

MASS MEETING.—The Republicans of Rutherford, Polk and Cleveland counties are respectfully invited to meet at the Court House in Rutherfordton on the 25th inst., (Christmas) to nominate a candidate for this Senatorial District. Every Township in the district should send delegates.—Let every Republican turn out.

Now is the time to subscribe for the STAR.

"We have heard an intimation coming from Raleigh that Hon. A. H. Jones would be likely to decline a re-nomination to Congress from this District. We are in possession of information to warrant the contradiction of any such report. In all probability it was put in circulation with a view to injure the prospects of Mr. Jones for a nomination."—Pioneer.

The above from the Asheville Pioneer does very well so far as it goes, but we wish to add a few words, for the benefit of Mr. JONES, or any other man who may wish to run for Congress in this district next Summer.

We have nothing to say against Mr. JONES. We have always looked upon him as a staunch Republican and true Union man, and so far as we know, has made us a good Representative in Congress, but there have been serious changes since the last election, and the man that runs for Congress next Summer, must conform himself to suit the times. In the first place we believe that we are entitled to a candidate from this side of the mountains, but we will not be contrary on that score, but there are conditions upon which we will support a good man, and we will give them in short but we want it distinctly understood that we will support no man, unless he conforms to these conditions.

1st. He must be a true Western man in every sense of the word, he must both advocate and defend the interest of the West, politically and financially, and he must prove his sincerity by his acts.

2d. He must denounce the Ring, and every man in any way connected with it, be he great or small.

3d. He must openly and firmly renounce any affiliation with W. W. HOLDEN, and his anti-Republican and usurping administration.

It cannot be denied that the Republicans on this side of the Ridge, have the balance of power, and we take the liberty of saying for them, that they will support no man, who does not conform to the above conditions.

We desire to see the Republicans of this district united, and work together in harmony and with the right man on the track, next summer, and a united effort on the part of all true Republicans, success is certain, otherwise we must be defeated, for this reason we have "sounded the alarm" and we hope, not in vain.

What we have said on this subject, is intended for no particular man, but for the benefit of all concerned, and we will only repeat, that we cannot nor will not support any man, who is too afraid of public opinion, to stand up openly and boldly for Western interest, or who affiliates in any way with HOLDEN and the Ring, nor do we believe the Republicans of this district will support any such man.

The STAR is the bold-est advocate of Western interests in the State. Every voter in this Congressional District should read it.

It is with great regret, says the Weldon News that we see young men still leaving their homes in this and other Southern States, and seeking fortunes in the more western sections where wealth is thought to abound in more abundance. We wish we had the power to persuade these young men to remain at home, not to desert the firesides by which they have been reared because, perchance a gloom may hang over their beloved sunny homes.—The young men cannot be spared—the South is now to all intents in its infancy, struggling to recover from adversities which have made us all poor; and to be enabled to successfully overcome these obstacles the strong arm of the young of our land is needed; the aged cannot combat the evils—their energies have in too many cases passed from them, and to be deserted in this hour by those upon whom they have a right to lean for support, is to resign the great resources of the South entirely into the hands of outsiders.—There is no question but that our land possesses advantages over any portion of this country—the "great West" has become flooded with seekers of fortune, and the rumors of wealth which came to us in our childhood in fabulous tales is no more to be heard, and instead young men who have gone thither have in too many cases been glad to again turn their faces towards those homes which they deserted to pursue a phantom. The South until within the last few years had but few of its immense resources of wealth opened—now these embudded stores are being discovered; wherever our people have gone to work with an earnestness prosperity has followed, and in no case have we seen the young man, who has manfully gone to work, fail to meet with a rich return for his labors. We make this assertion without any fear—we have seen young men deploring their condition, but in every case with idle hands waiting, Micawber like, for something to turn up. Let him bare his arms to adversity's wants, and our word for it, prosperity will follow with open hands.

Again we urge upon the young men of the South to stand by their old homes—desert not their country in their country's need; and aged need them, the women of the South (none ever lived more true than they) cannot of themselves surmount the ills that surround them, and the strength of our young men must be had in the fields and in the workshops.—Young men cast to the winds the thoughts of seeking your fortune elsewhere—bare your arms to the wants of the present moment, and win the approval of those whom you love and conquer the success which will follow your labors. We have been led into these reflections from hearing of a number of young men from this section recently embarking for new homes—it pains us to hear of this, and we had rather a thousand times see those who have already gone returning to those firesides where they will find a welcome cheer for them.

We are indebted to friend BIGGS of the Southern, for a ticket to the Tournament Ball to be given at Tarboro' on the 23d inst. We would be pleased to attend, but as we cannot possibly do so, we wish our friend a happy time of it.

The Revenue Laws of the United States. We desire to call the attention of our representatives in the Congress, to the complicated and illiberal provisions of the laws of the United States, in relation to the tax on brandy and tobacco; and to request and urge upon them the importance of a speedy modification of the laws, and a reduction of the tax.

As the law now stands, a distiller of brandy is required to give a bond of five thousand dollars, pay a special tax of fifty dollars, two dollars per day, and fifty cents on each gallon distilled. It is a well known fact, that a great many of the people of this and other States, have small orchards, and that through the distillation of their fruit, they have been able to raise money to pay taxes due the State and general government, without sacrificing property or necessities of life.

Equally as much can be said in favor of a modification of the tobacco law, and a reduction of the tax.

The primary object of all men when engaged in perfecting a tax bill, should be to raise as much money as possible, and fix the tax on everything as low as possible to raise a sufficient amount of money, and not drive any class of laborers or manufacturers from the State. The tobacco law is so complicated and hard to understand, that nearly every man who attempts to manufacture tobacco, has his factory seized for a violation of the revenue laws, when he thinks he is going according to law. We are opposed to any such laws. We insist that the tax be reduced, and the laws made plain. Will Mr. JONES, the representative from this district, take this matter into consideration? We call his special attention to the subject.

Send in your clubs by the 1st of January, as after that time we shall withdraw our list of Premiums.

THE 8TH OF JANUARY.—Keep it in mind that the election of a Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Capt. J. B. EAVES, will take place on the 8th day of January.

Let every Republican go to work in earnest to have a true Republican elected to the Senate. Work, work, WORK; from now until the day of the election, and then work until the last vote is cast and the polls closed.

Let us make a long pull, a strong pull, an earnest pull and a pull altogether, and we will be certain when the vote is compared, that we have elected our man.

Why don't you subscribe for the STAR, instead of borrowing it from your neighbor?

The Senior.

Our Senior is off on a trip to Charlotte, we wish him a pleasant time, and hope that he may return soon with a long list of subscribers, and a good quantity of Advertising. We will take occasion to say here that our friends in Charlotte have been quite liberal in advertising in the STAR, but we think they are missing a great deal by not advertising more. The STAR is the best advertising medium in Western, N. C., and as there is a prospect of our becoming connected with Charlotte by Railroad, we think that it would be considerable profit to the merchants of Charlotte to advertise their business freely, in order that our people might become acquainted with them, and know where to go to trade.

Josh Billings says: "Any business firm that hasn't got sand enough in its craw to expend a few dollars in making its business known to three or four thousand people ought to pack up and go peddling peanuts."

Mail Facilities for North Carolina.—We have received a letter from Hon. John T. Dewesse, in which he says:

"I have just seen the 2nd Assistant Post-master, Gen. G. A. Smith, who informs me that any of the old routes of the State can be opened, by a petition of the citizens, sent on to me, with the name of some one, who will take the office of postmaster, either male or female who can take the oath of office. Now if they will do this, no more complaint can be made. This only applies to the old routes. Let the people know this."

This is good news. Let the members of the Legislature inform their constituents of this fact, and have the petitions sent on to Washington at once. There is hardly anything which will do more to advance the interests of our State than good mail facilities.

The newspapers, too, are greatly interested in the matter, as their circulation would be greatly increased by the extension of the mail routes.

Now is the time to do a good work, and we hope that every paper in the State will do all in its power to secure to North Carolina, the many advantages which better postal arrangements would certainly give. Let us get back all the old routes, and then, go for new ones.—Standard

Good news sure enough, and we will take the advantage of this opportunity to inform our citizens, that there is a petition at the STAR Office, to ask the Post Office Department to re-open the route from this place to Spartanburg, S. C.

Let one and all who are interested in the re-opening of this route come to the STAR Office and sign the petition at once, and try and have this long wished for route re-established as early as possible.

Are you a Republican? Then take some pride in support of your principles.

Christmas Day.

Don't forget that there will be a Convention of the Republicans of Rutherford, Cleveland and Polk, held in this place on Christmas Day, to nominate a Candidate for the Senate. We want all good Republicans to come and spend Christmas with us, and aid us in selecting a good man and a true Republican as our Candidate, and then after the holidays are over, be prepared to go to the polls and vote for the nominee. Go yourselves and see to it, that all of your Neighbors go too. Let every man do his duty, and his whole duty, and all will be well.

We want 3500 new subscribers for the STAR by the 1st of January.

GRAND CHAPTER.—The following officers of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina were elected for the ensuing year at the regular annual election during the recent session of the Chapter:

WM. MURDOCK, of Salisbury, M. E. G. H. P.; THOS. M. GARNER, of Wilmington, M. E. D. G. H. P.; E. H. WHITE, of Charlotte, E. G. K.; JOHN NICHOLS, of Raleigh, E. G. S.; THOS. W. BROWN, of Wilmington, G. Treasurer; THOS. B. CARR, of Wilmington, G. Secretary; H. H. MUNSON, of Wilmington, G. C. H.

These officers were regularly installed by P. G. H. P. ALFRED MARTIN.

ALBERT D. RICHARDSON the well known war correspondent of the New York Tribune, was shot by a man named McFARLAND on the 25th ult., for an alleged illegal intimacy with the latter's wife. At first the wound was supposed to be fatal, but from later reports it seems there is some hope of recovery.

It is evident to every economist that this needless expense should be curtailed in some way, if not done away with. We as a people are trying now to be economical, and cutting off such expense would be a most excellent place to begin.—Newbern Times.

The Income Tax.

One of the duties of the present Congress, says the *Berrian Record*, will be the consideration of the subject of the income tax. This tax expires by limitation with 1870. If the law is continued in force, it will require many amendments; and, we are inclined to think the interests of the Government require the continuation of this law in some shape, not however, in its present oppressive requirements. It is now, in many cases, a tax upon the very necessities of life. The large family, where the strictest economy is exercised, requires \$1,500 for their support, and their income tax is but that amount, the tax requires 5 per cent on the excess over \$1,000, which is manifestly unjust.

The law should, if continued at all, exempt, at least, \$2,000 instead of one, as it now does. It should be so arranged, that it would still further exempt, when it clearly that this sum will not cover the living expenses of the family. We certainly think there should be no income tax collected off of any part of the necessary expenses of living and medical attendance of any person whatever. A man's income might be \$2,000, yet sickness and living expenses might consume it all. In such cases, it is manifestly unjust to collect income thereon.

This tax should evidently be so arranged, that above a specified sum, say \$2,000 exempted, tax would only be collected on what was really the profits of a man's business or profession. The exemption would cover all cases of poor but honest industry, and be no hindrance to that class to rise in the accumulation of wealth.

Moreover, the law should be so amended as to place no tax upon accounts of business men, as the unpaid account of a business man is no more income, than the unsold wheat in the farmers' bins.

The General Assembly.

This body will adjourn on Monday next for the holidays and will meet again on the 10th of January 1870.

We hope that the members of the General Assembly, will take occasion during the recess to mingle freely with their constituents, and when they go back in January, go prepared to work. We want to see them do what is to be done and adjourn. We can see no necessity for a long session, if our members do their duty. Then let the session be as short as possible, for surely the people are poorly able to pay what is really necessary, and we do not think they ought to be taxed to pay for an unnecessary long session at this time.

We are sorry to see so much wrangling in the Legislature by both parties, long speeches and speeches for *Buncombe*, are too common, and there is too much quarreling going on for the purpose of making political capital. We think less talking and more working would result in considerable good to the people, and we hope our members will adopt this course when they meet again.

The Post Office Department.

Post Master General CRESWELL finds that after cutting down expenses in his department as much as possible, the end of the year brings him in debt to the amount of five million of dollars. He puts his wits together to determine the cause and finds that the great leak is in the "Public Documents" sent free, loading down the mail bags for nothing and the Government has to foot the bills.

It is evident to every economist that this needless expense should be curtailed in some way, if not done away with. We as a people are trying now to be economical, and cutting off such expense would be a most excellent place to begin.—Newbern Times.

Gen. Alfred Dockery.

We need not tell our readers who this gentleman is. He has long been known to the people of North Carolina as an honest and upright public servant.—Since the war, it is true, many of his old political associates have differed with him in his political views. But they have not ceased to respect him. The same may be said of many of his old political opponents.

Gen. Dockery is now the Chairman of the Penitentiary Committee. As such he has shown his well known devotion to the best interests of the State. In the disposition of the patronage at his command he has not consulted the wishes of the party with which he has acted for three years past. For this he has been taken to task by the organ of that party. But Gen. Dockery is not the man to be "whipped in." He bids the organ defiance. This is what all who knew him expected. One night last week he made a speech to the members of the Legislature, and others in the Commons Hall. It was bold, frank and manly. He recounted the acts of the Legislature at its last session, and plainly told that body that it had brought the State to the brink of ruin. He referred to the complaints made against him and his committee, and treated them with the contempt which they merited. The committee would continue in the honest discharge of its duty regardless of them. He gave an exact account of what the committee had done, how much money it had expended and for what. The committee challenged the most searching investigation into the manner in which it had discharged its duties. All this, and much more of a similar character, was said by the old Pedee farmer.

It is truly refreshing to hear speeches like this. It proves that there is stirring virtue in the old land yet, and that it will not remain latent longer. We know that quite a number of Republicans were rejoiced at the speech—we heard them say so. Thousands of them are anxious to cut loose from the ultra wing of their party, and its corrupt leaders. In Gen. Dockery they will find a worthy leader, and we believe that many will follow him.

It is not as a partizan that we rejoice at the course which Gen. Dockery has taken, and at the fact that he is sustained by many Republicans. Since the last election we have occupied an independent position. We are a member of no organized political party in the State or the Nation. We are a liberal and practical Conservative. We discard all dead issues and accept the situation in good faith if not cheerfully. We live and labor for the present and the future. Consequently every one must see that, while we are and ever have been deadly hostile to radicalism—sudden and violent innovations and changes—we are very near the line where rational Conservatism and liberal Republicanism fade into each other.—Old North State.

The Congress.

This body assembled in Washington on Monday. On Tuesday, Mr. Morton, of Indiana, introduced a bill in the Senate, to admit Virginia, and for the admission of her Senators and Representatives. It was generally believed that they would be admitted to-day or on Tuesday. In the House, Mr. Butler introduced a bill for the repeal of the tenure-of-office law. Mr. Stevenson, of Ohio, introduced a bill, two-thirds of both houses concurring, for the re-

removal of political disabilities upon the adoption of the fifteenth amendment. The Committee on Elections reported favorably on the credentials of Heflin, Doox and Sherard, of Alabama. They were sworn in. In the Senate on Wednesday, Mr. Williams introduced a resolution that no State shall be allowed to withdraw its ratification of the Constitution. The bill relieving some five hundred persons from political disabilities, which passed the House last session, passed the Senate and was sent to President.—Among those relieved are Blanton Duncan, of Kentucky, and Judge A. C. Kerman, of Georgia. Mr. Ferry introduced a joint resolution abolishing the test oath, remarking that their time of usefulness had passed.—Plaindealer.

The Suez Canal.—One of the most important enterprises of the 19th century, the opening of the Suez canal, has proved a success. The building of the Pacific Railroad and the opening of the Suez canal will form an important epoch in the commenced history of the world. This canal extends from Port Said, on the Mediterranean sea, to Suez, on the Red Sea, a distance of about one hundred miles. The canal is from 113 to 130 feet in width, and at the most shallow place is 26 feet in depth. This important work was commenced and completed under the auspices of the French Government. Vessels of large size can easily pass through, it shortens the route to the Indies, and is but another example of what scientific and engineering skill can accomplish.—Mirror.

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CORRESPONDENCE

For the Star.

Messrs. Editors: There are evident signs of a better feeling on Agricultural subjects in our country. Whether the two or three letters of your correspondents have had any influence or not, I will not say, but, as I know many of your readers take a special pleasure in seeing their paper opened for such correspondence, I thought it would not be amiss to contribute my note.

We shall undoubtedly have a Society formed here for the benefit of the farming interest; and the main question now is, in what way will it be the most effective, or, to speak with more precision, how shall it be formed so as to be the most efficient.

I wish to make one suggestion on that subject. The day of small things has passed. If we have a society, let us put it on a scale in some measure corresponding with the importance of its object.

If we were about to build a railroad, or even a school-house, it would be ridiculous for forty or fifty men to contribute but fifty or seventy five cents apiece to do it.

There must be money raised; and that money, no matter how much there is, if it is prudently managed, will bring better returns than if laid out in any other way.

Let every man that wants to get the benefit of the society think this matter over carefully; and when a meeting of our citizens is called for the purpose of discussing the subject, we will be better prepared to act with liberal views. Yours truly,

PLOWMAN.

CRUSHED TO DEATH.—We regret to learn that Mr. Collier Griswold, of Goldsboro', engineer on the W. & W. Railroad, while endeavoring to "couple" two cars, at Joyner's depot, yesterday, in some manner was caught between them and was so horribly crushed that when extricated he was in a dying condition.—Examiner.

As an example of the fellowship that the Georgia press is disposed to offer to Northern men, and Republicans, we copy the following paragraph from the *Hancock Journal*, having reference to the Georgia State Fair.

Among the celebrities present were Generals Hampton, Gordon, Chilton, Col. Paterson and others. The infamous Joe Brown, the yankee forswear, and beast Bullcock, had the impudence to make their appearance. They excited but little remark, and with a few exceptions were treated with utter contempt. That is Georgia hospitality and gentility.—(Macon Ga.) Union.