries*, which the sun enters on the 20th. In ancient hieroglyphics the increasing power of the sun's rays was expressed by horns of animals.

There is an old English proverb connected with this month, running thus: "A bushel of March dust is worth a kine's ransom." Dry weather, in this month, in England, was generally deemed favorable to the production of grain on clay lands; and thence a "dusty March" portended a plentiful season; while on the contrary, a wet March frequently produced destruction of rye and wheat.

CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE.—We give below an extract of a letter "from a distinguished source!" endorsing "Wheeler's History."

N. C. CLAY-LAND CO. ?  
March the 9 1852.

Mr. Editor the time draws near when your paper will stop coming I hope you will excuse my stopping at one year as I subscribed for the Wheeler history of our old carolina State I shant have time to read more than my history I think it one of the best things that has ever been done for our country I hope all my young friends will take hold of this valuable Book the history of their own country Som folks abuse this Book very much but no man of sense will do it I had as soon have a man abuse his father as the Book of had no one but a fool will do either to tell the truth may pens go with it and joy attend it and God send it ever where So I hant any thing elts at present the 12 of March my tim is out you will please stop my paper in time your friend  
March the 9 1852.

The history is "bound to go" now!—The writer is not a "clergyman" nor a "historian" but he is "Some," such as it is.—*Ash. Messenger.*

CRAFT.—There was in his native village a wealthy Jew, who was seized with a dangerous illness. Seeing death approach despite his physician's skill, he bethought him of vowing a vow; so he solemnly promised that, if God would restore him to health, he on his part, on his recovery, would sell a certain fat beast in his stall, and devote the proceeds to the Lord. The man recovered, and in due time appeared before him a goodly ox; and several Jewish butchers, after artlessly examining the fine fat beast, asked our convalescent what might be the price of the ox. "This ox," replied the owner, "I value at two shillings" (I substitute English money); "but this cock," he added, ostentatiously exhibiting a chancier, "I estimate at twenty pounds." The butchers laughed at him; they thought he was joking. However, as he gravely persisted that he was in earnest, one of them taking him at his word, put down two shillings for the ox. "Softly, my good friend," rejoined the seller, "I have made a vow not to sell the ox without the cock; you must buy both, or be content with neither." Great was the surprise of the bystanders, who could not conceive what perversity possessed their wealthy neighbors. But the cock, being valued for twenty pounds, and the ox for two shillings the bargain was concluded and the money paid. Our worthy Jew now walks up to the rabbi, cash in hand. "This," said he, handing the two shillings "I devote to the service of the synagogue, being the price of the ox which I had vowed; and this," placing the twenty-pound in his own bosom, "is lawfully my own, for is it not the price of the cock?" "And what did your neighbors say of the transaction? Did they not think that this rich man was an arrant rogue?" "Rogue!" said my friend, repeating my last words with some amazement, "they considered him a pious and a clever man." "Sharp enough," thought I; but delicate about exposing my ignorance, I judiciously held my peace.

FASHIONS IN CRAVATS.—For the benefit of our fashionable young gents, we would state that in Paris, at balls and such like vanities, white neck cloths are all the fashion. With them the shirt collar is generally turned down. Not three out of a hundred, can be seen in any other neck cloth. The universal morning wear is collars turned down so low as to expose the neck, which is concealed only as far as one of the low neck ties can cover it.