

# WATSON & OLD NORTH STATE.

NEW SERIES.]

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WATSON & OLD NORTH STATE.  
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cases these may be deferred by the General Assembly, if they choose. The expenses above enumerated the General Assembly must provide for, or break their faith, as they must swear to support the Constitution.

These expenses make \$985,000 more than the State has ever paid. Now add the taxation of last year, \$260,000, and we have \$1,245,000 per annum, to support the State Government—**not counting the interest on the public debt.**

And yet Gen. Abbott does not deny any of them; only makes a general assertion, plainly absurd, as will hereafter appear.

Gen. Abbott estimates the State debt, already existing and to be created under ordinances of the Convention, at \$1,388,000, whereas, we estimated it from official data at \$1,470,500, a difference only of some \$80,000 per annum. Gen. Abbott must study figures a little more closely, before he becomes a perfect Chairman of Finance Committee. He takes his figures from the Treasurer's Report to the convention, which brings down the outstanding interest to only October 1st, 1867. The ordinance of the convention, ordering the payment of interest, directs the funding of over a million of dollars interest, falling due after October 1st, 1867, which, added to Gen. A.'s figures, make it round numbers the debt, as we stated it, \$1,476,500. We see by Mr. Battle's letter to Dr. Leach, that he estimates it at \$1,480,500—\$4,000 more than we did.

The difference however is not very great. Gen. A. says the interest is \$1,101,248, while we make it; and we are right, \$1,168,000.

But Gen. Abbott says we have set off bonds and stocks, which diminish the State debt to \$3,237,000, and he quotes from the Public Treasurer's report, to the General Assembly of 1865-'66, wherein he says, "while some of these sets off are unproductive at present, I believe, in a short while, under the revival of trade and travel, they will, to a great degree, relieve the burden of the public debt."

Mr. Battle had a right to make this prediction in January, 1866. He could not anticipate, then, that hostile, so-called reconstruction legislation, violating the unaltered condition of the South, and ruinous taxation of our staples, cotton and tobacco, and on the whiskey manufacturers of the Western counties, would prevent the revival of trade and travel, which he, in common with all patriots, hoped for. Trade and travel have not, however, and the public burdens are not, therefore, relieved by the Railroad stocks held by the State. Not a cent of dividend has been paid the State and there will not be, in any certain time. Some of the stocks, as those of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, of the Western, and of the Western N. O. R. R., cannot be expected to be productive for many years.

So much for Gen. Abbott's sets off. The truth is that for the present the State must look to other sources than dividends from Railroads, to enable her to pay interest on the public debt.

Gen. Abbott makes a radical mistake as to our position. We are as much opposed to repudiation as he is. In fact, we are more so, as he voted for the ordinance providing for the payment of the interest on the debt, *dated before and since the war*, totally ignoring, and thereby repudiating bonds issued during the war, issued for internal improvement purposes only. We think, however, that, as well in other matters of detail, should be left to the General Assembly, who are the best judges as to the time and manner of commencing payment of interest. Especially we insist that a Constitution, which imposes, besides the \$1,168,000 interest, additional burdens of \$1,245,000 per annum, should be voted down, as not suitable to the people of North Carolina. And we are sure that the forcing of people, by the legislation of Northern men and of penitentiary negroes, to begin payment of interest before they are ready, will foster the spirit of repudiation. Hence we are the true friends of the bondholders.

interest of the public debt." The constitution further provides that the General Assembly, "after the year 1880, shall lay a specific annual tax, for the purpose of creating a Sinking Fund, i. e. the General Assembly shall begin right away, promptly, by adequate taxation, to pay interest regularly, and, after 1880, a tax in addition shall be levied to create a Sinking Fund. Words cannot be plainer. Surely, Gen. Abbott was napping terribly when he said: "To correct this, (i. e. the depreciation of our bonds) it was only necessary to provide for the resumption of the interest, and this the convention did, but did not direct a tax to be levied till 1810." Oh, General Abbott!

**COTTON TAX.**  
Gen. Abbott argues that our people can pay all these Convention expenses of over \$2,000,000, because in 1867 they paid \$1,800,000 taxes on cotton, and "there has been no extraordinary oppression from taxation."

In the first place, it is not true that there has been no extraordinary oppression from taxation. Many cotton planters were ruined last year. All except a few, who have held their cotton until now, lost money. To many farmers the tax amounted to one-fifth of the gross proceeds of their crops. This is certainly "extraordinary oppression."

Secondly, cotton planting does not exist all over the State. Those who raise this staple might manage to pay their share; but the taxes must be uniform, and we really believe very many worthy people, now hardly making both ends meet, will be totally unable to pay their increased taxes. Lands will be sacrificed at tax sales, bought by capitalists and speculators, and our good citizens, with whom we have been raised, will give place to strangers. Perhaps Gen. Abbott would like this. We have North Carolina hearts.

Gen. Abbott defends the Convention by showing, at length, that certain prominent Conservatives, Presidents of Railroad Companies, and others, obtained aid for their roads. Certainly, and they did their duty, by getting all they could. Railroad Presidents are generally sanguine in regard to the ability of the State to bear increase of debt in their favor, and nobody blames them.

We have not found fault with their action. We might have voted for their schemes, for they have extensive "winning ways." But we presume no one of them asked the Convention to aid them by giving the people a Constitution which will cost over \$2,000,000 for the State taxes alone. They would not be guilty of such bad "Railroading" as this.

**GEN. ABBOTT SOCIAL.**  
The General is not only a financier and expounder of Constitutions, but he is a regular Joe Miller. Hear him! "The people must remember that it will not cost as much to conduct the affairs of the State, under the new Constitution as under the old. By a careful estimate, it will be found that there will be a saving to the State of over \$100,000!"

Now think of it a moment. Under the new Constitution 20 new offices are created, which will cost \$40,000; the Common Schools, to be opened for negroes and whites, will cost \$500,000; the Militia must be armed, equipped and paid when in service, which costs old Brownlow \$300,000, and will cost Holden the same. The University is to be made free for black and white, which will cost \$25,000; the Asylum to be thrown open for all colors, rich and poor, which will cost \$50,000 more, and a Penitentiary must be built by the first General Assembly, which will cost \$100,000 the first year, &c., &c. And all these things, according to Gen. Abbott, can be done for \$100,000 less than we have heretofore paid for our State government—i. e. for less than \$20,000. The General Assembly, alone, will cost two thirds of this!

**THE POLL TAX AGREEMENT.**  
The General quotes the clause in the Constitution which says the poll tax shall be equal to tax on \$300 worth of property, as showing that the taxes cannot be very high. To this we reply, 1st. That all the provisions of the Constitution must be construed together, and, as very clearly, other clauses command a much higher taxation than the words of this section, taken literally, would warrant, the Courts will be compelled to give them such a meaning as will make all the provisions stand.

farmer's tools, &c., in order to raise what this Constitution proscribes shall be raised.

This last view derives plausibility from the following considerations: 1st. While the Constitution is full of details, in fact being a more code of laws, no exemption from taxes is put into the Constitution. The General assembly shall have power to make exemptions, but they are not compelled to do it. And they could not do it, if thereby they would fail to raise money enough to carry out the directions of the Constitution.

2. The late Convention actually levied a tax on everything, on the baby's cradle, the bible, the clothes we wear, the food we eat to pay the expenses of the Convention—to pay negroes and others eight dollars per day. No doubt the Radical party, if elected, will pass another Revenue act just like this. In fact, if the section under consideration be interpreted literally, no other act can be passed.

Gen. Abbott is oblivious of the increased County taxation under this abominable Constitution. He fails to notice the enormous increase of taxes under his Yankee regime of County Commissioners, salaried Justices of the Peace and townships. We have not space to eliminate this heavy expense.

The truth is, the extravagance of this Constitution cannot be defended. It is to state the whole truth in a few words, a Yankee Constitution, fitted only for rich and populous communities like Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with a people homogeneous in character. Injured here, and offered to a people poor and sparsely settled, with one third of their number ignorant Africans, just emerged from slavery, it is in such a place a GRIM AND HIDEOUS MOCKERY.

**THE DOCTRINES OF THE NEW GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.**  
The following letter from "His Excellency" H. H. Wells, as present holding the office of Governor of Virginia, under Gen. Schofield's appointment, sufficiently indicates his sentiments in 1865:

ALEXANDRIA, VA., June 21, 1865.  
My Dear Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note inviting me to accompany a committee of loyal citizens of Virginia in a call upon the President of the United States. My official duties deny me that pleasure, but I cannot forget the opportunity of expressing my earnest sympathy in the movement you are inaugurating. Very soon after the fall of Richmond I became aware that many of the leading secessionists, despairing of resisting by force of arms the power of the Government or the military logic of events which was soon to break Virginia truly free, had determined to attempt by policy what force could not do. Therefore it was that, soon after that event these persons, in considerable numbers, and with such concert as to indicate a common purpose, appeared and took the oath of allegiance.

"An election of members of the Legislature was soon to be held, and among those who announced themselves as candidates were some who had uniformly refused to take the oath, and preferred to lose their property and be separated from their families rather than to acknowledge the supremacy of the Government of the United States. Two years of duty here, and such general acquaintance as it brought, taught me that such an allegiance was not conclusive evidence of loyalty; but that it was nearly worthless, unless accompanied by consistent conduct and loyal acts, and no surprise was felt when, on counting the vote, it was found that these gentlemen were elected by large majorities to represent the people in a State government whose legal existence they had positively denied, and for whose overthrow some of them had within one year plotted and conspired. No one for a moment misunderstood their design, for it was too palpable, and too frequently admitted by the less discreet, to leave room for doubt. With the Legislature in the hands of these men, the calling of a constitutional convention which would repeal the present and restore the old constitution would be a work of short time and little labor, but very sad in its consequences both to the white and black man.

"The country is to-day in a most disturbed condition. The rights of property are not respected; the man whose fidelity to the government has never been

questioned is told by men fresh from the ranks of the enemy that Virginia will soon furnish him no home; that its boundaries are not broad enough; that there is no room for the 'Yankees' or those who helped to carry on 'the Yankee war.' The colored man, who was held worthy to bear arms, and did fight bravely, finds no protection, peace or security, except when in the immediate presence of a military force, and not always even then.—This is all wrong, and you are in danger of losing the very things for which the war has been prosecuted; you may theorize and speculate to the contrary, but the facts remain, and the only wise course is to admit their existence and provide the remedy.

And what is that remedy? It is, in my judgment, to locate a sufficient military force to preserve peace, command respect, and secure order. In other words, to vindicate the supremacy of the law.—Then disfranchise those who are not loyal, making loyal acts, and not a paper oath, the test of loyalty. This done, create a perpetual balance of power, which will at all times secure you from political danger; or more plainly, let the negro vote. He has fought—let him enjoy the fruits of victory which he helped to win; and in extending the elective franchise to him it is done not because he is a negro, but because he is a free native-born citizen of the United States, twenty-one years of age, of sound mind, who has always been and now is, faithful to his government, obeying all the laws of the State; and every man, white or black, who has such a record ought to vote. It is true there is a prejudice, an old prejudice—against such a measure, but then it is only a prejudice, and not an argument and should be weighed as such.

I am, very respectfully,  
Your most obedient servant,  
H. H. Wells,  
President Virginia Union Association.

**LOOK AT THE Old North State.**  
If it is "wise," as the old maxim tells us, to "learn from our enemies," it is surely so to be mistrusted by our friends! And we turn towards the example of our sister, North Carolina, for a valuable lesson which we should hasten to follow.

In that gallant old Commonwealth her sons are moving forward to the rescue of her interests and her honor in three solid columns, which sweep her territory from East to West with a fire of irresistible eloquence. It is a grand spectacle to see her heroic-headed patriots, her mature statesmen, and her youthful orators dedicating themselves to the service of their State with unselfish and heroic devotion which is a noble in praise. From her mountain gorges down to her spreading coast, from her centre to her uttermost boundaries, her children are working with head and heart for her salvation. It is a sublime spectacle! Each day two hundred noble speeches, noble in sentiment, noble in design, noble in pluck, and noble in unselfish devotion, are made within her borders. The "fiery cross" is borne aloft within her borders by the swiftest runners of her clans, and from highland and lowland they rally to the rescue. We repeat, it is a sublime spectacle, and the most bitter Radical in Congress must admire the heroic force of the Anglo-Saxon spirit which glows with such rare brilliancy in so dark a night as that which gathers over the orators of North Carolina. We accord them our admiration and salute them with honest pride, from Vance and Graham and Ashe down to the merest tyro among them all, and we should observe our sister State and emulate her example. Let the Central Committee give the signal for the men of Virginia to be up and doing, like the men of the old North State. It is time we were at work!

**Norfolk Virginian.**  
Virginia Convention.

Richmond, April 9, P. M.—Another resolution to invite Sergeant Bates was defeated. Bates was among the speculators to-day.

**TYRANNY.**  
One of the most infamous acts of the unconstitutional Convention recently in session at Raleigh was the passage of what they call "An ordinance to prevent the intimidation of voters." We say it is infamous because it was intended to accomplish precisely what its caption indicates it would prevent. It was adopted under the impression that it would "intimidate" the able voters of North Carolina and cause them to give up their right to employ whomever their wishes and judgment might suggest.

The "ordinance" bears the stamp of unconstitutionality on its very face; but, independent of this, it will exercise no more control over the actions of the white men of North Carolina than if it were an order promulgated by the King of Abyssinia.

We have never advocated the use of extraordinary means to control the negro vote; but if employers think proper to do so, there are forty ways in which their employees may be led to understand that, in certain contingencies, their services may be dispensed with, without violating the "ordinance" in question.—Even under this Chinese-thunder "ordinance" no penalty attaches to the act of discharging an employee after the election; and, if it have any influence at all, it will only be to induce some, who regard it as a threat, to exercise the right of deciding who shall and who shall not remain in their employ.

But let us give the public an opportunity of reading the "ordinance" for themselves, and if it don't make them laugh, then we are no judge of human nature.—Here is the document that is to strike terror into the Conservative ranks and cause every white man to retain in his employ the midnight Leaguers—his sworn enemies:

**An Ordinance to Prevent the Intimidation of Voters.**  
Be it ordained by the people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, and it is hereby ordained as follows:  
SECTION 1. Any person who shall prevent or endeavor to prevent, any qualified elector of this State, from the free exercise of the elective franchise, by violence or bribery, or by threats of violence or injury to his person or property; or by depriving an elector of employment, or threatening to deprive them of employment, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one month nor more than six months, or by fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars for each offence, and one-half the fine shall go to the prosecutor.

SECTION 2. The hiring of any laborer upon the condition that the same shall vote or not vote for any special candidate or any particular party, or in any specific manner, shall be deemed bribery within the meaning of this act, upon the part of the persons demanding the said condition.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be published and circulated with this Constitution for the information of voters, and shall have force from and after the date of its passage.

CALVIN J. COWLES,  
Pres. Const. Conv. of North Carolina.  
T. A. BYRNES, Sec'y.  
J. H. BONER, Asst. Sec'y.

**COUNT THE COST.**  
How remarkable it is that men can be found who are so afraid of confiscation by Congress that they will try to avoid it by voting for the infamous Constitution submitted by men who purposed to rob us of our property by this very means. Will men deliberately embrace the substance in attempting to shun the shadow? Do not our citizens see that, defeated in their object of confiscation by the direct legislation of Congress, the base tools of these very men are attempting to do the same thing by taxation at home? Does any one suppose such greedy speculators as Gen. Littlefield, of Philadelphia, broken down in his lumber business, would devote the entire winter to lobbying among the members of the so-called Convention to pass the large financial schemes and railroad projects for pure and disinterested love of the people of North Carolina? Has his heart become so overflowing with unselfish regard for the welfare of our people, entire strangers to him, that he will consume the Spring, and devote his talents and money to a canvass of the State—leave all the luxuries of an opulent city home and willingly embrace all the discomforts of a North Carolina canvass? Can such sacrifices be voluntary? What generosity, patriotism, unselfish devotion to the welfare and necessities of his fellow-men. Pah! Not even the poor negro could be made to believe such nonsense.

The man is paid, and WELL PAID, for his work. When our lands and other property are sold to meet the demands of the tax collector, this man Littlefield, as the agent of Northern bondholders, will exhibit himself in his true colors—when the impoverished people of the State are compelled to meet TWO MILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS of taxes, as they must in 1869, under the operation of the new Constitution, should it be adopted—the disinterested patriotism of this man will be unobscured.

who have purchased the bonds of the State at fifty cents on the dollar, see that our wives and children should be thrown for support upon the cold charities of the world to create new offices with large salaries for steady and disreputable servants.

Our work of internal improvement should be completed if possible, but large appropriations should not be made to influence voters, nor should our railroads be built at the sacrifice of our lands and the further impoverishment of our people.—The money of North Carolina should not be expended to build railroads to increase the value of lands which must be forced by these very expenditures under the sheriff's hammer. Our people should not be robbed by penurious adventurers, through the ignorance and prejudice of speculators.

We urge upon all of our citizens to make the simple calculation for himself in regard to the expenses of a "new" North Carolina. Let him calculate the interest on NINETEEN MILLION OF DOLLARS, the total of our public debt; let him add thereto the salaries of the officers for whom he is called to vote; put down his own estimate for the expenses of the public schools, the militia and the penitentiary; and make a rough estimate of the tax to be paid to the State alone. Then, when he takes in consideration the tax he paid the United States, directly and indirectly, county and municipal taxes; the total amounts to fearful figures—more than all the gold and silver and currency now in the State—A NEW TAX TO BE PAID TO THE STATE WITHOUT A SACRIFICE OF THEIR PROPERTY.

Before we vote let us count the cost.  
Wilmington Journal.

**NORTH CAROLINA.**  
An election is to be held on the 21st and 23rd of April in the State of North Carolina, to pass upon the Constitution which has recently been framed by the Radical Convention in that State. This Constitution, which we shall endeavor hereafter to discuss in detail, is based upon the infamous doctrine of an equality between the two races, both social and political; and we do not wonder at the statement of the New York World correspondent, that the Convention which framed this instrument ended their performances by singing psalms to John Brown—a midnight murderer, assassin, and insurrectionist—and indulged in orgies of dancing, shouting, and tumult exceeding all description.

This Constitution, with which it is proposed to shackle the State, is being strongly resisted by the white population, and we are glad to hear that they are making a canvass worthy of their race and blood, to prevent its ratification. They deserve to succeed, and despite the treachery of such ignoble rascals as Holden, we believe they will triumph, unless the returns shall be manipulated and the result changed by the officers of the election. Letters from prominent North Carolinians now before us express great confidence in the result, unless defeated by such frauds.—We share their uneasiness on this last point; but we entreat them nevertheless, to spare no effort and relax no energy to prevent the adoption of this African Constitution. They may fully count in their struggle upon the sympathies of a large majority of the North, and especially in the West and great central States of the Union.

In order to give our readers some idea of the principles upon which this contest is being conducted by the white population of North Carolina, we submit the following extracts from the admirable address of Hon. Wm. Graham, at the recent Conservative Convention held in that State. Mr. Graham is well known as one of the most distinguished statesmen of North Carolina; he was an associate with Webster, Corwin, and Cullen in the Cabinet of Mr. Fillmore; and both there and in his previous service in the United States Senate was noted for his moderate and conservative views. His utterances deserve especial attention as reflecting the sentiments of the most moderate and peace-loving men in the United States.

These extracts exhibit a temper which cannot but be respected, when we consider the cruel humiliation to which the South is now being subjected, the mass and malignant attempts to subject the population to African rule, and the threatened ruin of their country. If under all this there is confidence in the ultimate justice of the Northern masses, we feel sure that it will be abundantly justified by the result.—National Intelligencer.

**The Jewish Passover.**  
This festival of the Jews, commenced yesterday in the evening, which was the 14th day of Nisan, and continues eight days. It was instituted in commemoration of their presidential deliverance from the night before their departure from Egypt, when the destroying angel put to death the first born of the Egyptians, passed over the houses of the Hebrews.—Wm. Journal, 7th.