

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

The Plymouth "Villager" says—"To-day, we hoist at our masthead, the name of JOHN KERR, Esq., of Caswell County, as the Whig Candidate for the next Governor. After mature deliberation, the Whig State Convention chose Mr. Kerr, from amongst a host of eminent statesmen, as the most available, and most suitable person, to bear the Whig colors through the approaching contest. Mr. Kerr's reputation, his high and exalted position, as a public man; his ability and genuine patriotism, has won for him a name, that will in after ages illuminate and adorn the pages of North Carolina history. As a public and political man, he is bold and fearless in advocating what he conceives to be the best interests of his State and country; and is above stooping to low and vulgar prejudices to excite public sympathy in his favor."

sure of being able on the day of election to record a triumph, of which every Whig in the county and State will be proud. Whigs of Halifax, the eyes of your brethren everywhere are upon you. You are set down as invincible. Shall the confidence reposed in you be forfeited? Friends of Fillmore, Graham and Kerr—friends of the true interest of the South—to the rescue!"

The Warrenton "News" gives an account of a pleasure trip the Editor lately had according to him "in good company" upon the Railroad. He is a happy fellow, and is fed upon the best of fodder. But we are doomed to the experience that "all work and no play make Jack a dull boy." Hear the Warrenton man: "We will only add here that we spent two days among our friends, feasting on fish, green peas, strawberries, &c., and on Tuesday morning returned to the dull, monotonous task that is daily wearing us away, and which will shortly use us up, unless we can get the chance of taking another trip as pleasant and invigorating as the one just enjoyed."

The Fayetteville Carolinian does not bloom very freshly in its Editorials. But a dreadful savage fellow publishes some horrid lines, of which the following may serve as a specimen: "Forgotten is the word you dread, 'Forgotten then as one that's dead, 'Forgotten, yes, all thought has fled, 'That for a moment ere could shed, 'One radiant joy upon your head, 'For now you are forgotten."

The Albemarle "Bulletin," in concluding a very excellent article upon "The next Presidency," says—"Who the man shall be, to bear the Whig standard through the coming campaign, is a question of the most fearful magnitude and the most vital importance. Whoever he may be, if he be a true Whig and a thorough Compromise man, this journal stands pledged to his warmest and most cordial support. But, we speak for ourselves, and we represent the wish of the whole State, and we believe of the entire South, when we say that should Millard Fillmore of New York, and our own Graham, be the nominees of the Whig National Convention, the event would meet a cordial response in the great heart of the South, and find at her hands a most hearty support."

The Wadesboro' "Argus" is down upon the Homestead bill, with strong reasons, facts and arguments. It concludes—"It will be an entering wedge to a further division of property. When men find that they can reap where they have not sown and eat where they have not labored, they will not be content without this reaping and eating. If they have a right to other people's land, why have they not a right also to other people's meat and bread, and cattle and money? Let the land be divided first, and other divisions of property will be called for, and we shall have the agrarian laws of Rome re-enacted with all their licentiousness and blood shed amongst us. The first Roman who proposed a gratuitous distribution of lands was impeached for demagoguism, and thrown down the Tarpeian Rock. We have no Tarpeian Rock here, but there is another awful step of which demagogues have a constant dread—the step of popular displeasure—and down this we hope to see all who would corruptly truck off the public domain, indignantly hurled."

The "Argus" is quite severe upon Senator Mangum—but he who walks in darkness is liable to tumble down the back stairs. Says the Editor:—"The people of the old State are not to be led by the nose. They have a habit of thinking for themselves: and when they see a valuable public servant assailed without rhyme or reason, they are not going to turn their backs upon him at such an hour. Mr. Mangum's effort to disparage Fillmore in their estimation has been a failure. Nay—it has endeared him the more to the honest men of all parties; and if he was strong before, he is doubly so now—nor is this feeling confined to North Carolina. The Whigs of the whole country are indignant at Mr. Mangum's course, and Fillmore's prospects grow brighter and brighter. We have every confidence that he will be the nominee of the National Convention—and that Mr. Mangum will be permitted, at the end of his Senatorial term, to retire to his estate in Orange, and there contemplate the beauties of the Maine Liquor Law at his leisure."

The "Newbernian" argues the subject of amendments to the Constitution; and piles on Gov. Reid very justly the following:—"It would have been bad enough in all conscience, for a Western man, one whose views and feelings and interests were identified with that portion of the people of the State, to have thrown this firebrand into the midst of us when we were harmonious, and resting secure under the shadow of the Constitution. But for a man professing to be Eastern in his views and sentiments, to approach us in this way, and with 'his hail brother well met'—'sainte us under the fifth rib,' was adding treachery to selfishness and demagoguism. Can any man who is true to the Compromise of the Constitution, in full view of Gov. Reid's unjustifiable and deceptive course, vote to place him again in the Governor's chair? Above all, can any Eastern Whig, whatever may be his own views of free suffrage or as to the safest mode of amending the Constitution if it must be amended, vote to sustain a man who has thus recklessly let forth the waters of strife, in a flood that threatens to sweep away the barriers of the Constitution? We have heard of none, nor do we believe there is one to be found."

ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn, that the Hon. Jas. J. McKay met with a serious accident on Sunday. He was on his way to Raleigh to attend a meeting of the Executive Council, when he was thrown from his carriage and severely though not dangerously hurt about the forehead.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SOUTHERNER. Sir: It is known to you and to at least all intelligent persons of this State, that a bill passed both branches of the Legislature thereof, at its last session, by the requisite majority, to amend the Constitution, so as to allow, what is usually denominated "free suffrage,"—and by some, from ignorance, or some other cause, called "equal suffrage."

A VOICE FROM EDGEcombe. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SOUTHERNER. Sir: It is known to you and to at least all intelligent persons of this State, that a bill passed both branches of the Legislature thereof, at its last session, by the requisite majority, to amend the Constitution, so as to allow, what is usually denominated "free suffrage,"—and by some, from ignorance, or some other cause, called "equal suffrage."

THE WHIG STATE CONVENTION. A gratifying expression of satisfaction with the action of the Convention has reached us from all quarters, so far as we have had opportunity to hear. From the extreme East and the extreme West we have not yet heard in full; but trust that the sound republican principle endorsed in relation to the process of constitutional reform will have satisfied both extremes, and that both will cordially assume the common ground which has been marked out by the best discretion of the State. It has been remarked, that the politicians had little to do with the late Convention—they were afraid of the knotty subject of State reforms which threatened to distract that body. But the people—gentlemen whose aspirations for promotion were not such as to interfere with the fullest exercise of their judgment—took the matter in hand, and it has been wisely and harmoniously adjusted.

RALEIGH TIMES. FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1852. FOR GOVERNOR, JOHN KERR, of Caswell.

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. Lett Edwards, C. M. L. Wiseman, and H. J. Thomas.

MR. KERR'S APPOINTMENTS. The Whig Candidate for Governor will address his fellow citizens at the following times and places, to-wit: Monday, 24th, Plymouth, Washington; Wednesday, 26th, Washington, Beaufort; Friday, 28th, Newbern, Craven; Monday, 31st, Greenville, Pitt; Wednesday, June 2d, Weldon, Halifax; Friday, June 4, Raleigh, Wake; Monday, 7th, Fayetteville, Cumberland; Wednesday, June 9th, Elizabethtown, Bladen.

THE PRESIDENCY. We publish articles to-day of a very cheering character for the friends of Mr. Fillmore. In the city of New York, the very large demonstration in his favor, followed by the subsequent election of Fillmore delegates in five out of the six Congressional districts, contrasted with the small Scott and Webster meetings which preceded it,—speaks volumes as to the current of Whig sentiment in that great city, and for the popularity of the pure and incorruptible Chief Magistrate who has almost unbounded strength in the Southern States. But not alone in New York city—in the county of Erie and city of Buffalo—Fillmore's home—his cause has been signally triumphant; as much so as it could be in a contest where such a Whig as General Scott was a competitor—backed by the arch demagogue Seward.

FIVE DELEGATES FOR FILLMORE.—The result of the Whig Primary Elections in New York city will be gratifying to the friends of the Union, "the Compromise, and the Constitution," all over the country. The city is entitled to six Delegates in Convention, and from five of the six Districts we have the pleasure of announcing that local delegates are elected pledged to the nomination of the friends of the present Chief Magistrate, as their first choice. In the remaining District, composed of the 4th, 6th, 10th and 14th wards, there is but a small majority for the Anti-Fillmore delegates, and we hear of the fondest sort of play among the successful party in the District. There was a characteristic fight in the 6th, and one man said to be an officer of the election, was detected in putting into the box a handful of votes. The regular voters of the Ward were accused from lookers on at the places of Election, almost generally voted for the Fillmore ticket.

FREE SUFFRAGE. We copy from the Southern a communication signed "A CONSERVATIVE," upon the free suffrage humbug. Let this discussion go on. The enormities of this unjust and iniquitous measure, as proposed by Gov. Reid need only to be exhibited palpably before the eyes of the people of North Carolina, to induce them to spurn it from them by the rejection of the demagogues who seek to sustain it. Partial and unequal, it strips privilege from a deserving class of the community—abolishes the property qualification in one respect, while it leaves it untouched in others—takes away the most salutary part of the system, but leaves the exclusion of the greater part of the citizens from eligibility to office, to operate as a real oppression even upon those whom it proposes to admit to the ballot box: for it says to them, in plain language, you are fit enough for equality of suffrage with your fellow-men, and may even thus control property by your votes, which you are still unworthy to represent in the Legislature. Such is the boon Democracy offers to the people of North Carolina, in barter for the official.

A TRIUMPHANT DEFENCE. The speech delivered in the United States Senate on Thursday and Friday last, by the Hon. James A. Pearce, is spoken of on all sides, as a triumphant defence of the Administration against the attacks made upon it by Messrs. Gwin and Hunter, who, it will be remembered, had—particularly Mr. Gwin—assailed it with great violence, charging upon it enormous and unpardonable extravagance of expenditure. Mr. Pearce, who had but lately returned to his seat from a severe indisposition, arose in his place and met the unfounded and unwarranted charges and insinuations, with an ability and force, which totally discomfited the assailants of the Government.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. This association met at the City Hall on Monday last, a very respectable number of the members being present—Major HIXON, the President, taking the chair. After the meeting was called to order, L. O'B. BRANCH, Esq. of this City, delivered a very able Address upon the general subject of agricultural improvement, which was listened to with profound attention, and which we have heard complimented in very flattering terms. We were unable to remain until the close of the meeting; but presume the proceedings will be published.

abilities, and apply it in the proper manner, to the abrogation of all property qualifications, if any, and the establishment of a just, equal and consistent measure!

WAKE COUNTY.—A Democratic Convention was held at the City Hall on Monday, at which Wesley Jones was nominated for the Senate, and Gen. R. M. Saunders, Gaston H. Wilder and William H. Allen as candidates for the House of Commons; all of whom appeared and accepted. Mr. William H. High, the present Sheriff, is a candidate for re-election, and has yet no opposition to him as yet.

In a government like ours no party should ever surrender. Our gallant Whig chiefs, who have won the battles of our country, and covered her flag with the brightest imperishable glory, have taught us this. Those engaged in a good cause, governed by principle, should always strive to render that cause triumphant; and, fearless of consequences, should WORK, with indomitable spirit, to render it so.—We have good reason to believe, and we do most earnestly hope, the above ticket may be opposed—for North Carolina requires that every man shall do his duty to relieve her from the aliens and strangers domiciled in her public offices. Put your shoulders to the work, Whigs of the Centre, and aid your brethren in scotching and killing the whole Locofoco concern.

The Goldsboro' Republican and Patriot says—"The most desperate and barefaced humbug of the present time is that attempted to be palmed off upon the people of the State by the late Whig Convention, to submit the question of Convention or no Convention to the people."

The readers of that paper may be surprised to learn that a bill "to ascertain the will of the freemen of North Carolina as to the call of a Convention on the federal basis," was introduced into the House of Commons, during the last session, (Jan. 20, 1851, House Jour. p. 920,) by Mr. McLean, of Surry; read the first time and passed; read the second time the same day, two-thirds concurring, and passed, yeas 72, nays 40; read the third time, Jan. 21, (House Jour. p. 935,) and passed, yeas 67, nays 40.

This was a democratic measure: it was claimed at the time as the great democratic triumph of the session; and we have been told that the Editor of the Republican and Patriot, who was present, exceedingly delighted and rejoiced over this achievement—this splendid democratic achievement—concocted by democrats,—introduced by a democrat,—passed by democratic votes!—rejoiced over by a democratic editor!! and intended to answer a democratic purpose!!!

But now, what a change! This same measure, which was then so right, so proper, so democratic, so splendid, so joyful—has become "the most desperate and barefaced humbug of the present time!"—And the following democrats of the House, who voted in favor of the third reading of Mr. McLean's bill, must now face right about to agree with the Republican and Patriot; and in the very classic language of a distinguished democrat, "cut dirt" in the most public manner—namely:—

Messrs. Avery, Cockerham, Durham, Flynn, Gordon, Harrison, Johnston, Jones, Kallum, Marshall, McLean, N. McNeill, Montgomery, Patterson, Pegram, S. Person, Reinhardt, R. M. Saunders, Sheek, Sherrill, Stowe, Waugh, J. Williams and Winstead—24; just one-fifth of the whole House.

We expect to show that the Democratic party have always acted deceitfully towards the people in this matter;—and the above is but one instance of their double-dealing—that they have been actuated throughout, not by a desire to give salutary Reforms to the people, but by a design to trade and traffic upon the constitutional law, for purposes of the advancement of their own men, and the triumph of their party in the State—and that they care not one straw about the passage of any reform measure; but, subsisting upon its agitation, all they desire is to prolong, as much as possible, the term of agitation.

It is the Whig party which aims at peace, by a speedy settlement of all these matters; and the vote of the people proposed by the Whig State Convention will lead to an ascertainment of the popular will, which must rule imperatively at last.

PRESENTS TO MR. CLAY.—The Washington Telegraph states that Mr. Sletor of Alexandria, on Saturday presented Mr. Clay with a mess of five ripe strawberries. The beautiful couch recently sent to him from Philadelphia was the gift of some Whigs of Rappahannock county, Va. It is an ingeniously contrived affair, with joints by which it can be made to assume any desired shape.