

THE STAR

And North Carolina Gazette, PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY LAWRENCE & LEMAY.

TERMS. Three dollars per annum—one half in advance. Subscribers in other States cannot be allowed to remain in arrears longer than one year, and persons resident without this State, who may desire to become subscribers, will be strictly required to pay the whole amount of the year's subscription in advance.

New Books.

This day received by the subscribers, the Cabinet of American History, in 10 vols. 18 mo. TURNER & HUGHES. May 10, 1853

More New Spring Goods.

The subscriber, in addition to his present stock, has just received an elegant and extensive assortment of uncommonly cheap

STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,

which he respectfully invites his friends and customers to call and inspect for themselves. Being bought with care, they can and will be offered at a lower price than usual. They consist in part of Fine and super fine blue, black, brown and invisible green cloths and cassimers and satinetts Black, brown and invisible green crapes camblet Angola and Erminet cassimers Pink, blue and buff French gingham Printed and painted muslins, in great variety A splendid assortment of galloons, from 10 to 50 cents

Bleached shirting (very cheap) Irish linens, lawns, and thread cambric handkerchiefs

Black and white tickings Black and white velvets Muslins, silk and other vestings Beautiful black gros de veingis

Pearl brown and other fancy silks Bandana and silk handkerchiefs

Superb stocks, cravats and collars Black, brown and green crissansins, Sternani, crapes de China, love, crapes and other fancy handkerchiefs

Spplendid belt and bonnet ribbons Shell tuck and silk combs

Brown cassimers and black lusting Cambrics and cambric muslin in great variety Plain and figured waist shucks and spider net do. 6 franks shoes of every kind, just from the factory (very low)

7-bones fashionable black and white Beaver HATS, small, medium and large brims (cheaper than ever, just from Rankin's manufactory)

Hardware in great abundance; among them, saw blades, grass blades, hoes and trace chains, files, pumps and gun locks

IRON—ENGLISH-BLISTERED AND CAST STEEL

China, in long and short sets SPUN COTTON; powder and shot Coffee and sugar

Imperial tea and loaf sugar Chip hats, from 25 cents to \$1 Virginia cloth, and checked country do. First rate call skin boots, (New York make) Buck and Wadstock gloves Ladies' gloves and stockings

Thread cambric and thread cambric handkerchiefs

Nankin and cotton crapes Splendid blood gause veils and handkerchiefs

B. B. SMITH, 19 ft

Raleigh, 2d May, 1853

LILLY, WATT & CO. PUBLISHED IN BOSTON THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE.

Prospectus.

The public are here presented with a work, which certainly has the claim of novelty upon their attention. Its object is to present the greatest amount of useful information and of solid instruction in the most pleasing and convenient form, and at the lowest possible price.

The publishers have it in view to furnish a work for families; one which shall not only satisfy the curiosity and amuse the fancy, but which shall at the same time store the mind with useful knowledge, and prove as attractive to every reader as books of fiction. To effect this purpose, the pages of the work will embrace whatever is most interesting in books of modern travels; entertaining memoirs and biographical anecdotes; curious geographical topics; historical events and details, ancient and modern; remarkable adventures, both by sea and by land; valuable discoveries and inventions, particularly in the useful arts, notices of the progress of improvement in all that relates to the comforts and conveniences of life; Natural History, with descriptions of the most remarkable quadrupeds, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, &c.; also trees, shrubs and plants, together with minerals, including the arts of mining, and descriptions of most celebrated mines in all parts of the world.

The various phenomena of nature likewise present subjects of thrilling interest, and to them due attention will be paid.

Such are some of the topics to which the work will be devoted, and no diligence or expense will be spared on the part of the conductors to fill its pages with the most recent intelligence relating to the various departments of knowledge.

In order to render this Magazine more useful and interesting to readers, a large number of highly finished engravings will be inserted, which will serve to convey more accurate ideas of the forms of animals, trees, plants, buildings, cities, and scenes, than any verbal description could do.

The editors will be particularly attentive, in the discharge of their duties, to subjects of interest relating to our own country; and will introduce into each number a brief view of passing events, both domestic and foreign.

On the whole, it is the desire of the publishers to produce a work that by its low price, and obviously useful and entertaining character, shall secure the favour of the public and become an inmate of every family.

To assist in the undertaking, the Penny Magazine, of which two hundred thousand copies are sold weekly in England, besides many other similar publications, are regularly received, and whatever is useful and appropriate in their pages will appear in the pages of this. These resources, with the original contributions, will enable the conductors to fulfil any just expectation that may be formed in regard to the work.

CONDITIONS.

The People's Magazine is published every other Saturday, at one dollar a year, payable in advance. The postage will be three fourths of a cent, if under 100 miles, and for the greatest distance one cent and a quarter only. To all who take six or more copies a reasonable discount will be made.

Notice.

By virtue of a decree made at the Court of Equity for Wake County, Spring Term, 1853, I will expose to sale on the 19th day of August next, at the Court House door in the city of Raleigh, a tract of land, of which Thomas Nicholas died seized and possessed in fee, situated in the county of Wake, and adjoining the lands of Alfred Stevens, Allen Nichols and others, supposed to contain two hundred and forty-two acres and a half.

Terms made known on the day of sale. HENRY M. MILLER, c. k. &c. &c. May 27, 1853

ADDRESS ON AMENDING THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

"The people have a right to assemble together, to consult for the common good, to instruct their representatives and to apply to the Legislature for redress of grievances." [184 Bill of rights of North Carolina.]

To the Freemen of North Carolina.

Happily we live in a country where no apology is required for addressing a free people upon subjects connected with their own government. It is an office which any one may assume without just reproach or fair censure. A recurrence to the proceedings of a meeting held in Raleigh during last winter will exempt us from the imputation of vanity in addressing you, and explain the character in which we appear before you. A large portion, we believe a majority of the people of N. Carolina are dissatisfied with the Constitution of the State. They complain, we believe with justice, against evils proceeding from causes which the people alone can remedy, and therefore they have, through their representatives, determined to call for an expression of the public will upon their complaints. By the 18th section of the "Bill of Rights" the right of the people to instruct their representatives is distinctly declared, and the friends of a reform of our State Constitution feel confident that a voluntary declaration of opinion by the people "for or against a change of the Constitution" will be received as instructions and must influence the General Assembly to accommodate in some way, the unhappy divisions of the State, and provide a remedy for the evils of a most unequal and expensive government. In order to remove the objections of some, to defeat the pretences of many, and operate as a recommendation to all, the advocates for Reform have put forth for discussion the changes which are demanded. If the subject could claim that attention which its importance merits and no feelings of party animosity were mingled with its consideration there would be no difference of opinion.

UNEQUAL REPRESENTATION.

By the present constitution, the people of each county elect two members of the House of Commons and one Senator—and seven Borough towns are permitted to send each one member to the General Assembly. Were each county of equal population, and did the people of each contribute alike to the support of government, this mode of electing the Assembly would be fair and just. Were there any near approach to equality of population and taxes in the several counties, there would not be so much room for just complaint.— Surely a decent respect for the "fundamental principles" of all popular governments will not allow us to argue that one third of a community who pay no more than one third of the taxes, can rightfully make laws and execute them, impose taxes and extend them, for the other two thirds. Yet such is the real condition of this State. Those whom it affects may choose to deny it. We confidently affirm the fact and challenge them to a fair, manly, and candid investigation of the subject.— We may do no more than invite a careful examination of the last census, and an honest perusal of the Revenue list made out at the Treasury of the State, and ingenuity itself may be defied after this, to produce even a plausible appearance of equality in our representation. The white population of the State alone being taken as a basis of calculation, one third govern, and tax two thirds. Assume the Land tax for a basis and it will bring us to the same result. Take for a basis the public taxes of all kinds and the conclusion is not more favorable to our present system. Let all or any of these be combined and it will stamp upon our county representation the same marks of inequality and injustice. The whole white population of the State is about 472,000. Thirty three counties contain 156,000 and the other thirty one counties contain 316,000, and yet these thirty three counties elect a majority of the General Assembly. These thirty-three counties pay annually a land tax of 8000 dollars only, while they exact from the other thirty one a similar tax of 17,000 dollars! These same thirty-three counties—this ruling minority pay for taxes of all kinds 24,000 dollars only, and yet they levy taxes from the other thirty one counties to the amount of 48,000 dollars annually!—The expenses of our State government (including none but such as are necessary) being about 80,000 dollars per year and the State being divided into 64 counties, the proportion of each county in this expenditure is 1250.— These same thirty three counties—this ruling minority therefore do not contribute their own expenses to the government unless their taxes amount to 41,250 dollars! and how is the fact? They pay no more than 24,000 dollars! and nearly one half of them do not contribute taxes sufficient to pay their own members of the Assembly! What a majority of two thirds of the people taxed by one third to pay the minority for exercising this control? Incredible as it might seem to be—It is true. There are 40 counties in the State which do not contain an average population, and more than 40 whose people do not pay taxes equal to their average share of public necessary expenditures while

they elect nearly two thirds of the General Assembly! One of the least counties in this State contains a white population of 2,700—the largest contains 17,600, and while the former pays a tax of 600 dollars, the latter is required to pay 2000 dollars! yet both these are alike represented. Another county with a population of 3,300 and an annual assessment of only 430 dollars, elects the same number of representatives to our General Assembly with a fourth county whose white population is 16,000 and whose taxes are 2,300 dollars annually. And another county with a white population little exceeding 3,000 who pay no more than 300 dollars for taxes is allowed to send the same weight into our councils with a sixth county whose white population is 13,000 and whose taxes exceed 2000 dollars. Comparing these six counties together what will be the result? For six thousand six hundred people who contribute a tax of 6,300 dollars are allowed no larger share in a free government than nine thousand members of the same community, who pay a tax of only 1,300 dollars. The smallest number and they who contribute least to the support of our government are invested with all its powers. There are in the State twelve counties whose people pay a tax of 5,400 dollars collectively—the compensation of their representatives they elect, exceeds this sum more than 3,000 dollars! These counties partake equally with others of all the benefits of the government and they elect nearly one fifth of the General Assembly, yet they compose but little more than one tenth of the population and pay very little exceeding one thirteenth of the public expenses! They pay \$5,000 and cost 15,000 dollars! These things are so. But is it just—Is it equal? Is it republican that they should continue? Most they be endured forever with no better reason for it, than that they are evils which a patient people have already submitted to for many years? Are the maxims of freedom reversed and shall usurpation establish right?—long usage justify oppression?

RESTRICTION UPON CONSCIENCE.

By excluding from public trust, all persons who deny the protestant faith. We are protestants, and therefore we can have no personal interest in the abrogation of this restriction. But will it be expected of us at this day to offer arguments in favor of religious toleration? We hope and believe not. It is a degraee to any free people, to tyrannize over the consciences of others. It is gross oppression, and an undeserved imputation against the patriotism and public virtues of the Catholics of North Carolina, to preserve any longer, this badge of our fathers' prejudices. The article itself, is in conflict with our Bill of Rights, when it declares "That all men, have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God, according to the dictates of their own consciences."—The friends of reform have also proposed an amendment to the Constitution, which will put the election of Governor into the hands of the people.

The Executive chair of this State

ought to be the highest post that the people can offer to the most patriotic of her citizens. It is not so esteemed. But make the station independent, by putting the election with the people, and we shall have done much towards it. Custom has now made it a reproach to the Governor, not to be re-elected after his first appointment, and hence, the high independence which properly belongs to a co-ordinate branch of our government, is sacrificed to a desire for popularity among the members of the Assembly. We do not affirm that it is always so, but it has that tendency; for he must be more or less than a patriot, who is not afraid to incur public disgrace. Is the office of Governor often coveted for its own honor's sake or as a stepping stone to other stations of preference, in the gift of the Legislature? Does it comport with the dignity of the office, that the incumbent shall be forced to win it by personal electioneering, among the members of Assembly? Our fathers have wisely thought, that the "executive and legislative departments of the government should be kept separate and distinct," and what evil can arise, from not observing this fundamental principle, that has not been felt in our own State?—Moreover, the time of the Legislature is unnecessarily consumed, in canvassing for the office, and the harmony of our councils is disturbed by the frequency of this contest. And why may not the people elect their own Governor? He is their servant, and

should be directly accountable to them for the faithful execution of his trust. They have not clothed him with patronage, that he can use to corrupt their elections—they have not invested him with power, the independent discharge of which can be, in any way, incompatible with their right to pass upon his course.—In obedience to the real or supposed wishes of the people, they have been allowed to assume the right of electing their Sheriffs and Clerks, and why should they be refused the power to elect their Governor? No good reason can be assigned for it. It is further proposed to ABOLISH BOROUGH REPRESENTATION. This privilege is no blessing, but rather a curse to the towns which possess it, or to most of them. It is a public burden, from which the people derive no corresponding benefit. And it is grossly unjust that a hundred people, because of the more circumstance that they reside within the bounds of a village should be permitted to send Representatives to the Assembly, who may out vote the organ of thousands residing in the country. Commercial cities may have a population, that would, when taken in connexion with their peculiar interest, justify this exclusive right. But in some of the Borough towns there are not more than 100 voters, and as they enjoy no commerce, they cannot lay any claim to its peculiar rights. Experience has demonstrated that some mode of AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION, should be pointed out by the instrument itself. All will agree that this should be made certain, and economical, and few will dissent from the propriety of so modelling it, that while it does not invite a spirit of innovation it may not exclude the hope of Reform. Such considerations recommend the amendment that has been proposed, viz. that amendments to the Constitution, shall first be sanctioned by two thirds of both houses of the General Assembly, and subsequently ratified by a majority of the people. Other States have adopted it, and it has been found to be, neither mischievous nor defective. While few men, FELLOW CITIZENS, can be found who have the temerity to deny, that our representation is unequal, and the legislation of the State extravagant and unwholesome, yet some will seek a retreat behind the position, that it is impossible to arrive at perfection in any government. This is a position that we do not deny. It is true, of the exertions of human creatures in their lives, as well as their governments, that they cannot attain perfection. But shall this prevent them from coming as near to it as they can? It may very satisfactorily account for the gross inequality in the government, which has arisen from a change of circumstances that it could not be certainly foreseen; it does excuse the infraction of this injury upon the rights of a majority, but it cannot be successfully urged as a reason for its continuance. Is he regarded with approbation by good men, who withhold the acknowledged right of another upon the sophistical subtlety that he cannot do him perfect justice, and therefore he must be excused from attempting to do him any at all? Are bad laws to be tolerated, are they to be tolerated without change, upon the pretext, that no system of human laws can be perfect? Are all governments abolished because men cannot frame one without a fault? But it has been said, that the objections against our present Constitution, are theoretical only—that the State labors under no practical evils—that the majority suffers no practical inconvenience. And is it no practical evil to the State, that her councils are divided by sectional strife—that by the form of her Constitution, the expenses of the Legislature have doubled, and that our expenditures exceed the ordinary revenue? Is it no practical evil, that in 25 years, she has expended one million of Dollars for her annual assemblies, when a prudent economy would have saved more than half the sum—and that for all time to come, the same exhausting operation, must be experienced, and yet endured? Is it no practical evil that a majority of the people are disqualified towards the Constitution—that they are complaining, and will continue to oppose a system, which is ruinous to the whole State, and obliges two thirds of the people to submit to a taxation imposed by one third? Is it no practical evil that those taxes are and must continue to be expended, not for the common good, but mostly in paying the delegates of a minority for exercising this control over the rights and property of a majority? If indeed, these are not practical evils, it will be difficult to find them in any free government. They are those evils which have mainly contributed towards keeping us back in developing the internal resources of the State, and shall we put forth an effort to cure them? They are those evils which have destroyed the harmony of the State, and if not remedied by liberal concessions of power to the just demands of right, must probably, rend the peace of North Carolina. And will not moderate men, in all sections, come forward in a spirit of amity and conciliation, and help to remove them? They are evils similar to those

which induced our sister States to revise and reform their Constitutions; and do we find that we are more happy, more prosperous, more free than they are? Alas! it is but too melancholy a truth, and but too evident to the senses of us all, that we are not. They are evils which a majority of the people have a right to remove. To deny this right is to argue against the very foundation principle of all popular governments. It is retained in the front rank of our own Declaration of Rights, and in that of every other State in the Union, that in the concerns of this life all power and sovereignty reside and of right ought to reside in the People. They can alter their government when they please, whenever indeed the happiness and prosperity of the larger number imperiously demand a change. Herein they are the sole rulers and sole judges. No limit has been set to their authority but that which the Almighty has imposed, that they shall exercise it in Justice and Equity. This may be denounced—but it is the doctrine of free American Institutions. It is the doctrine of the Revolution—It is the Republican doctrine of this country. Whenever the people shall consent to repudiate it they will cast away the great check they have retained upon the usurpation of their rulers. Let us not be misunderstood or misrepresented. Whilst we earnestly maintain this "fundamental principle" we heartily deprecate licentiousness, we would rather invoke a speedy co-operation of all parties in our beloved State to settle the causes of agitation which alone can produce it, but which are now too justifiable to be contemned, and too potent to be harmless. And why may it not be hoped for? We profess to venerate the fathers of the Revolution and the principles they established, and shall that great leading principle of the Revolution, that "representation and taxation shall go together" be excluded from the charter of our own government? We have demanded of Congress an abandonment of the Protective tariff system, because it infringes the great principles of political Justice, and shall we be deaf to the calls of a majority of our people for Justice at home? We triumphed at the advancement of free principles when the question of Reform in the England parliament—of a reform of the unequal representation of the people, was sanctioned and sustained by the KING of England against his House of Lords; and can a demand for equal representation in North Carolina be denied? When Ireland had won a partial restoration of her rights by the removal of an odious restriction upon her Catholic people we witnessed a flow of generous gratulation from the hearts of North Carolinians; and will they turn from us with indifference when we remind them that the same hated tyranny over the consciences of Catholics is sanctioned by the very charter of their liberty?

Unless we choose to indulge a degree

of suspicion that is alike dishonorable to ourselves and subversive of all those principles of action which arise from observation and experience, a remedy for these evils is neither difficult nor dangerous. By your votes at the elections in August, pronounce your determination upon the question "whether a change is needed in the Constitution"—that expression of your will being sent to your Representatives, they will be bound to provide a remedy or to pass a law by which you shall be enabled to effect it yourselves. If this obligation does not arise from that article in the Bill of Rights which secures to you the right of a petitioning the legislature for redress of grievances! then it was a privilege far too trifling to be retained in so solemn a charter. This expression of your will, will be instructive to your representatives, and if they do not obey it, then indeed a period has arrived in the history of the institutions of this country, when the people are bound by the Constitution, and their servants alone are exempted from its obligations. But you need not fear such a result. The right of representation—of a fair and equal representation of the people has become in our day but another name for civil freedom, and success has crowned the exertions of those who have struggled for it, in the other free States of America. There is not less republicanism, nor less justice, nor less liberality among the people of North Carolina than all others. Let but the voice of a decided majority speak and the work is done. It is not possible for the most zealous and eloquent partizan to force from the minority of North Carolina a denial of the great democratic republican principle that a majority must govern.

The general practice of the States has

determined that the most ordinary and therefore perhaps the most appropriate remedy for Constitutional evils (where the existing constitution contains no provision for its amendment) is through the medium of a State Convention, authorized and in its incipient step regulated by law. Whether this convention shall be limited and to what bounds, is a mere question of expediency for the previous determination of the people. We do not stop to argu-

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