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The State Debt brings up a topic at once delicate, interesting and important.

A considerable part of the people favor repudiation, without distinguishing between old and new, or regular and irregular.

Upon the other hand, many prefer some plan for reducing its proportions within reasonable limits—which they think can be effected by an investigation into the footing upon which it stands, with negotiations for compromise, leaving open all further steps until the results of this action shall be known.

We are not prepared to advise that any speedy steps be taken looking to the nullification of our pecuniary obligations, and the injury of our State credit. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. The present Assembly can, probably, do nothing in relation to the Debt, beyond appointing commissioners to investigate, to negotiate with the creditors, and then report to the next Assembly whether any basis be practicable which will at once preserve our credit, and avoid the ruin of an enormous taxation.

We think that this ought to be done.

At its face the Debt consists of some \$29,000,000 of principal, and \$6,000,000 of interest. Of the principal about \$8,400,000 is Old, \$9,000,000 is New other than Special Tax, and \$11,400,000 is Special Tax. The first lot is quoted in the Northern markets as worth less than 50 cents in the dollar; the second, at about 34 cents, and the third, at a sliding scale from about 25 cents down to much less. A considerable portion of the third lot is still doubted in point of constitutionality; a suit to test this question has been pending, without being pressed, for two years past in the Supreme Court. Of course, it is unnecessary to add that it is also doubted whether the holders of many bonds of this lot, are to be regarded as bona fide.

Suggestions necessarily arise from the above statement of facts. It is not certain, even with the above quotations ruling in the market, that the Bondholders would be willing, at such rates, to fund their bonds in New Bonds of the State issued for the purpose of consolidating its liabilities and bringing them within reach of the tax capacity of the people. It however raises such probability, that the State will have cause to complain, if its authorities do not set upon foot a plan for testing the question.

The question concerns Millions of Dollars, and what we set down here is merely a rough estimate. Taking into that estimate both principal and interest, in view of the above quotations, it seems not improbable that the whole Debt can be funded at \$11,000,000, or, if the holders of the N. C. R. Bonds can be induced to exchange at par such Bonds for the stock in the Company now pledged for their payment, the Debt may be funded at less than \$10,000,000,—perhaps, even for \$9,000,000. If the N. C. R. Company were offered to the Bondholders upon the above terms now, there is much probability that they would be accepted.

This is a business transaction, and business in relation thereto should be cut out and entered upon at an early day. It is the only sort of business that will solve the difficulty, or prove it to be insoluble, and we may be allowed to repeat here that it is a business quite as competent for the General Assembly to undertake, as for any Convention. Involving as it does the saving to the State of millions of dollars, or of an estimable character, it should be dealt with in no playuncy counterhopping temper, but upon the broad principles of a reasonable and liberal economy.

Early next session the whole matter should be committed to some citizens of the State, uninterested therein except as citizens, of good repute in matters of finance, known for high character to the class to which our creditors generally belong, and whose appointment shall be a guarantee to such creditors that the State means business, and is disposed to look upon their claims in a spirit of justice, at the same time that she is sensible of the deep poverty which recent public events have brought upon her people.

Such commissioners ought to be well paid, and that upon a footing of a demand upon them for their whole time for a year. Upon the point of bona fides also mentioned, they would have to take great pains, and have at command more than ordinary capacity. Indeed, in all respects, the matter is one of great responsibility and great labor; it promises excellent results to the public, and will confer distinguished reputation upon those who shall carry it through.

Of course, in thinking over such a matter we have not refrained from looking amongst our fellow citizens, and selecting (in thought) men for commissioners. It is none of our business, particularly, but in persuading ourselves that the scheme would work, we, of course, had to represent to ourselves persons that could work it. The class, then, to which we look, is that which contains Mr. Battle, (late Treasurer), Judge Howard, and General Rufus Barringer. There is at present no politics in the matter, and therefore, in

order to keep them out hereafter, both parties should be represented upon the commission.

To travelers a distant forest appears to be a black, close and impenetrable wall. Upon approaching it, it is seen that the component parts of the mass are trees, whose trunks are widely separated, and sometimes threaded by broad avenues. Not unfrequently it is so with hard problems involving our public or private duty at a future day. Difficulties that at a distance seemed insurmountable, upon coming up with them, are sometimes solved, and traversed, with ease. In this sense we may alter a maxim already quoted, and say, sufficient unto the evil is the day thereof!

It may be so with this Debt. At all events, if it be not, having thus satisfied ourselves as to what can, and what cannot be done, we shall be better prepared for other eventualities.

The question of Constitutional Amendments will recur at the next session of the Assembly. We propose to throw out a few suggestions in reference thereto, for the purpose of indicating our private views, as well as to invite discussion by our friends.

We regard the present Constitution as on the whole a very good one, and, in particular, as much superior to any that we have ever had heretofore in North Carolina.

There are however some propositions for its amendment which if successful will not injure its proportions, or mar the general effect of liberty and of reform which it produces.

We suppose that Mr. Morris, of the House of Representatives, will take occasion at an early day to renew his proposal to strike out by legislative amendment the section in regard to taxation for the purpose of paying the public debt, recently so much relied upon by the promoters of the call of a Convention, as a means of forcing the People to make such call. This will be done by general consent, we suppose, the Republicans not caring much about it any way, and the Conservatives greatly detesting it for its effect upon their consciences, and being desirous that its repeal be put under weigh, as it is understood that from the point of a setting about to amend it, it no longer binds them in point of conscience, whatever be its continuing effect in point of law! All which is vastly curious, but is alluded to here only as promising an early progress with Mr. Morris' bill. It is supposed that possibly, it will no longer be buried by a committee, as at the last session.

We suggest that the General Assembly should be remitted to biennial sessions; and therefore, that Section 2 of Article II, of the Constitution should be modified accordingly.

We also favor the striking out of such part of Section 5 of Article II, as requires a Census to be taken by the State. It seems to us that such a provision must have found its way into the Constitution by the mere caprice of its author, seconded by a general in-advertence upon the part of the other members of the Convention.

Again, the two weeks term of the Superior Court is a very awkward piece of machinery, and besides, the details as to the number of Judicial Districts might well be left, as under the old Constitution, to the wisdom of the General Assembly. We are therefore disposed to think that the whole of Sections 12 and 13 of Article IV, might be erased.

Another matter occurs in this connection. After much consideration, we fail to see why the State should assume all expense connected with the care of deaf mutes, and of blind and insane persons, no matter how wealthy. The care of indigent persons belonging to those classes is properly a public charge. Section 10 of Article XI goes farther, and imposes the care and charge of such persons upon the State without reference to their own means, or that of their parents. The section ought therefore to be modified.

We think that our Constitution would be the better for these changes. We are not however particular about any of them excepting the Taxation, Census, and probably the Legislative Session Clause.

In the mean time we do very well under it as it stands.

A great many of our friends were very agreeably surprised at the vote of Robeson county in the recent election. That county was considered as good for Convention; but lo! and behold, when the vote was returned, Convention was defeated by two hundred and seventy-three majority! There are no better workers in the State than James Sinclair, Col. Nat. McLean, O. S. Hayes, and R. K. Proctor. The result in Robeson is greatly due to the effective canvass made by these gentlemen. We understand there is no doubt of Robeson next year.

The Charlotte Observer says Horace Greely will be in that city at the Charlotte Fair, and will be the guest of M. L. Wriston. Can't Mr. K. P. Battle prevail upon Mr. Greely to attend our State Fair?

THE "LOST CAUSE."

Starting Manifesto from the "Southern Association."

"The Vexatious, Hypocritical New Departure Democracy of the North."

How the Independence of the South May be Secured.

The Good Work Already Commenced in North Carolina.

The Conditions of Separation.

(Strictly confidential.)

ROOMS OF SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK, August, 1871.

DEAR SIR:—I am instructed by the association to hand you—copies of our political pamphlet for August, 1871. The action of our association is, of course, confidential; but I am permitted to state that the August number was prepared by one of the most distinguished of Georgia's statesmen.

Please give the pamphlet circulation among our friends and publication, and notice by such of your journals as are sound upon the true principles of democracy, as we hold them, For the Southern Association. WASHINGTON.

CONCESSION, OR HOW THE

Lost Cause May be Regained,

AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTH SECURED.

Being an Address to my Fellow-Countrymen, by

A CONCESSIONIST.

Man knows no masters save creating Heaven, Or those whom choice or common good ordain. Thompson.

Give me a slave and I will slay him, without sword or staff.—Apothaphia.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION.

PART FIRST.

It has got to be a common phrase, even among our people, speaking of Southern Independence, to call it the "Lost Cause." This is not to be regretted. "Words are things," and false ideas clothed in fine words are potent for evil. Our cause is not a lost cause. It is true we failed in our first attempt, but the cause of freedom can never, no never be lost—

"Freedom's fight when once begun, Bequeathed from blessing sire to son, Ever triumphs gloriously in the end. We have put aside the sword, nor is it the intention of the writer to advise you to take it up again. It has been truly said that "beneath the rule of man entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword." Let us then, at length we have put down our arms and ceased the rude shock of war, still hope, and despair not until all the resources of statesmanship and diplomacy have failed.

We have a weapon firmer set, And surer than the sword, that falls as still As snow-flake on the frozen sod. Light executes a Freeman's will. As lightning does the will of God.

No cause is lost, or ever can be lost, which is shrined in the hearts of a great people, and for which they have shed their most precious blood and offered up to Heaven their holiest and purest prayers.

We of the South are

A NATION.

The late war with its horrors and sacrifices has brought us into one common name—and united us out from the chaos of a disjointed government, a new nation. What have we in common with the people of the North except a common language? Nothing. It is as foolish to suppose that the English proper, the Scotch, the Irish, the Canadian, the English peoples are one with us for the same reason. The English speaking peoples comprise several distinct nationalities—the English proper, the Scotch, the Irish, the Canadian, the North Americans of the United States, and ourselves of the South, all distinct nationalities, yet all speaking the same language.

Writers who treat of such subjects in a scientific way have pointed out the manner in which nationalities are produced from a parent stock. The influences most prominent in working these changes are diversity of climate, laws and institutions. From the same stock came the Canadian and the people of the Northern States, yet they are unlike each other, and unlike that parent stock, and as the difference in climate, laws and institutions between the Northern States and England is greater, so the difference between them is greater.

Developed a nationality as distinct from the original English people as the Frenchman from the Italian.

So, too, these Southern States, living under a totally different climate, and under peculiar laws, and a peculiar institution, has developed a nationality different from either that of the Northern States or that of the parent English stock.

The warm-hearted, whole-souled, chivalric son of the Sunny South is no more like the cold-hearted, calculating, puritanical Yankee, than the people of France are like the people of Holland.

Repeat it, then, a people of the South are a Nation, and a people distinct from the North. We are moved by different impulses, we are reared under different institutions, have a different theory of government, and are marching forward to a different and far more glorious destiny.

If there is any one thing which more than another marks the progress of the age, it is the emancipation and union of similar nationalities. The Italians are one, ruling from the seven hills of ancient Rome. The German provinces of France have escaped from under the Gallic yoke, and the Rhine belongs to Fatherland. At no distant day the German provinces of Austria will de-

part from her keeping; already they gravitate with resistless force to a common law. Their union will be the prelude to their independence, when neither Emperor nor King shall rule over them, only God and their own will.

This knitting together of similar nationalities is irresistible. It takes place in obedience to a law of the human race, as universal and omnipotent as the law of gravitation. Neither the sword nor "reconstruction acts," nor any form of violence can resist it.

We, the people of the South, are a nation, different and distinct from the people of the North, and no effort to bind us together by force can succeed. Such a union can be but temporary, and while it can have no durability, it must, as a consequence, being unnatural and unjust, be injurious and dangerous to both sections.

O ye people of the North, lest in this mad attempt your own liberties are forever lost.

The preliminary philosophical considerations are intended as introductory to what follows. It is the design of the writer to point out the means by which the Lost Cause can be regained and

OUR INDEPENDENCE SECURED.

PART SECOND.

The first step is to turn our back forever upon the vexatious, hypocritical, false-hearted, Yankee "new departure" democracy of the North.

We have ever detested and deceived us, with no thought above the groveling and greedy thirst for the spoils of office; they are ever ready to sacrifice principle to expediency.

They encouraged us into the late war and then basely deserted us, came with arms in their hands at the beck and bidding of a fanatical abolition administration, to lay waste our fair fields and crimson our hearthstones with the blood of our brave children.

Let us be true to ourselves. Shame on the false, crafty, and Southern who "wrecks the situation," when that "situation" is one of independence and slavery to a Northern conqueror.

"Accept the situation!" What is the situation? Let me tell you, my countrymen; or rather LOOK AROUND YOU AND BEHOLD IT! The States' sovereignties overthrown and the government seized by a horde of Northern adventurers, foreigners, who, upheld by the power of the bayonet, rule the people with cool impunity a den of robbers and an oppressed people.

Look at the ever proud, chivalric and glorious State of South Carolina transformed into a burlesque African republic; while in every Southern State an animal herd of brutal negroes are not only given the power to wield the halberd but rule over us, "the free born sons of free born sires."

Such is the situation. You know it well. Can you, will you accept it? Never until courage and manhood die out in every Southern heart, and a race of cowards and traitors rise up to fill our places.

Turn, then, your backs upon the so-called democracy of the North. You have no part nor lot with them.

Disfranchised and held in bondage, it is of no consequence to you by what party you are oppressed, the oppressor may be known who may hereafter sit in the desecrated chair of Washington. Be true to yourselves and let the Yankee nation elect its own rulers in its own way.

Concentrate all your energies and attention upon your own domestic political affairs. Firmly and without faltering persevere in your purpose until the last State in the South is emancipated from radical rule.

Use the powers yet left you, and by peaceable yet irresistible measures seize upon the several State governments and then UNITE and DEMAND YOUR RIGHTS. The appeal will not be in vain. Such are the means by which your independence may yet be achieved.

In order that you, my fellow-countrymen, may fully realize the glorious opportunity which now offers, permit me, more in detail, to point out the mode in which the LOST CAUSE MAY BE REGAINED.

First—Overthrown by peaceable means, the radical State administrations and elect in every Southern State, Southern men to office, from the Chief Executive and Legislature down to the lowest official.

Second—When this is done call a Convention of the States, and President for the Southern Southern Confederacy, who is only to be inaugurated when the independence of the South is acknowledged.

Third—Appoint a suitable commission to proceed to Washington, a second time, to

DEMAND YOUR INDEPENDENCE

and treat for a peaceable separation.

There is nothing in the programme contrary to law, and you need not fear another war.

The demand, if firmly made a second time by a united South, will be granted. We will then, indeed, be told

WAYWARD SISTERS DEPART IN PEACE.

Already in North Carolina has the good work commenced. The radical Governor is impeached and the obnoxious reconstruction acts, unconstitutional and void, have become a dead letter, while so deep seated a feeling of North is the repugnance to any renewal of the late war, that the Yankee government at Washington has not dared to interfere.

Follow then, my countrymen, the example set by North Carolina. It is indeed a "new departure" well worthy of imitation.

This plan will succeed is very apparent from the following considerations:—

First—There is nothing in it contrary to law.

of taxation to support it, and endangering the liberty of the Northern people themselves.

INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE OUR ONLY DEMAND.

We should tell the people of the North that we wished no line of custom houses stretched across the Continent. Free trade, as now, between all the States should be guaranteed by treaty, also the free and common use and navigation of the Mississippi and other great water courses.

In return for which the South should be released from all participation in the payment of the Northern war debt, for our brave people will never consent to pay a cent of a debt contracted to furnish arms to invade their own soil.

An alliance, offensive and defensive against all the rest of the world, should also be entered into. These things should form the FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS of separation, and as such could never be avoided.

INDEPENDENCE OUR ONLY DEMAND.

After legally and peaceably making this demand, let it be submitted to the people; let them vote on it and decide it. In the meantime let the present status continue. A large party would at once spring up in the North friendly to our purpose, and backed by all the moneyed corporations and capitalists, favor the granting of our independence.

It would be the direct issue among the people. The South voting as a unit and the North divided our cause would ultimately triumph, as it would soon become apparent that separation would be for the best interest of all the people, both North and South.

Now, citizens, it is well worth the trial. The opportunity is at hand, do not neglect it. Begin the good work at once, and the day is not far distant when a Southern sun shall shine upon the Southern land, free and independent.

That glorious banner which was so sadly furled at Appomattox, will once more fly freely from the Capitol at Richmond, and he who of right ought to sit there to preside over our destiny, be recalled from his retirement amid the rejoicings of a redeemed people.

PART THIRD.

ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH.

"Come let us reason together."

We have passed through one of the greatest military struggles of modern times.

Now of the South were at war with you of the North. For us it was a war for Independence. For you it was a "war for the Union." People of the North, was not this war a failure to us both?

We fought for an independence we did not achieve; you fought for a Union which you have not yet realized—both sections failed to obtain the object for which they fought so long and so well.

The Union established by the fathers of the Republic was founded upon fraternal feelings between the States, and the laws which made it were only useful as an expression and guide to that fraternal sentiment.

When hate succeeded to love that moment the Union was practically dissolved. All laws are useful among a free people which are revered and respected.

The people of the South can never fraternize with you. The war has rendered any Union, save a union of force, impossible for ever.

We have become essentially a different people, and can only regard you as foreigners. No matter what aspiring politicians may tell you, this is the true and prevailing sentiment of the mass of the Southern people. Why, then, try to force us to adhere to a hated Union? What benefit can it be to you? It is time that you should ask this question? Be not blinded by the lust of dominion or the pride of conquest, but calmly inquire whether, under all the circumstances, a peaceful separation would not be greatly to the advantage of both sections.

That IDEAL UNION for which you fought has, by the very act of war, become an impossible dream. Nothing remains but a union of force—a conquered people, held unwilling captives within the bonds of a hated Union. It was not for this you fought. Alas! the war for the Union defeated itself in conquering a peace.

Are not these things so? Can you deny them in your candid moments? All the arts of your best statesmen since the close of the war have not been able to bind up the broken fragments of the old Union; each fresh attempt at legislation looking to that end has but increased the exasperation of our people and widened the breach.

Is there only a Union on paper—a continuity of territory pictured on the map. That is all there is left. The old Union, with all its sacred emblems and beloved associations, is a thing of the past. These are unpleasant truths, but there is no gain-saying them. Why not, then, consent to a peaceable separation? You have territory enough; you reach from ocean to ocean. The great lakes are yours, and noble rivers by the score. You have wealth and prosperity far exceeding us, and room enough to grow in for centuries to come.

Leave us then our own Sunny South. Let us there develop our own theory of government, re-establish and perpetuate our own domestic institutions and work out undisturbed our own destiny.

Free trade between us and the common use of all the natural highways of commerce you will lose nothing. On the contrary, the great gain to you will fully compensate you for releasing us from paying any portion of your war debt, while at the same time we will thus be placed in a condition to pay the debt which we contracted for our defence, and which is now repudiated, to the disgrace of the country. Each section thus honorably discharging its own debt, the whole will be paid, and the credit and reputation of the entire people, both North and South, maintained. An alliance, offensive and defensive, against all the world, will enable America to fulfill her manifest destiny. A fraternal feeling would be restored if separated by mutual consent, and the two republics go on hand in hand in a career of

glory unsurpassed in the records of history.

On the contrary, if you insist on keeping us, you have but another Poland, or Ireland, on your hands. Think not that the feelings engendered by the late war will soon die out.

It is but a short time since the streets of your city of New York were crimsoned by blood shed by a hatred engendered in a civil war, which was fought on another hemisphere, and which closed 250 years ago. The Southern people will remember Appomattox as long as the defeated Irish have remembered the battle of the Boyne. Think of these things calmly; do not let demagogues and politicians blind you; make the expediency of a peaceable separation by mutual consent, the issue in your political campaigns. Argue the question, discuss it, reason upon it.

It is the holding us in unwilling bonds alone that makes a strong centralized government necessary for you. In consequence you are fast becoming a military government, and unless the present tendency towards centralization is checked your liberty will be forever lost and your republic go down, like all others before, beneath the strong arm of some military chieftain.

Grant us our independence and the necessity for all these things will vanish. You can then restore your government to its primitive simplicity, and feel that your liberty is forever secure.

The Independence of the South and the peace, prosperity and liberty of the North are inseparably linked together. Without the former is conceded, the latter will soon be forever lost!

Aug. 1871. CONCESSIONIST.

CALL FOR A SOUTHERN STATE CONVENTION.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted by the State Convention of Georgia, held at Atlanta, Feb. 3, 1871:

Whereas the peculiar condition of the colored people in the Southern States, growing out of a combination of local causes, does, in the judgment of this Convention, demand a more practical understanding and natural co-operation, to the end that a more thorough union of effort, action, and organization may exist; and

Whereas we believe a Convention of the Southern States would most happily supply this exigency and receive the cordial endorsement of the colored citizens of said States; therefore

Resolved, That we, the members of the Georgia State Convention now assembled, do authorize the President of this Convention to issue a call, in the name of the said Convention, for a Southern State Convention, to be held at such time and place as he and those with whom he may advise shall determine.

The above is a true extract from the minutes of the Georgia State Convention.

J. S. STOKELY, Secretary of Convention.

To the Colored Citizens of the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia:—

Having been deputed, in pursuance of the above resolution, as President of the Georgia State Convention, and in recognition of the distinguished gentlemen whose names are subjoined, we do hereby call the above named Convention to meet in the city of Columbia, South Carolina, on the 18th day of October, 1871, at 12 o'clock Meridian.

As the Convention did not advise as to what should constitute the ratio of representation, we suggest that the respective States be representatively apportioned the same as they are in the Congress of the United States, to wit: one delegate from each Congressional District, and two from the State at large, and two from the District of Columbia. The several Congressional Districts will elect their own delegates, which elected delegates may meet and elect two for the State at large, unless the respective States shall otherwise provide by State Conventions.

Those who may be accredited as delegates should meet the Convention prepared to remain in session a week, if necessary, as questions requiring more deliberation will doubtless be brought before it, and should not be disposed of precipitately.

Most respectfully, H. M. TUNLER, President Georgia State Convention, MACON, GA., May 29, 1871.

Innumerable are the devices of advertising, and how the world got along without it in the days of no newspapers baffles conjecture. A new device in the plan of Mr. Walker, an Englishman, who proposes that the stamping instruments used by the Post-Office in marking post-mark some brief advertisement arranged around the margin of the ordinary impression. Thus all the letters delivered in any particular district would be made to bear any specified advertisement of which the words were few in number. A great revenue is to be made from the business; but if the British post people do not stamp letters more legibly than most letters are stamped in the United States, the advertisement thus half-printed will be nothing but a chronic botheration.

The surgeons and physicians of Jersey City are just now much exercised over the case of Frederick Prout, who, on the 6th inst., was thrown out of a wagon and had his neck broken. The hospital surgeons all decided that Prout would die in a few hours, but, strange to say, he is still alive, and talks frantically, though his body is paralyzed from his shoulders downward. He presents the singular appearance of a man whose head is only alive, the rest of his body being practically dead. The surgeons now say that his recovery is not impossible.

Rates of Advertising: One square, one time, \$1 00 " two times, 1 50 " three times, 2 00 A square is the width of a column, and 11 inches deep.

Contract Advertisements taken at proportionately low rates. Professional Cards, not exceeding 1 square, will be published one year for \$12.

For the Carolina Era. OUR FINANCES.

Now that the battle has been fought, the smoke cleared away, the debris removed, and the minds of reasonable men supposed to have resumed their proper orbit, it behooves us to look at our material condition, unswayed by the acts of the demagogue or the wiles of the ambitious and adventurous politician. We have been told during this contest, that unless Convention was carried, that the Legislature at its next session, would be compelled to levy the interest on the State debt. I must be permitted to doubt the truthfulness of this assertion. I have thought and dated voters into a support of the revolutionary scheme. That we must pay, or show some signs of payment, all honest men agree, and we must set dis honor that now seems to lower over our house, paralyzing all our energies, to gather any further volume. We can do nothing as a State of a people, while we refuse payment for money advanced to us, and for which we have property, the representatives of what money advanced. What do we owe? That is the first question; for until a clear understanding is had on this point, it is unwise for the Legislature to act.

Kemp P. Battle, the then accomplished and distinguished Treasurer of the State, furnished to the Convention of 1868 upon a resolution of that body, the statement that the State had issued bonds, and that at October 1st, 1867, there was due, \$12,470,070.50

Estimated net outstanding due, 1,500,000.00

\$13,970,070.50 \$8,534,500 \$9,981,000

Now, if this be true and I doubt not, where is the difficulty of dealing with the debt? The subsequent indebtedness I will come to presently. When an individual has a debt, and has property, if he refuses to pay, suit can be instituted, judgment obtained, and an execution levied, and the amount made as for as the property goes. You can't sue a State, but is the obligation less imperative in morals and religion to pay an honest debt, particularly when you have the representation of that money borrowed from others, and are enjoying its dividends. The people of North Carolina are a quiet, law-loving, and law-abiding people, and honest, and will pay their debts without violence. They are well taxed, and complain; and while they complain, they are obedient, and will pay any exaction. But they say now, why tax me further, if you have property to pay the debt, or diminish it, if you are unwilling to be taxed for the excess. Is not this good logic, as well as good reasoning? The eyes of the bond holder are now open too, and he don't intend that the State shall enjoy his money and wealth, and make no show of payment. If the assets of the State are sold judiciously, this debt can be wiped out, and no honest man ought to retain his property and keep his creditors at bay, much less a great sovereign State.

What is the character of a State, without an untarnished honor? Now as to the debt since Convention. It is very difficult to say what we owe. Our Judiciary, have made decisions, that I think, rule out about eight or ten millions, and how much more, I won't undertake to say. But be this as it may, let three of our ablest and most distinguished able lawyers and financiers be appointed to separate the valid from the invalid debt, with the duty also from examining the legislation to give