

The gentleman, who introduced the resolutions, will, I presume, hardly assume to speak the sentiments of all the Counties west of Raleigh, himself being an eastern man.—I hold that, so far as the Legislature is enabled to arrive at a correct opinion of the popular voice, on this subject, by the best and surest tests, the conclusion must be, that a large and increasing majority of the people, are in favor of the Road, and ardently desire to see it constructed.

The members of the last Legislature, fresh from their Constituencies, passed the bill, and many of those gentlemen have been returned. The Representatives from a number of counties opposing the bill, at last session, were defeated, in the August elections, and those counties are now represented on this floor, by warm advocates of this measure—the people eagerly availed themselves of the boon tendered them in this charter, and promptly complied with its conditions, by subscribing *One Million of Dollars*; great concern and anxiety are felt, not only here, but throughout the counties, so far as the news has gone, on account of the hostility shown to the Road, by the bill introduced for its repeal, and the resolutions under discussion—the immense advantage and importance of this grand Improvement, are daily gaining ground in the minds of the farmers of the land; these, sir, are some of the data, upon which I base my opinion, that there is an overwhelming majority of the people in favor of the Road.

But sir, is there not a great necessity for this scheme? Does not the east need it, does not the west demand it? And is it not absolutely essential to the well-being and prosperity of the whole State? I solemnly believe it is. It is too late in the day, there is too much good sense abroad in the land, to question the propriety or policy, of any enlightened people, adopting well digested plans of Internal Improvement; because when tried by the severest of all tests—success, there is every where, sufficient proof, and abundant cause, to establish their great utility; and because their practicability and advantages are opinions that have been accepted, among the intelligent for years, with a continued and general approbation. And this is particularly the case in North Carolina, owing perhaps to the fact that the people, in contrasting her sad and backward condition, with that of other States, cannot be indifferent, or unobservant of, what is going on all around them on this great subject.

Who is not pained and humiliated, whenever the comparison is instituted, between the past and present condition of North Carolina, and that of her sister States. She came into this Union, one of the largest and most populous and prosperous of the States, with a climate and soil unsurpassed by any of her Sisters. But while they have gone on in a bright career of prosperity, her condition remains but little improved, and her people are annually leaving her borders by thousands; because by remaining here, they can get nothing for their products and earnings, being locked out of markets, and having no facilities to get from home, or for transporting their products. The State of Massachusetts, not larger in territory than half a dozen of our Counties, commenced her career, with a smaller population than North Carolina, with a soil by nature, sterile and unproductive, a climate cold and uncongenial with, therefore, the advantages all in favor of North Carolina, how do the two States compare now? I will not detain the House by entering upon a detail of what is so familiar to all, her immense trade, which she carries on at home and abroad, in every zone of the world, the present highly cultivated condition of her soil, the great value and number of the various products of her loom, and all her other manufacturing establishments—her general prosperity—her *One Million of Dollars* expended annually for her Common School system of education, her general prosperity, her vast wealth and her commercial advantages and facilities; nearly all of which is properly attributable to her grand and extensive system of Internal Improvements, the State being literally checkered over, with Rail Roads. To show the extent of her system, and its great utility, let us see what amount those money-loving, sagacious Yankee people have appropriated. Sir, it seems almost incredible, but it is nevertheless true, that Massachusetts has invested a Capital in Rail Roads, within and without the State, in the last fifteen years of more than *Fifty five Millions of Dollars*! nearly one sixth of which has been expended to build rail roads out of, and beyond her borders, to bring the wealth and products of other States, to be poured into her lap. And yet, sir, we are told and it is gravely argued on this floor, that North Carolina cannot expend three millions of Dollars, to build one Road through her Central and richest portion! The alarm is sounded, the hue and cry raised at this first attempt of the old North State to raise and elevate herself among her Sisters.—Look, sir, at Georgia and South Carolina. A few years ago and Georgia was growing poorer, her lands wearing out and washing away, her citizens were leaving her borders, her wealth gliding away. In this condition her spirited citizens began to cast about to ascertain the cause of her retrogressive condition. The examples of other States more prosperous taught them the true secret, they immediately commenced Rail Road Improvements on a pretty extended scale, when, suddenly, emigration ceased, nay, thousands of her citizens that have gone South and West, returned, and a complete revolution and change took place, by imparting new energy and activity to every branch of business, and in every department of life. I recently travelled through Georgia, passing over several of her Rail ways, and what I saw and learned of her present prosperous condition, of her rapidly increasing wealth, her trade, her greatly increased and multiplied products, her towns and cities springing up along her Roads, as if by magic, the yearly return of her citizens

who had emigrated, the life, energy and general prosperity that is being diffused among her citizens by means of her six hundred miles of Rail Road, the actual profits of all her Roads; all these facts and others, the result of observation and enquiry, fully satisfied my mind that Georgia has become a great State and is rapidly growing greater in wealth and population, by her system of Internal Improvement, and that North Carolina might even, outstrip Georgia if all her resources were developed as they will be eventually, if this Road shall be built.

Sir, I believe that the region of Country to be traversed by this projected Road, and the Piedmont country lying beyond it, is not surpassed by any other in this Confederacy; whether we consider the fertility and variety of the soil—the salubrity of the climate—the extent and vast amount of its mineral resources—the beauty of its scenery—its surpassing healthfulness, or the moral integrity and political virtue of its inhabitants. Here, Mr. Speaker, nature has lavished her richest gifts, and diffused her choicest blessings. The valley of the Yadkin, the rich Jersey settlement, and the valley of the Catawba, and their adaptation to the various valuable products, are known throughout the land. Ah! sir, I wish you could visit this beautiful land, delightful as Eden! and take your stand upon some mountain top that pierces the blue vault of heaven, whence you might gaze with unutterable feelings of wrapt wonder and admiration, upon the sublime, and glorious panorama of nature spread outward and onward in an endless circumference of splendor; with cool and pearly streams rippling and gurgling onward, over ledges of rock and precipices, in sheets of milk white foam, until their meanderings are lost far away in the distance.

Sir, who is this road to benefit? The whole State—especially the great farming interest of Western Carolina. It is to improve the condition of the farmer—the great middle classes of our State—those who have taken a large portion of stock in the Road—it is to raise their nature, and place them in a condition in which the privileges and advantages of opulence will, in a measure, cease; where they may be equal not only by nature, but in virtue and intelligence with the wealthier classes—and where the means may be afforded of more generally educating the people. In all that upper region of country, the nearest markets—and uncertain and poor ones when reached—vary from one hundred, to one hundred and fifty and two hundred miles—so completely is this most fertile country locked up—and all the profits of the husbandman and labourer consumed, in getting their produce away, by the old miserable plan of wagonage. And it is owing to this condition of things that thousands are annually leaving the State—leaving lands that yield up to the agriculturist, its rich products, much more abundantly than those upon which the emigrants generally settle. But in the Mississippi valley, they have Rail Roads in every direction, and consequently ready and good markets. There are now thousands, not merely of the poorer classes but the enterprising and wealthy, whose stay, in North Carolina, depends on the success of the Central Road. If it is put down by any action of this Legislature, they will leave the State. They will visit the graves of their fathers, and the homes of their childhood the last time, and with reluctant steps, and aching hearts, turn their backs on North Carolina forever! and seek in far distant lands, among strangers, homes and fortunes for themselves and their children; where labour is rewarded, where industry is encouraged, and where prosperity and wealth abound, by reason of Rail Roads and other Internal Improvements.

But, sir, let this Road be built, and the Yadkin, which will be its great feeder, be made navigable, as it will be, for one hundred and twenty miles, North Carolina “redeemed and disenthralled,” will arise from her *Rip Van Winkle sleep*—her opium-like torpor—arouse herself to her true interests—invite back to her embraces, her sons that have wandered far away into every country; and inspired with a spirit of energy, activity and independence—imparted to her by this great improvement—will proudly take her stand side by side with her most prosperous sisters, and go forth to reach her high destiny—go forth and go on in her new career of prosperity and greatness.

#### CALIFORNIA CORRESPONDENCE.

(Special Correspondence of the Picayune.)

SACRAMENTO CITY, Oct. 19, 1850.

Eds. Pic.—This morning the steamer from San Francisco brought us the glad tidings of the admission of California into the Union. The news was announced about two hours before day-light, by the firing of one hundred guns from the steamer. The signal was at once recognized by the community, and was followed by the discharge of fire-arms of all sizes and classes, from the old rusty flint locks to the polished revolver. To-day is a day of general rejoicing. The courts have adjourned and all official business is suspended, and those who are fond of the “critter” are willing to take it “thousand drinks” upon the strength of the news. The intelligence is of vastly more importance to us than it is to the Union. It at once dispels the anarchy and confusion that seemed to threaten us and hung over our heads with awful forebodings, and promises in their stead a bright and prosperous future. We may now look forward with fair prospects to a strict scrutiny and rigid examination into the frauds and derelictions of duty that have been charged upon the officers of the Federal Government—to the establishment of federal courts—to the enactment of wholesome and needful laws in reference to our commerce and the navigation of our interior waters—to the protection of our frontier from Indian depredations, and to some provision for the purpose of testing and determining the validity of land titles. Our admission will, at the same time, give stability to our State Government and a wholesome character to our laws, while it will inspire with confidence the energy and industry of the State. Upon the whole, it is fortunate for us and peculiarly fortunate for the Union.

During the coming session of our Legislature there is a strong probability that a law will be passed calling a new convention to adopt a new constitution. The Western and Southern men appear to hang together, and if they continue to do so, California, in less than two years, will be a slave State. So you will see, if I am not more mistaken than ever I was in my life, that while our admission into the Union brings us joy and fair promises on one hand, it sends us an internal feud on the other that will be contested with fierceness and energy by both parties.

FREANER.

## DAILY REGISTER.



Sunday Morning, Dec. 22nd.

### YESTERDAY,

IN THE SENATE, the Bill to aid the Wilmington and Manchester Road, after a running debate between Messrs. Joyner, Nixon, Caldwell, of Burke, Thomas, and others, was rejected by a vote of 27 to 22.

In the House, the Debate on the Constitution was further continued, in the morning, by Messrs. Erwin, Dargan, McLean and Ruffin, and, in the afternoon, by Mr. Mizell, of Martin. Our Reporter furnishes a brief abstract of the speeches, under the proper heading.

The further consideration of the question has been postponed until Monday week.

### SPEECH OF GEN. LEACH.

We conclude, this morning, the Speech of General LEACH, upon the Resolutions relative to the N. C. R. R., introduced by Mr. Bridgers. The course of Gen. L. on this question, commends him more and more to the confidence and regard of the people of Davidson, whose views he has so well and faithfully reflected, upon all occasions. Few constituencies, anywhere, have a more assiduous or zealous representative. His speech will doubtless receive a cordial reception at their hands.

### AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The question was pertinently put, and as truthfully answered, by Mr. FLEMING, in the House of Commons, on Friday—“who produced this present dissatisfaction with our Constitution?” And Mr. Erwin, in his remarks in the House of Commons, on Friday and Saturday, gave, in detail, the history of the well-known causes which have led to the present demand for Reform. Our readers will bear us witness, that we had no agency in making the people discontented with the Constitution under which they have prospered for so many years, and under which they would have remained, without a murmur, but for the machinations of political mountebanks, and the representations of interested demagogues. We are still unwilling to alter that Constitution, without a definite and unequivocal expression of the will and wishes of the people. They are the source of “all political power,” and they alone have the right to *unmake* what they alone could *make*. If they ordain a change in our organic law, it is the duty of the agents whom they bestow in every particular. This is *genuine* Democracy, as contradistinguished from *modern* Democracy, represented by a large fraction of that party in the present Legislature.

There can be no doubt—it has not been denied—that it is the deliberate purpose of the majority of the Loco Foco party, in the Legislature, to stifle the popular voice, and suppress, if possible, the popular will. One need go no farther than to the Report of the majority on the subject of Amending the Constitution, to be satisfied of that fact. That Report simply recommends, out of all the questions referred to it, an abrogation of the property qualification in voting for Senators, to be effected by Legislative enactment, previous to any consultation with the people! Mr. Avery and Gen. Saunders unite upon this platform. If these gentlemen are sincere in their belief that this change is called for by public sentiment; if their purpose be not rather to preserve the unity of the party in the State—the West forbearing, for that end, to press other Reforms in which they are said to be much interested, and the Democrats of the East sacrificing the interests of their constituents, for the sake of endorsing David S. Reid—if this, we say, be not the purpose why shrink from an open consultation with the people of North Carolina. The reason is apparent—palpable. It peeps out in every quarter and becomes the more manifest the more it is attempted to be concealed. The head may be hidden, but the body is exposed in all its deformity. The Loco Foco leaders and aspirants know full well, that the people will take these elements of party capital out of their hands; or they fear that, if a majority of the voters of the State insist upon certain important Reforms, their political power in North Carolina will go irretrievably to the great WHIG West! They quail at the storm they have themselves aroused!

For ourselves, we maintain the position we have always assumed. Let all questions, whatever, involving an alteration of the Constitution, be submitted to the rightful sovereigns. If they decide that change is desirable, and are willing to call a Convention, to make one alteration or many alterations, be it so! No man dare dispute their authority.

### THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Under ordinary circumstances, says the Washington Republic, we should not allude to the speech of Mr. Giddings, delivered in the House of Representatives on the 9th inst. The character of this individual is so well understood, that his movement might well be considered as disposed of, by the entire neglect and contempt with which it was received by his colleagues on the floor. But Mr. Giddings is now to be considered, not merely as Mr. Giddings, but as the type of a political brotherhood. He is the recognised leader of the opposition to President Fillmore in the House. It is understood that there was a caucus of the opposition members on Saturday evening; and it is rumored that Mr. Allen and Mr. Mann, and other free-soil gentlemen, took part in its deliberations. It has been alleged, that Mr. Mann was selected as the individual to move the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law; but Mr. Giddings managed to anticipate him in the matter of the speech. As the thing now stands, Mr. Giddings is the head and front of the opposition. To his hands the fortunes and destinies of the party arrayed against President Fillmore have been committed.

It will be seen, by reference to the advertisement in another column, that the CALDWELL INSTITUTE, in Hillsboro', has been discontinued, and that Mr. Wilson, the late President, and Mr. GRAVES, one of the Tutors, propose opening a School, in that place.

We would remind those who would “crown the year” with a patriotic act, that the Hon. Jno. H. BRYAN and Geo. W. MORDECAI, Esq., have been requested to act as Agents to receive subscriptions to the Washington National Monument. We hope that they may be able to make a creditable report from North Carolina.

Subscriptions received at the Bank of the State.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.—A National Convention in Baltimore! The Governor of Virginia has sent a message to the Legislature of that State recommending a National Convention, to meet in Baltimore, in May next, to take such action as will put a final end to the slavery agitation, and thereby perpetuate the Union.

## STATE LEGISLATURE.

### SENATE.

SATURDAY, Dec. 21st.

Mr. G. W. Caldwell presented the memorial of citizens of Mecklenburg county, praying for the establishment of a Medical Board. Referred to Committee on that subject.

Mr. Cameron presented the report of the Commissioners of the Insane Hospital of North Carolina, which, on his motion, was referred to a Select Committee and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Bower presented the memorial of citizens of Ashe county, in relation to constructing a public road from Hillsboro', to the Virginia line. Referred to committee on Internal Improvement.

Mr. Joyner, from the Select committee to whom was referred the resolution in regard to the Raleigh and Gaston Rail Road, reported a bill; read first time and on motion of Mr. Canada, ordered to be printed.

Mr. Bond introduced a bill to incorporate the Bertie manufacturing company. Referred to committee on corporations.

Mr. Cameron, from the committee on corporations, to whom was referred a bill to provide for the incorporation of companies to construct Plank roads, and of companies to construct Turnpike roads and for other purposes, reported the same with an amendment.

Mr. Canada introduced a bill to incorporate the Oxford Female College in Granville county. Referred to committee on corporations.

Mr. Speight introduced a bill to incorporate Kinston Academy, in Lenoir county.—Referred to committee on corporations.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, the special order of the day was taken up, to wit: the bill concerning the Wilmington and Manchester Rail Road Company; which was read, amended, and after some time spent in the discussion of the same, it was rejected. Yeas 22, Nays 27.

Senate adjourned.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SATURDAY, Dec. 21st.

Mr. D. W. Siler presented a memorial of John Young, a purchaser of Cherokee lands, praying for the same relief heretofore extended to other purchasers; which was referred to the Committee on Cherokee Bonds.

Mr. Ruffin, a memorial from citizens of Rockingham county, praying the passage of an act declaring the River Dan from the town of Madison, to the Stokes line, a good and sufficient substitute for a lawful fence; which was referred to Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. Gordon, a memorial from citizens resident within the 75th Regiment N. C. militia, protesting against a decision of a Court Martial of said Regiment, and praying the Legislature not to sanction and confirm the same. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Wilson, a petition of Priscilla Jones, asking a pension from the State. Referred to the Committee on Claims.