

Lexington and Vaddin Flag.

LEXINGTON, N. C. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1916.

Raleigh---the Legislature. Having been called again to Raleigh on important business during the last week, we have not been able for the last two issues of our paper to devote that time and attention to its columns which we desired.

While in Raleigh we attended on the deliberations of the Legislature as often as the nature of our business would permit us, and are pleased to bear witness that the members generally were punctual in their attendance as though they seemed to feel and to be fully conscious that a great and mighty responsibility was resting upon them; and from their self-satisfied air, we have no doubt that they feel themselves fully equal to any emergency which may arise.

That the laborer is worthy of his hire, is a maxim the truth of which the democratic members seem to acknowledge by their acts, in filling all the offices by members of their own body, who bore the brunt and heat of battle last summer, and the present Legislature has established the precedent that none but members of the Legislature can aspire to any office of distinction.

Many good and wise men have heretofore doubted the propriety of appointing members of Congress or of the Legislature to offices of trust and profit--supposing that its tendency was to fraud and corruption, and that Legislators should be free and unbiased in their judgments, and not be subject to temptations so hard to resist as honorable and profitable offices.

But modern democracy has shown that this is altogether a mistaken policy, and that the only road to distinction is through the Legislature, and if a man aspires to a judgeship or to fill any other important office, he must first dabble in the dirty pool of politics and place himself in a situation to sell himself. Or, in other words, he must be in the Legislature and by voting for this measure and advocating that measure, he can sell himself for votes enough to elevate him to office.

It was on this principle, we suppose, Mr. Attorney General JENKINS was elected, while Mr. Moore could command only a few votes--for after diligent enquiry we could find no one who could give any other reason for his election, and his most ardent supporters never thought of offering as a reason, any fitness or qualification which he possessed--though some thought he was elected through a design on the part of the democracy to bring our whole judicial system into contempt and subject it to ridicule.

honor and interest of North Carolina committed to such men as Broos, RENO, HINES, Jenkins, and a great many others too numerous and entirely too small to mention. But this democracy is all powerful, and in the language of the eloquent Senator from Nash-- "What else it touched, it froze," and it is very certain that it "has touched to freeze" the great interest of North Carolina.

The question of Internal Improvements is exciting considerable interest in the Legislature. Many schemes have been brought forward, all of which are considered of the utmost importance by their especial advocates. We doubt whether any of the many bills now introduced will pass, though we should not be surprised if they all were carried by a system of log rolling.

Mr. Caldwell, of Guilford, has again introduced his bill for chartering the People's Bank, and he is urging its passage with great zeal and ability. Mr. Caldwell has devoted much time and study to investigating the workings of our present banking system, and is well posted up in the history of banks generally.

By reference to another column you can see an account of Legislative proceedings. Congress is in session, but nothing has been done as yet; and we presume nothing will be done but agitate the everlasting negro question. And so it will be to the end of the chapter.

FOR THE FLAG. Mr. Editor:--I see in the "Western Sentinel" of November 21st, an article headed "An outrage--Another Know Nothing, like a blood moccasin, too much flayed with his own venom, hath bit himself," the author of which, exhibits a meanness, a littleness, a baseness, and a talent for perversion and falsehood never before equalled in this country, and scarcely surpassed in the blackest ages of Italian treachery and corruption, and worthy only of such characters as Caesar, Borgia, and Francis Sforza; and whose production is unworthy to be compared with the most brutal lampoons that have disgraced any country, and which purports to be a reply to my communication in the Flag of the 7th of November.

Now this contemptible scribbler charges me with an attempt to slander the character of Jonas Warner, every word of which, is false. I never meant to attack the character of Mr. Warner for truth and honesty, and the charge cannot be sustained without staining my language, and giving it a meaning which it is apparent to every man that it never meant to convey. Mr. Warner is generally regarded as an honest man, and no doubt stated what he believed to be true, but which is doubtful if he knew to be true, for illegal voters frequently impose upon the most intelligent inspectors.

did not undertake to decide in favor of either party. Is not that all that my language implies? Surely no man not entirely lost to every sense of justice will contend that it implies anything else. Again he says that Mr. Warner was "driven to make his statements in self defence, upon being falsely and maliciously attacked in a spurious public print," now as to the grounds for supposing that illegal votes were cast at the late election in Forsyth, I will say nothing, for that has been sufficiently commented upon in the Flag heretofore.

This correspondent "A Voter," then quotes from my article: "We people up here who know the redoubtable Jonas, think it very strange that he cannot tell anything more about it than your self," and then says, "if Mr. Warner is neither to be credited upon a statement of fact, nor has intelligence enough to entitle him to an inspectorship at an election precinct, perhaps the following gentlemen, who sat side by side with Mr. Warner, and took the same oath that he did, not however a Know Nothing oath to tell lies, but an oath to hold an impartial election, could tell whether the old man's statements be worthy of credit," thus insinuating that the members of the American party take an oath to tell lies.

Now this is one of the thousand base lies circulated against the American party, and "A Voter" knew it was such when he made the insinuation. He then gives the names of the gentlemen who were associated with Mr. Warner, and says--"Yet these gentlemen are all alike reflected upon, and accused of being corrupt or fools." Now does he mean to say, that an intimation that Mr. Warner is not very intelligent, is a charge that those who were associated with him are corrupt or fools.

He (A Voter) next proceeds to give a quotation, or what purports to be a quotation from my communication, but to which he has added at least four lines which were never written by me, and thus endeavors to place me in a false position before the people of Forsyth, and the readers of the "Sentinel," many of whom will never see this communication. Now in order that your readers may see his meanness, I will give them both versions: "Our opinion is that the old man's statements may be false, but if true, that he is not sufficiently intelligent to be an inspector of the polls at a Commons box, is based upon the intelligence which he displayed in an advertisement which for many weeks graced the store house of Messrs. Cooper & Wharton, in the town of Clemmons ville, and of which the following is a copy, (taken from memory) the date being forgotten:

NOTIS. All the folks what owes me for leather and shouse, will please come forward and pay me up, because I want to settle up with Mester Brees. JONAS WARNER. Now the following is what I did say: "Our opinion is based upon the intelligence which he displayed in an advertisement

which for many weeks graced the store house door of Messrs. Cooper & Wharton, in the town of Clemmons ville, and of which the following (taken from memory) is a copy, the date being forgotten:

notis. All the folks what owes me for leather and shouse will please come forward and pay me up, because I want to settle up with mister brees.

Now Mr. Editor, you will see that he has not only added to what I did say, but in order to screen the ignorance of his mighty hero, he has altered the spelling of every word in the "notis," except one, and has spelled them all correctly except two, and has even changed the spelling of one of them two, so as to change the sound. Was such meanness ever before heard of? Did any dog ever exhibit such plain symptoms of hydrophobia? I think not from his attempt to bite those who never did him any harm.

Now what could have induced the fellow thus to prevent, add to, mispell and misrepresent my communication--did he suppose there was no danger of an exposure--did he think that he had so completely demolished and used me up that he would never hear of me again--if so, he might have profited by the history of "Jonas, who though once swallowed by a whale, has often been heard of since," and is still alive and kicking. He then goes on to examine the premises from which I drew the conclusion that Mr. Warner could not tell anything about those illegal votes, and give it as his opinion that the whole matter is a fabrication.

Now this gentleman of the goose quill intends to create the impression that it is probable Mr. Warner was one of a number of ignorant and corrupt men, who were designedly chosen for the purpose of corrupting the ballot box, and holding an unfair election," and then adds: "Such a reflection might well apply to disgraced Louisville, Baltimore, New Orleans and other places, where men have been shot on their way to the polls, by Know Nothing Sharpe's rifles." Now Mr. "Voter," you have interpreted me wrong, and you did it designedly, for any man having the smallest possible amount of sense, can see that my language was used ironically, and can by no distortion, be made to mean any such thing as you say it does.

Again, this contemptible scribbler asks-- "Who is the very accomplished correspondent of the Flag?--was it the insignificant 'Sam' himself, or was it somebody else?" Now, for his especial benefit I will answer his question. It was not "Sam," but some body else. But who is the correspondent of the "Sentinel"?--was it one of the great Winston indignationists, who published to the world that celebrated "Warning to Parents, Guardians and Traders in Particular," not to go to Salem, because, as they (lyingly) asserted, mob-law reigned there?--or was it that long "Plough-Boy," who has such a mortal dislike for a certain Mr. Moore?--or was it the "insignificant" unfrocked. Now, Mr. Editor, I am done with this modern Titus-Oates. I hope he will yet reform and do better, but do not think he ought to have quite so large a pension as his great prototype, though he has certainly outdone him.

A lady leaving home was thus addressed by her little boy: "Mama will you remember to buy me a penny whistle, and let it be a religious one, so that I can use it on Sunday." Now Mr. Editor, you will see that he has not only added to what I did say, but in order to screen the ignorance of his mighty hero, he has altered the spelling of every word in the "notis," except one, and has spelled them all correctly except two, and has even changed the spelling of one of them two, so as to change the sound.

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THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE. TUESDAY, Dec. 2.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Myers, of Mecklenburg, presented a memorial from the trustees of Davidson College. Mr. Coleman, from the Judiciary Committee, reported in favor of a bill repealing that portion of the Revised Code relating to peremptory challenges of jurors, and proposing to allow 35 peremptory challenges.

Mr. Eaton delivered an able speech in opposition to the bill. He stated that of 16 States of the Union, the laws of which he had an opportunity to examine, none of them allow more than 23 peremptory challenges. He was seconded by Messrs. Gorrell, Wilder and Thomas, and opposed by Messrs. Coleman and Hill. The vote being taken on the bill on its second reading: YEAS--Messrs. Brogden, Coleman, Fennell, Gibson, Hill, Holmes, Holt, Houston, J. B. Jones, A. J. Jones, Mills, Rives, W. H. Thomas, and White--14.

A message was received from the House of Commons transmitting the report of R. A. Hamilton, President of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, with a proposition to print. On motion, the Senate Chamber was granted to the Electors to-morrow at 12 o'clock. A message from the House of Commons was read transmitting a message from the Governor together with a report of Hon. D. L. Swain concerning the documentary history of the State. After some discussion the message was laid on the table.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Cameron, proposing to appoint some one to collect historical facts concerning North Carolina. The report of the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum was presented. Reading dispensed with and a proposition sent to the House to print. Mr. Boyd, from the Committee on Propositions and Grievances, reported against a bill to free Sam Morphis, a slave of Jas. Newlin, which resulted in: YEAS--Messrs. Brogden, Bryant, Cameron, Carr, Gibson, Hill, Houston, Martin, Ramsey, Rives, J. W. Thomas, and W. H. Thomas--13.

Mr. Hill, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill for the distribution of the Revised Code. Mr. Eaton, from a select Committee, reported that the two houses meet in the Commons Hall, on Saturday the 6th of December, at 12 o'clock, to count the vote for Governor. The message from the House was then taken from the table, and the Senate refused to concur. Mr. Gorrell then moved that a message be sent to the House proposing to raise a committee to which the printing of Hon. D. L. Swain's report be referred--Agreed to.

Mr. Gentry, a resolution in favor of Jas. Bivins. Mr. Scott, by leave of the House, submitted a report of a select committee on the election returns for Governor. Mr. Blow introduced a bill in favor of the sureties of James A. Brown. Mr. Bullock, a bill concerning the Roanoke Valley Railroad Company. Mr. Gilliam, a bill concerning fish.

Mr. McIntosh, a bill to incorporate York Collegiate Institute. Mr. Stiles, a bill to lay off and establish the county of Swain. Mr. G. N. Lewis, a bill to amend sec. 6, ch. 99 of Revised Code. Mr. Mosely, a bill to 'manumit' several slaves.

Mr. Erwin, a bill to amend the charter of the Greenville and French Broad Railroad Company. Mr. Mears, a bill to repeal a part of sec. 95, ch. 83 of the Revised Code. Mr. Gilliam, a bill to amend sec. 6, ch. 120 of the Revised Code. Mr. Montgomery, a bill to repeal an act concerning the dividing line between Chatham and Alamance counties.

A bill concerning Deeds of Trust and Mortgages, introduced by Mr. Pitchford, was put on its 2d reading. Mr. Ogburn moved all be stricken out except the enacting clause, and a substitute be made, which he submitted. Mr. Gilliam moved the whole matter be indefinitely postponed--upon which Mr. Ogburn demanded the ayes and noes, which resulted in ayes 44, noes 50. The House refused to pass the bill through its second reading by a vote of ayes, 49; noes, 58.

Another from the same body was read proposing to print the report of the Directors of the Insane Asylum. On motion, the House adjourned. SENATE. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 6. The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Chair presented a statement of the Bank of Fayetteville. On motion of Mr. Wilder, it was sent to the House with a proposition to print. Mr. McDiarmid introduced a bill to amend the act establishing Harnett county. Also a memorial from certain citizens of Harnett county. Both referred to the committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Boyd, from the committee on Finance, reported, a bill to repeal sec. 1, chap. 28, of the Revised Code, and request that it be printed--Agreed to. Mr. Bryant presented a petition from H. Harriss, of Surry county, praying to be joined to Ashe county, and setting forth that the citizens of Surry are willing to have him leave.