VOL. XL.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarp'd by party rage, to live like brothers."

MONDAY, JARUARY 7, 1839.

## JOSEPH GALES & SON, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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## EMORIAL OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT CONVENTION.

TO THE HONORABLE,

the General Assembly of North Carolina.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF N. C.:

The undersigned have been deputed ommittee to present to your honorable ody a memorial, expressive of the views and wishes of a large and respectable purion of your fellow-citizens, recently asembled in the City of Raleigh, in Conventhe discharge of this duty, we feel well assured of receiving a favorable hearing, as well in respect to the numerous and patriotic body whose views we are especially charged to present, as from the subject, which addresses itself so powerfully to the Representatives of the people, to whom has been committed the high trust of guarding into market

the interest and advancing the prosperity of our common country. What is the present condition of the State What its means for improvement? And in what way are these means to be most effeetually applied? These are the interesting questions to which we have been directed most respectfully to invite your attention; and which, as your memorialists humbly conceive, are of such high public concernment. In examining into the condition of the State, whether we advert to the past or view the present, whilst much may be found to warm the breast of the patriot. there is but little to gratify the pride or to simulate the crt rprise of the citizen. We may indeed proudly boast of the exalted character of the nation, and claim for our citizens the most devoted attachment to the Union of the States; that there has been engrafted into our own constitution those principles of rational freedom, the soundness of which has been so fully proved in the success of that representative system which constitutes our pride and hoast as a nation-conferring a degree of freedom on the governed unknown in the old world. and securing to industry its rich rewardpeace and plenty: that the increase of our population, agriculture, manufactures, and advancement in the arts and sciences, and in civilization, have been rapid beyond all example; that these national blessings inspire confidence as to the high destiny of the Republic, and call forth sentiments of gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all events. But whilst we may thus boast of

our rapid advancement as a nation, we regret to say, our own State shares but little in this general prosperity. To prove this, facts must be submitted, however mortifying to your pride, or painful to our feelings. In the apportionment of Representatives among the States, under the first census, North Carolina and New York were equal, each having ten members. What is likely to be our rank in comparison to New York, under the census soon to be taken, embracing a period of fifty years. She will have exceeded her forty members, whilst our State will remain or barely exceed her original ten. What a startling contrast! Yet, in point of territory. North Carolina has her fifty thousand five hundred square miles, whilst New York only exceeds it by two thousand one hundred and twenty-five. At the first period, our population was nearly equal; whereas, at present, she will exceed two million, whilst ours will be but a fraction beyond seven hundred thousand. Yet this immense difference is not to be ascribed to our climate or soil, but in part at least to the rapid tide of emigration. There, every thing has been done to improve the condition of her people-here, our citizens have gone, with the Bible, Encyclopædia, and the axe, those pioneers of civilization. to give population and character to the wilderness of the West. In this way, more than half a million of our people have left the place of their nativity, and carried with them wealth, talent, and enterprise. It may gratify our pride to be told in one Congress, there were nine Senators, native born citizens of North Carolina; yet the fact only proves how much we have lost, by

satisfied at home. We might pursue this inquiry still further, and examine into the rapid growth of our sister States; but we flatter ourselves that you-as we feel assured every patriotic

failing to render our people prosperous and

STOCKS. In the Bank of the State, In the Bank of Cape Fear, 520,000 In the Buncombe Turnpike, Koanoke & Cape Fear Navigation Companies, Witmington & Raleigh Rail

Read, Bonds for the sale of Chernkee Lands, in 1838, and of a prior date,

but it is equally true, we presume, that no more is not necessary to be said. used, and that it will continue to increase, fifths of the capital stock of the Fayette- exist on, upon the important subject of improve- the private stocks, merchandise, and other banks of a river, rising and terminating by the State from two-fifths to that of four- fire; whilst the other leads to an old town. cessary to carry out the views and plan of passes through a productive and populous made, the road cannot succeed. A survey the great Rail Road in which the State has

> for changing our condition and promoting conveyance, are of a greater value than the our happiness and prosperity, both in whole charges of transportation, and those choice and execution, must originate with advantages can never be so fully realized, or be sanctioned by the people. The plan, as by the use of rail ways. These are a then, which we have the honor to present, few of the rich advantages, which are to be originated with a large portion of the peo- extended to so great a portion of the people, and claims your most liberal and atten- ple of our State, by means of the proposed a plan wheh is embodied in a series of reconstitute a system of improvements which,

and political character. the grade or class of the respective works, yet there was none as to their eminent utility and meritorious claim to the aid and patronage of the Legislature. But the year 1837, the tonnage entered and clear-Convention was admonished, as all must be, by past experience, that the works proposed must be brought within the available means of the State, or all would fail. Hence the necessity and expediency of a informed, on high authority, that the coastclassification. In this, too, they were fol- ing trade of Wilmington employs a greater lowing the example of the national Legis- tonnage than her foreign trade. We have lature, in their works of Harbors and For- not the means of ascertaining its actual atifications. What the nation could not ac- mount, as it is not reported. If this be complish with its ample resources, it was true, and we believe it to be so, not only not to be expected a single State could ef- on the high authority from which we refeet, with its limited means, though con- ceived it, but because we know the marafined to works within her own borders .- | time trade of N. Carolina is principally a Here then collision begins, here is the coasting-trade-it would follow, that the danger of failure, and here the demand for tonnage employed in the trade of the port disinterested and enlarged patriotism .- of Wilmington is greater than the great Hence it is deemed important that your ports of Virginia, Norfolk, Richmond, and honorable body should be fully and candidly informed of the reasons and views, which influenced the Convention in recomsubject and the necessity for action.

citizen-to the question-whether the State | dred thousand dollars to the Gaston and of domestic products of any port in the certain this may be, the people in that see- Beaufort to Raleigh, and thence to the west, much to be feared, if you shall separate shall remain in her present condition ?- Raleigh Rail Road. This is not a subcrip- Union. All kinds of bread stuffs, rice in- tion of the State, it is said, are willing to risk had been authorized, and it totally failed. without doing any thing, the cause of inare prepared to reply most emphatically, tion or a loan, and does not call for any ex- cluded; naval stores of every kind and of their own capital in its success, and think, The Convention had no reasonable grounds ternal improvement will have sustained a wo! If so, this brings us to the second in- penditure. It is a mere loan of the credit the best quality; lumber, the very best in a subscription not exceeding 500,000 dol- to helieve that it would prove more success-shock from which it will be difficult to re-

\$500,000 | Legislature shall require to enable the com- whiskey. &c. &c. &c. &c. So that vessels can If so, the Convention was of opinion it too expensive to be undertaken at the same 600,000 with but little opposition. It is deemed Cape Fear as high as Fayetteville for the ought at once to be made. The Conven- western citizens-as leading to markets in The cash balances in the Public Treasu- It also recommended itself to the conven- its navigation is suspended in the summer much on their part for so great a public shall reach Fayetteville, you are still on ry are not included in the above estimates, tion, as a work penetrating to the capital months; and so is the great Ohio. We learn work, and from the descending line, and from thence may as they may be required to meet current ex- of the State, there to be connected with that the navigation of the Ohio, from ice the progress made, as high profits expectpen-es and other necessary appropriations. other works, and accommodating many of and drought, is suspended, on an average, ed, that the work must and will be finished. The State, then, has a capital of more than our citizens in the transportation of their six months in the year; whilst that of the The prompt payment cannot injure the two millions, vested in productive stocks produce to market. Having already re- Cape Foar is suspended not more than four State, and will greatly aid a spirited portion 1 331 per cent. will be made from the regular and in bonds on interest. It is true, a part ceived the favorable action of a committee and a half months, and that at a season of her citizens. of this sum is pledged as a Literary Fund; of both branches of your honorable body, when the crop is not ready for market. 5. The survey of Neuse and Tar rivers,

> may be estimated at two dollars the acre- the cost of its construction. As to the work reason to believe, not one. ued at three hundred dollars each, besides to commence with a home market, from the the plan-proposed changes the subscription those in whose name we have been author- section of the country, and whose product and estimate have been made, under the di- so deep an interest. ised to address you. These matters are must be carried to a distant, foreign market. rection of the most experienced Engineer merely referred to to show the ability of the unless this great work shall succeed. As in the United States-a North Carolinian, to Greensboro, with the view to a McAd State, and the ample means she has to sus- early as 1815, the idea of commeeting the feeling for his native State all the ardor and tain that ered t which it is proposed to bring Yadkin with that of the Cape Four receive wonl of a most devoted som from which it subscription of two State .of the intervening country, presented difficul- his sanction, would cost Two morialists are brought to the interesting with the limited means of the State. Those means of private subscription, has been question, as to what is best to be done? - difficulties disappear, however, before the found impracticable. But should the subpresent to you that plan or system which tent of internal communication, by means posed, we are well assured the amount will was the result of the anxious deliberations of rivers and roads, which directly or indi- be most certainly taken by individuals. presented. No higher evidence could be be estimated at less than thirty counties, magnitude of the work, its accommodation given of the actual wants of our people, and embracing at least 15 millions acres of land, for such a large portion of the State, but of the demand and necessity for something and probably much exceeds that quantity. from the further fact, it is to constitute one to be done, than in the voluntary con- Thus will the occupants of moderate sized of the connected links, the great trunk in and opinions we have been directed to in their own vehicles, and for which the with the Convention were held conclusive make known. A body comprising near power of a single horse will be quite suffi- first and reasons to justify the change. 200 delegates, selected from forty counties, | cient to reach some depot on the main route. men of character, of intelligence, and of Also in securing, what every farmer in the wealth, voluntarily obeying the call of their country will know the value of-a smaller country, argues a deep distress in the com- portion of time in the accomplishment of the munity, and a loud demand for its remedy, object. For it is to be remembered, the The strifes and struggles of party have been great advantage of rail ways, over all other silenced, and the voice of patriotism alone means of conveyance, is the saving of time, has been heard, invoking you to action .- the annihilation of space. Time is money, It is the first and dearest privilege we enjoy and the attainment of greater speed and ceras a free people, that by the fundamental tainty, amounts in effect, to a reduction of principles of our government, every plan expense. The advantages of a more speedy

tive examination. Your memorialists shew, route. This produce is first to be brought that after a week of earnest and anxious to Favetteville, whose capital will increase, consideration, the Convention agreed upon as calls may be had for its employment .-Where prices may be now considered low, solutions herewith submitted, and annexed they will rise by demand and competition to this memorial. The Convention came to the highest rates. It is then to descend to the conclusion, with great unanimity, that to Wilmington by means of Steam Boats, all the works mentioned in said resolutions whose number will also multiply as has were of a great and useful character. and been the case on the Ohio and Mississippi. From thence it finds its way to foreign if begun and successfully prosecuted, would | markets, through Cape Fear Inlet, which, eminently conduce to the prosperity of the if not the best, has its advantages. The state, both as increasing the common wealth | tables annexed, show the tonnage employed and in elevating and confirming its moral in the foreign trade, entered and cleared at Wilmington from October 1836 to Oct. Of the merits of the general system re- 1837; also the tonnage employed in the forcommended, it is proper to say, whilst eightrade of the ports of Norfolk, Petersthere existed a distinct of opinion as to burg & Richmond for the same time, as taken from the report of the Secretary of the

From these tables it appears, that in the ed in the foreign trade from Wilmington exceeded that of Norfolk 6384 tons, and exceeded both the ports of Richmond and Petersburg together 17,694 tons. We are Petersburg.

pany to obtain a loan on better terms than supply themselves with a cargo from that should be granted. they otherwise could do, and thus enabled port, that cannot fail to suit some market 4. The payment by the State of the bal- bade it. Hence, the one from Fayetteville to complete their great work. This favor and make a profitable voyage. Again- ance, 150,000 dollars, of its subscription to was selected as most fikely to succeed-as appeared so reasonable in itself, as to meet that steamboats have been plying on the the Wilmington and Raleigh Roll Road, required by the pressing demands of our due to the liberal spirit of those enterpris- last 20 years; and we are assured that no tion came to this opinion as an act of justice which capital is already employed, and as ing citizens who had been willing to risk serious accident has ever occurred during to the very liberal and spirited exertions of having an outlet that might answer present their own good fortunes in so great a work. the time. Like other rivers in the South the private subscribers, in having risked so demands. Again, when the western road Such are the advantages of the Cape Fear with the view to steam boat navigation, and part of the principal of this fund is to be (2. A subscription by the State of four Inlet, under circumstances as they now if found practicable, that the Board of In-

until the interest accruing on it may be call- ville and Yadkin Rail Road. This is one We have said the policy of building this tract for effecting it. These rivers are the ed for, in purposes of education and of free of the great works in the general system, Rail Road has been sanctioned by the Log- property of the State, the charters granted schools. The state is free from debt, and and may be considered as standing at the islature and the people. We have only to for their improvements having been long has a credit supported by her natural re- head of those recomended in the first class. advert to the fact of the incorporation of the since forfeited. It is proper then that the sources and the habits and manners of her In regard to this work, the Convention had company and a subscription of two-fifths, surveys should be had at the expense of the citizens. The taxable property of the State certain data, both as to its necessity, its im- under the authority of a law of your last State, as due to her citizens, who will use may, as the committee think, be estimated portance to a large portion of the State, its session. Has a single member been out- them for their produce, as well as from the at near 200 millions of dollars. She com- policy as sanctioned by a vote of the Legis- sted of his place in consequence of the vote fact that one of these rivers is so directly prises 32 millions of acres of land, which lature and of the people, and certainly as to thus given? As far as we know, or have connected with the prosperity of one of its

3. The incorporation of a Company for

the opening of an Inlet at the foot of Albemarle Sound, near Nagshead, and a subscription by the State of three-fifths of its capital stock. This work was deemed by the Convention of the highest importance, from the fact of so many of the counties in the North-East part of the State being direc ly interested in its success; from the McAdamized, would not likely exceed, ac- of we look to our sister States, most of quantity and quality of the produce which would find a market through it; and from the fact that it has been long pressed upon the notice both of the National and State Legislatures. Albemarle Sound runs in direction east from the conflux of its head waters, the distance of some eighty miles, and at its eastern extremity is separated from the ocean by a narrow strip of sand bank, some hundred yards in width. It is navigable within four or five miles of the ocean, where its waters separate into the Roanoke and Croatan Sounds, and change its direction nearly south. Roanoke Island is between them. These two sounds unite again, and some twenty-five miles from the point where the current of the Albemarle changes from an east to nearly a South course, they enter the Pamtico Sound. Brom the Nor h-Eastern extremity of the Pamtieo is, fifty miles distant, the Ocracoke inless the only navigable one for vessels suited to the coasting trade. It is proposed to throw a dam or other construction across the Croatan Sound, and thus force the waters of the Albemarle to break their passage through the bank at its foot into the of the State, and then ask himself, 'if such Atlantic Ocean. It is estimated by intelli- a plan had been adopted but five years ago, gent seamen accustomed to the navigation of this coast, that through the proposed inlet, double the number of voyages may be made as are now through that at Ocracoke. It has been estimated by a member of the Convention, that the 12 counties in North Carolina, nearly all the produce of which seeks its market through the Albemarle, seen, contemplate a connection with the er she, in her sovereign capacity, shall enexport not less than from four to six mil- two great rail roads now in progress, as well | gage in a system of this kind at all. And lins of dollars annully. This produce as with the proposed road from Fayetteville can we, at such a period as this, with all consists of corn, cotton, wheat, fish, peas to the Yadkin. The Beaufort Road, lead- the light of experience before us, be seriand an immense amount in naval stores ing from the fine harbor at that place, is the lously called upon to discuss such a quesand lumber. These articles are nearly all most important from that fact, as another flion? Will you leave these matters to inof such bulk as to forbid a deposite between outlet will be thus opened to the ocean, and dividual enterprise, when every State in the place of production and sale. Hence the produce of the upper country will then the importance of its being received from find additional means of being shipped to so much success? At the close of the the wharves and rivers of the producers any portion of the commercial world.) The memorable struggle to which we have just and carried at once to the ocean for its final inlet at Beaufort is said to be not only the referred, North Carolina had her territory destination. To the fishing interest the best in our own state, for its depth of water, success of the work is of peculiar importance, as the annual tribute from abroad for is not to be surpassed by any other from Mountain, and Guilford are landmarks The Port of Wilmington possesses two this article alone is estimated by gentlemen the Chesapeake to Pensacola. Why then, advantages over most of the other ports in from that section of the State at \$300,000. it may be asked, was not its rail road placed mending certain works for prompt and imthe United States, which cannot fail to be This work has also been examined and in the first class? The answer, to a mamediate execution. Let them not be charhighly estimated. 1. It is a fresh water estimates, made, under the authority of an jority of the Convention, was plain and satged with selfishness or with local prefer: port, and vessels are exempt from the des- Engineer of the State and of the U. States. isfactory. It has no produce, no capitalences, but remember the difficulty of the truction to their bottoms (unless coppered) They differ greatly in the cost, which may these must be brought from a distance occasioned by the salt water worms. 2. be owing to the material and the manner of One great trunk in connecting the east and I Is this state of things to continue? Or 1. A guarantee by the State of five hun- It furnishes the most miscellaneous cargo constructing the work. But however un- west, was deemed sufficient. A road from are we ever to be roused to action? It is

ternal Improvements be authorized to con-

markets, Washington, which has heretofore she has 300,000 slaves, which may be val- itself-it is to connect the East and West; But we are here met with the objection, been sustained with so much spirit, but which has recently suffered so severely by the internal condition of the State. In property subject to taxation. But it is not within our own limits -- to be extended for fights: why this change? The answer is which has many claims on the liberality of proposed to resort to taxation, nor is it ne- the present to the Yadkin, a stream which to be found in the fact, that unless it is the State, besides its direct connection with

> 6. A survey from Raleigh via Hillshoro, amized Turn Pike Road, a company and a

ed the favorable action of the Legislature. appears, to construct the work in the best This route is recommended from the fact way the estate which our children are to Having shown the condition of the State, But unfortunately the geological structure possible mode and in the way which meet that it is to take the main travel from the inherit will be improved, our own condiseat of Government to the Western Counand the means for effecting it, your me- ties not then to be surmounted by a Canal, dollars. To raise two fifths of this sum, by ties in the State; that it passes through two among the largest and most productive in order to its improvement. This accords Counties in the State, whose people are far-In answer to that question, we have to mighty engine of steam. The actual ex- scription of the State be changed, as pro- mers, deal principally in the necessaries of life, own their own vehicles, accustomed to estate is fast going to decay; our people their use, and without this road, can share of those in whose behalf this memorial is rectly connect itself with this road, cannot This is commended not only from the but little in the direct advantages of Internal Improvements. Besides, it is for the present to terminate at one of the most flourgregation of that assembly, whose wishes farms be enabled to make outfits for market which others are hereafter to share. These its Steam Mills, Cotton Factories, and in or want of system in the proper and judisurvey would cost but little and the road if en to more genial climes. cording to the estimate of the Board of In- them will be found in the march of imternal Improvements, \$3000 per mile, and provement, and their citizens contented a part of it, possibly one half, would be an land happy. Yet, they have resorted to ordinary turnpike, the cost of which would loans; and experience proves, so far from not exceed \$200 to 300 per mile. The ending in injury to the people, they have road in justice ought to belong to the State, the more rapidly advanced to wealth and except that experience has shown, to con- prosperity. And this too, without any restruct and keep up such works, calls for in- sort to taxes; the profits from the works dividual interest and attention; otherwise having been quite sufficient to meet the they constitute a continual drain on the linterest and provide a fund for the payment this line a branch might hereafter be ex- recently subscribed one million to her great tended, with great propriety, to some eli- rail road, guaranteed the loan of two milgible point on the Dan river; and thus give lions more, and by way of relief to her fato he people in that fertile region the means

> Such are the works as placed in the first class of the plan proposed by the Conventio: rsuch are some of the views and reaas which influenced that body in recommending them. If any one should object, that his work ought to be placed on equally favorable ground with the most favored class, he should pause, consult the means would not my wishes now be gratified?"-Time marches rapidly; and a few years, as we trust, will serve to bring into operation the whole scheme, and others, if their claims and advantages shall hereafter be disclosed and properly pressed.

SECOND CLASS.—These, as will be quiry, an estimate of the means of the State, upon such a surety as the the world; staves and heading; cotton, lars by the State, would render it certain. Iful at present. Two connecting foods were cover. The patriotic feeling which now

time by the State, and her true policy forbe carried to Beaufort. Such, it is believe ed, will be the quantity of produce from the upper country as will hereafter force itself to the best market. In this way, what the friends of Beaufort cannot do for themselves, will be done by others. The Loan of three millions to contracted by the State. It has been already

shown, in estimating the funds of the State. she has upwards of two millions invested in a way, whilst they will prove productive. are not likely to be embarrassed or squandered. By the system proposed, this fund is not to be touched, but to be held as a guarantee to sustain the credit of the state in the negotiation of a loan, and a surely to her own citizens against any contingency which may arise. The maximum of the loan is three millions; and the money, when borrowed, will be mostly expended amongst ourselves, and for it the State will hold certificates of stocks which will be productive, and will in themselves constitute an additional surety against any future calls upon her own citizens. These stocks can at any time be brought into market, and thus relieve the State against any pressing embarrassment. The debt will be postsoned to a future period: the works will progress, the burthen will be divided between posterity and ourselves; and in this tion relieved, and means provided for them to meet the claim which has been entailed with the most rigid principles of justice. prudence, foresight, and economy. The are not in a condition to make necessary repairs and to improve it, without a resort to loans. This state of things has not been brought about from any want of frugality in our expenditures; of forbearance in conrough, which has its flourishing Schools, tracting debts, or from any extravagance every way its population is both active and | cious management of our domestic concerns. enterprising. A cheap and speedy mode At no former period in the pecuniary afof reaching a market, as we learn, would fairs of the State, has there been less extraoften enable the enterprising proprietor of vagance, and yet at no period has it been her Cotton Factory to send the product of found more difficult to keep free from emhis establishment to the City of N. York, barrassment, The evil is to be found not and reclize a profit of two or three cents on |in any passing events, but in the want of a the pound. This profit would not operate proper encouragement to the products of to his advantage alone, but to that of the our soil, and in the fact that our most grower of the raw material.) The proposed wealthy and enterprising citizens are driv-

public treasury, and end in ruin. From of the principal. South Carolina has but vorite city from a heavy calamity, added of reaching, if so inclined, the markets of two millions more to her debt. But we forbear to press this matter further, as it is idle to talk of embarrassing the State by contracting a debt of three millions of dol-

> If our forefathers, with not half of our means, limited as they are, when dissension, faction, and treason lurked in every neighborhood; when the property of the citizen was liable to seizure by the enemy and to wanton destruction by the traitor. when the assassin beleagued his path by day and threatened his repose by night; it, at such a time, and under such circumstances, that band of patriots could bear up for a period of seven years, under a debt of seventy-five millions, let us not talk of embarrassment by the sum proposed, having, as the State has, the ability to raise it without prejudice to her citizens, but whethwhich time cannot raze from the page of history. But where is her population?-Where the monuments of her improvement? Her population is fast leaving her, and her monuments, we fear, are only to be found in the record of things past.