



Sunday Morning, Dec. 8th.

MR. FOSTER'S REPORT.

The minority report of Mr. Foster, the talented Representative from Davidson, appears in our issue this morning, and merits the attention of every sincere friend of Constitutional Reform.

The bill accompanying this Report differs in no other essential feature from that of Mr. Rayner, published in this paper of yesterday, than that no limit or restriction is to be placed upon the powers of the Convention proposed to be called, if the sovereign people of North Carolina elect to have one.

Straws do not show the veerings of the wind, if recent occurrences in the Legislature do not indicate a disposition on the part of a portion of the Democracy—the "dear people's" especial friends—to evade the consequences and check the progress of that spirit of Reform, which they wore so instrumental in exciting. A deep party plot has doubtless been laid, in caucus, to stifle the popular voice, in order to maintain the unity of the party. The Loco Foco party in the West are willing to content themselves with Free Suffrage alone, and forego all other Reforms in which they are vitally interested, that harmony may thereby be preserved in their party organization; while the Eastern Democrats are ready to sacrifice the interests of their section, solely because a different course would be a direct repudiation of David S. Reid! We boldly charge this as the game which is to be attempted to be played, and shall not fail to expose such miserable insincerity and double-dealing to the indignation of the public, of whatever section!

"All political power is vested in, and derived from, the PEOPLE," and it is only by consulting their will, on all subjects, that the true purposes and designs of our Government can be subverted! But more anon.

The "Standard" is doing all in its power to whip into the party traces, those refractory Democrats who, it apprehends, do not intend to obey the mandates of King Caucus, in voting for State Treasurer. Whether these gentlemen can be thus swerved from the paths of an honest independence, or not, is yet to be seen!

"Do unto others, as you would that they should do unto you," is a maxim which Holy Writ has given us to regulate our actions; and the good sense of mankind universally approves it. This has been somewhat varied in human phraseology thus—"First, be just to your fellows, and then ask favors," though we doubt whether the latter mode of expression conveys the great principle with half the force of the former. Our object is not to discuss the fitness or unfitness of the terms of either; the principle is clear, and we wish to test the correctness of the past dealings of some of the Democratic members of the Legislature, and of the course which the party "organ" prescribes for them in relation to their votes for State Officers, &c. Many of the Democratic party in the Legislature have been elected from Whig counties—full enough to turn the scale were they to cast their votes on the Whig side of the question. Now we wish to ask, in all soberness, how can those members answer to their constituents for their votes on the election of Speaker, Clerks, &c.? We can imagine their dilemma when again asking for the suffrages of the people. "Follow Citizens," they may say, "we have endeavored to discharge our duty faithfully, and we hope that our legislation may promote the interests of the State." And what may they, what ought they, to expect as a response? "True, but may we not deal with you, as you have dealt with others?—Had not these Officers discharged their duties faithfully! For a difference of opinion on national politics, you turned them out; and if this plea was a good one against them, why may it not be urged against you?" What answer can you make to this, gentlemen! Depend upon it, you can give none, which will avail you in the hour of trial. The Whigs will repudiate you—your own party will condemn you—and, by a personal application of your own principle, you will doubtless have leave to stay at home at the next election. So mote it be!

In the Senate of the South Carolina Legislature, resolutions have been submitted in favor of secession, which were referred to the Committee on Federal relations.

In the House, Mr. Perry submitted a preamble and resolutions that the Legislature heartily concur in the proposition of the Nashville Convention for a Southern Congress, and the committee on the Judiciary be instructed to report a bill for the election of Representatives to said Congress; that in case any Southern State refuse or neglect to appoint delegates, it shall be the duty of the Governor to send delegates to such State to urge the people and the Legislature thereof to unite with other States in a Congress of the whole South. The resolutions were ordered to be printed.

Mr. Wilkins submitted a resolution requesting the Governor to ascertain from the Federal Government the purpose of sending additional troops to Charleston and whether they intend they shall remain, which was adopted.

prosperous, happy and permanent, are precisely those which have the best Common Schools, as Scotland, Prussia, several of the German States, and in our own Country, New England.

We beg leave to suggest, that in the proposed Convention Committees should be raised on the following subjects connected with Common Schools, viz:

1st. On a plan to establish a Normal or Teacher's School.

2nd. On the best method of bringing the sympathies, suggestions and advice of experienced professional Teachers in the Classical School, to bear upon their less experienced brethren, the Teachers of the Common Schools.

3rd. On a plan to obtain for all the Common Schools the same sort of School Books. The advantage of having a uniform series for all the Schools, is too obvious to need discussion. We beg leave to suggest for examination, those prepared by Prof. McGuffey of the University of Virginia.

4th. To inquire into the expediency of memorializing the Legislature on the propriety of appointing a Superintendent of Common Schools.

5th. On the appointment of a Commissioner to visit the States having the best Common Schools, and to learn by actual inspection the best methods of imparting instruction and fitting up School Houses &c. [This labor might be performed by the Superintendent.]

III—THE ADOPTION OF A SYSTEM TO FIND OUT AND AID THE NEGLECTED CHILDREN OF POVERTY AND GENIUS.

There are diamonds in the rough, and many of the most servicable men of every State have sprung from them: is not then that State unfaithful to its duty and interest which makes liberal appropriations for Geological Surveys and the exploration of Mines, and yet does nothing to bring to light those Mines of Mind which lie concealed under rags and the diffidence of poverty?

Should anything be done to find out such youths, we are at loss to say whether the duty of doing so should be requested of the County Courts, or the County Teachers formed into an Education Society; and still more in doubt whether such youths when found should be recommended for aid to the Legislature—to the University—or to those Denominations to which they belong, or which they favor.

III—SOUTHERN PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION FOR THE PUBLICATION OF CLASSICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON SCHOOL BOOKS.

We regard this as a most important step in the efforts making to secure the independence of the South. We have no means of determining the amount now annually spent by North Carolina alone in the purchase of School Books; probably it is not less than one hundred thousand dollars. The keeping of this sum in the State, or at least in the South, would be but a very small part of the benefit, which would result from the proposed enterprise; for its success would soon raise up a Class of Domestic Authors Editors of School Books and other Literary Men. Now, a Southern Man has little encouragement to write a Book; if he does, he must sell to Northern Publishing Houses, and enter into competition with Northern Authors whose facilities for bookmaking are much greater than his own.

V—THE APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC LECTURER ON EDUCATION.

We should expect great good from a measure of this kind. It would be difficult to name any subject upon which a Public Speaker could address a promiscuous assemblage with less risk of having the good impression of his arguments and eloquence impaired by local, political and religious prejudices, than upon the subject of Education; for his Mission would be one of philanthropy and good to all, particularly the poor, and would be commended to their hearts by the dearest earthly interests of the dearest objects—and objects no less the hope of the State than of their Parents.

We would beg leave to suggest two methods by which the proposed Lecturer might be paid, either by an appropriation by the Legislature, or out of Funds raised by subscriptions, made to an Educational Association. The Lecturer might also be authorized to charge a sum for admission to his Lectures.

In fact, we have thought, that, if the right sort of young man, moved by an honorable ambition and a desire for usefulness, would voluntarily take for his only business, for several years, to travel through the length and breadth of the State, and address his fellow citizens on the various Topics connected directly or collaterally with Education, he might entitle himself to their lasting gratitude, and acquire for himself an acquaintance and popularity in the State which would send him triumphantly forward in the practice of a profession, or the pursuit of Political honors.

Of course a volunteer in so noble a cause could charge what he deemed proper for admission to his Lectures; and if he had the power to make them interesting, doubtless they would be well attended.

Respectfully submitted,
WM. H. OWEN, Sr.
WAKE FOREST COLLEGE,
December 3rd, 1850.

Burning of the Insane Hospital at Augusta, Me. Melancholy loss of Life.

BOSTON, Dec. 4th.
The Insane Hospital at Augusta, Me. was destroyed by fire this morning, and it is supposed that 20 of the unfortunate lunatics have perished in the flames. The fire, it is thought, took from a defect in the chimney. Some of the lunatics gave the alarm as soon as the fire was discovered, but the keeper, supposing their cries were nothing but their usual accustomed ravings, paid no attention to them, when soon after the building was discovered to be on fire, and was shortly consumed.

SIAMESE TWINS.—The Courier has the following extract of a letter from the Siamese Twins, dated:

MOUNT AIRY, N. C., Nov. 22.
"We see by the papers that we are dead—died in England; but we don't believe a word of it. Tell—that our last boy isn't named for him, we call him Patrick Henry. Three others, James Madison, Christopher Wren, and Stephen Decatur."

Sixthly. Amendments to the Constitution emanating from Delegates, elected by the people, to reflect their opinions and wishes upon Constitutional questions alone, would be more likely to be permanent and to secure their respect, affection and confidence.

The undersigned being well aware that unfortunate sectional differences exist upon this as well as other State questions, has in the accompanying bill, by way of preventing any well grounded cause of complaint, made the basis of representation, as it exists for the election of Members to the House of Commons, the basis of representation in electing Delegates to the Convention proposed.

Respectfully submitted,
ALFRED G. FOSTER.

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE REGISTER.

TO THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION IN NORTH CAROLINA.

GENTLEMEN: I trust that my apology for appearing before you on this occasion may be found in the importance of the subject, the fact that a call has been made upon me in the Newspapers to address you and that I am already the Secretary of a local Education Society, which holds its meetings at Wake Forest College.

A subject of so paramount importance could at no time be adequately treated by me, and least of all just at this time, when the labors of the session are succeeded by the more engrossing cares of the examination; yet I had contemplated an address upon education with a suggestion that its friends should organize an association at the next annual commencement of the University, and there adjourn to the commencement at Wake Forest College, a week after, and I yet hope that the University will, as becomes her, take the lead in this business.

The subject of education, at all times important, is vitally so to the South, now that we are contemplating, for a time, commercial independence of the North, and perhaps even something worse, which it should be considered inauspicious to name. That knowledge is Power is true of States as well as of individuals; for a State is an aggregate of individuals, and whatever fundamental truth is true of the individual must be true of the State, that is individuals in their collective capacity; again, what is true of the composing parts, must be true of the composed whole. Hence it would appear, that no State can long, honorably and successfully compete with bordering States of superior knowledge. Physical resources, if she had them, would not enable the less enlightened State to match her more enlightened neighbor; for the age of brute force and savage cunning has passed, and the race is not to the swift, nor the victory to the strong, but both to the wise. If knowledge be so important to all States, it must be more especially so to States whose Geographical situation denies the means of physical or material greatness and glory, that is, the greatness and glory of wealth, of splendid and populous cities, &c. Such is to a great extent the situation of North Carolina. The deficiencies of our navigable waters, our inland situation and the start which the neighboring States have got in commercial enterprise must forever confine us to mediocrity in this pursuit; but a nobler career lies within our choice. We may become to the South what Athens was to Greece, what Massachusetts and Connecticut are to New England. Indeed before the establishment of the Universities of Virginia and Alabama, we were, in the opinion of many, advancing to this intellectual pre-eminence. Our respectable existence as a State depends upon our acquiring eminence in this or some other way. National glory is the richest inheritance of a people; we know that many deride it, and float it as an empty bubble, but it was with a full knowledge of its importance that Henry Clay traced the most shining characters and brilliant victories of the last war to its influence. The proud will leave a State which has nothing, or but little to be proud of; we know that this is as yet far from being the condition of our State, but such it may become; besides, to be stationary when others are advancing, is to present the appearance of retrograding.

With these general and preliminary remarks, we pass to notice what we conceive should be the particular objects of the proposed Convention.

I.—CONNEXION AND CORRESPONDENCE OF CLASSICAL SCHOOLS.

The business of education is so important and difficult that if any aid can be derived from the co-operation of schools in their collective relation it should not be rejected. If for instance each school should feel bound in honor to every other not to admit an expelled student from any one of them, it would operate as a salutary check upon misconduct of students in all of them; in this way a student might be made to feel that his chance of getting an education was dependent upon his conformity with the regulations of his school.

Something also might be done, if schools would agree upon an average time for preparing young gentlemen for College. At present a youth is under too great temptations to go to the Preparatory School, which has the reputation of preparing its students quickest, rather than to the one which prepares them best.

It would greatly facilitate this mutual connexion and dependence of schools, if they were amenable to—at least if they occasionally reported to, some Central Board of Control, or to a Committee of the Legislature, or to an officer of Schools, like the minister of Public Instruction in France, and some other countries. This regulation would give a system of Schools in place of unconnected, isolated Schools, from the operation of which we might look for a generous competition. It would also give to the Trustees and Teachers a hold upon students which they have not at present, by placing it within their power to bring an influence to bear upon them which they could not fail to respect and of which they could stand in awe.

II.—COMMON SCHOOLS.

It is unnecessary here and now to indulge in any general remarks on these hopes, and friends and knowledge-lamps of the poor man. It will not be disputed that they are indispensable to every well regulated and thriving State. We observe that those Countries which are most powerful,

The postage upon pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter, (except newspapers,) may be simplified and reduced, with advantage to the Department. Two cents for the pamphlet or periodical of the weight of two ounces or less, and one cent for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, is recommended as the inland rate upon all pamphlets, periodicals, and other printed matter; instead of the present rate of two and a half cents for the first ounce, and one cent for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce. For the sea-going charge on such matter, and on newspapers, twice the inland rate to and from the points to which it is proposed that the letter postage shall be ten cents, and four times the inland rate where the letter rate is twenty cents, is deemed a just and proper rate. This would, in some cases, increase the postage on printed matter sent to the Pacific coast, and by our other sea lines, where the postage is not already fixed by the postal arrangement; but the postage to California, as above proposed, would hardly equal the price now charged by private expresses for the conveyance of the same weight, in packages of less than one hundred pounds to San Francisco.

It will be perceived that the reduction proposed in the postage upon printed matter is not large. The reason for the greater reduction of letter postage is found in the fact that the rates of postage upon printed matter are now exceedingly low, when compared with the letter rates. The average postage on letters is estimated at about three dollars and sixteen cents per pound, and on newspapers or pamphlets at about sixteen cents per pound. After the reductions proposed, the average inland postage on letters will be about \$2.50 per pound when not prepaid, and \$1.50 per pound when prepaid.

It is recommended that if a reduction of postage be made, it shall go into operation on the 1st of June next, and to meet the deficiency in the revenue which will take place for three or four years, an appropriation from the treasury be made; and that from the same source the department be paid for carrying editors' exchanges, and for all free matter.

MINORITY REPORT

OF THE

Committee on the State Convention, &c.

The Committee on Amendments to the Constitution, &c., consisting of J. R. McLean, George S. Stevenson, W. J. Blow, Thomas Ruffin, Jr., and the undersigned, having reported a bill carrying out the views of said committee except those of the undersigned, proposing to amend the Constitution of the State in one particular alone, to-wit: to allow all persons who are now entitled to vote for Members of the House of Commons, to vote also for Members of the Senate, and the undersigned being thoroughly satisfied that a large and overwhelming majority of North Carolina are anxious for other and important constitutional amendments, and deeply impressed with the importance of all parties, at all times and under all circumstances, recognizing the sovereignty of the people, begs leave to submit a report and the accompanying bill.

This duty he feels the more imperative upon him for the following reasons:

First, because the freemen of North Carolina, under the principles of the bill reported by a majority of the Committee, have never had like those of other States an opportunity of framing or since revising, by delegates untrammelled, a Constitution for themselves.

Second, The representative being merely the agent and servant of the people, has no right to dictate to those who are his masters what amendments to their Constitution they shall have and what—not what grievances shall be redressed and what not—for such would be in direct contravention of the fundamental truths that "all political power is vested in and derived from the people only," and that "the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof."

Thirdly, It is a fact well known, that a large portion, if not a majority, of the people of North Carolina, desire a thorough reform in their constitution, embracing the manner of electing and the term of their State Senators, the election of a Lieutenant Governor, of Judges and other State officers; and for their representatives to refuse to allow them an opportunity of expressing their wishes, upon these subjects, would be, on their part, an adoption of the trans-atlantic doctrine, that "the people are incapable of self-government."

Fourthly, All amendments to the Constitution and every change in the organic laws of a great State, such as ours, should be discussed and decided by the people themselves—their minds being directed to and occupied by that question alone, separate and distinct from any other—particularly, if that other be of a party character, or connected with party triumphs or party success.

Fifthly, Amendments to the Constitution, as provided for by Legislative enactments, are likely to be peace-meal and to keep the popular mind for a long time unnecessarily agitated by the discussion of Constitutional questions.