WILMINGTON POST.

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PLATFORM and RAIL-ROAD SCALES. Have constantly on hand FERTILIZERS of all descriptions.

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The Constitution and Suffrarge. [Washington Chronicle.]

It is a question of the highest moment whether there are any limits to the power of the State over the conditions of suffrage, or and duty of suffrage, and if so, what they are. To determine the qualification of voters is one of those rights left with the Stateshave of it is found in article 1, section 2 "The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several States; and the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legistature."

But the right thus admitted to exist is not unrestricted by the Constitution of the United States; for should the State of Massachusetts attempt to limit suffrage-as once it was in the Plymouth colony—to members of the Congregational Church, such a provision in her constitution would erect that Church into an order of nobility, in contravention of article 1, section 10. The same would be the case if suffrage were forever limited to the descendants of those who owned land in any State at the time of the adoption of the Constitution. Congress, which is obliged to "guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government,"has a right to determine that to government is such that is not based on the contest of a majority of the adult male population: may disown any constitution or amendment of a constitution which has not been accepted by vote of a majority of the adult males, or which having been heretoa majority of the adult males from suffrage; for the adult males represent the fighting force be denied a participation in the gov- of the country. Judge then of my agreeable his old age, so that fifty-five years ago he equilibrium, in which it can be maintained only by artifice.

Congress might, in the same way, decide that a government was not republican, or that there existed an order of nobitity when a part of the inhabitants inherited from their fathers or mothers an exemption from any species of taxation to which others were liable, or were admitted to any share of government from, which others, in virtue of their decent, were excluded. In other words, it might declare any law making any distinction of race or color, either for holding office for jurors, or witnesses, or for school privileges, or any other, urrepublica.n

Neither may any State limit sufirage to persons born within its own bounds. This

would conflict with Art. IV, Sec. 2. But what then was in fact the discretion impliedly left to the State in limiting suftrage? Clearly it leaves them the right to original style; I do not mean common planimpose a property qualification, to exclude paupers, convicts, those who pay no taxes, or who are unable to read, to limit the right and duty to persons of certain age and sex, and to decide how long a citizen shall have lived in the State before voting; for on most, it not all these points, the practice of States differed at the time of the formation of the Constitution, and the proposal to induce uniformity in them signally failed.

But if it should prove that some States at that time also disfranchised certain free persons on account of descent or color, would not the right to do all that still remain to see it well done. There were men there them? It by no means follows. The con- whose gray hairs and self collected mein beform which nine States would adopt. It would not be surprising if they should life whose serious aspect, and yet more rest-quietly insert a provision which they hoped less manner, told of greater intellectual vig-or less every day out doors, and bids fair to throw some practice inconsistent with the men of the assembly kept themselves modgreat principles of a free government, Any eatly in the background, and seldom spoke. attempt to rigidly define what was meant by "a republican form of government" might quently remarked since my arrival, a more have inevitaly wrecked the Constitution. sober and orderly legislative body were Had it been proposed expressly to reserve to never before assembled at the State capitol. State the right to make laws which should Drinking is very rare among its members, be applicable to one race and not to another, and those who remember the disgraceful we could readily predict the fate of the scenes formerly so much in vogue, cannot measure; its fate would have been equally but draw a favorable comparison of the certain had it contained a contrary provis- present state of affairs with then. As to the ion. Slavery was left out of the Constitu- composition of the Convention in other retion because it was felt to be an anomaly in spects, I find very erroneous ideas prevail the nation; and now that it is dead, the only abroad. Instead of a confused mass of heritage. words in the instrument that have died with | northern adventurers and negroes, of which it are, "three fifths of all other persons," And many suppose it to be made up, I learn, upwe may well conceive that the reason of the on careful inquiry, that fully three-fourths absence of an express restoration to the State of the whites, to say nothing of the others, of some definite right to limit suffrage was are old residents of good standing in their the existence or the word "white" in some of several communities. Many of them are law- The Wealth of the United States And their constitutions and laws. But in no yers of known talent, and few have worn

tion of the free population disfranchised. question would have been made palpable public opinion, which kept numbers away had South Carolina been readmitted with from the polls. The combined efforts of the slavery destroyed, but with much more than old secession element and the renegade rehalf the population left at the mercy of laws publicans who have scattered themselves made by the minority expressly to keep the everywhere in the South for the purpose of majority in a more desperate condition than stirring up strife, have succeeded for the ever were the inhabitants of a city taken by time being in depriving the people of their storm. We see them marked out by their senses on the question of reconstruction. color, and that color defined by their mater- But that truth will in the end prevail I have nal genealogy. Suppose them forbidden to no doubt. All that remains is for Congress hold property, to take newspapers, to travel to act firmly and with moderation, and we in the cars, to walk the highways, or climb shall soon see the States creeping back one fences. To kill them is a misdemeanor, not by one into their former loyal status. a crime. But in them insolence or disobedience to a white is a crime and resistance cient interest to repay perusal, and with a capital crime. Erom chattels they have liberty to publish if you think proper, I redience to a white is a crime' and resistance become feræ natura-animals without an owner. Nothing can save them from exterminations but insurrection at home, aided by force from abroad. Would a government be "republican" that would leave 412,520 "citizens" of a single State in the condition of outlaws, while the laws afforded protection to 291,300 only? And human ingenuity

has been able to invent no safeguard for these people in which the ballot is not an essential part. It is idle to say that our women and our children are unprotected by suffrage. They are our blood and flesh-no man ever yet hated his own flesh. Our laws describe them as female and minors, and special enactments are made concerning them; but they are made by their sons, brothers, fathers. But if a republican government can enact concerning negroes and whites by a government representing whits alone then government is without the consent of the governed, and republicanism can be tyranny,

which is absurd. If impartical suffrage be essential to "a republican form of government"—and I see no way to escape that conclusion-the nation is universal sunrage is an evil. The ballot is even forfeited reputation won by patience unsafe in the hands of paupers, convicts, those who cannot read, and those who pay those who cannot read, and those who pay the window of a standard from the beautiful of the part of the beautiful of the beautifu those who cannot read, and those who pay no taxes. It is universal suffrage of whites that has reduced the commercial metropolis that has reduced the condition of an inof the New World to the condition of an in- life?

sane ward whose guardian is ever busy inventing new straight-jackets for her. The fourteenth amendment offers a premium for of Jefferson, Plain township, Wayne county, universal suffrage, a premium which the Ohio, five miles west of Wooster, the oldest worst enemies of it say that Massacusetts will yet come to accept. But it will never bring about impartial suffrage in States in which can ever hold the casting vote' So well is this now understood that it is the settled policy of reconstruction that no State out of Congress can hope for admission without express provision in its constitution that no in Holy Writ as the usual limit of human

The Alabama Convention.

The following letter is taken from the Boston Daily Advertiser and is commended to the attention of such conservatives as are disposed to be candid—as are not consumed

by party rancor. The misrepresentations which are so diligently circulated will most surely redound to the injury of their authors. Honesty is the best policy:

We are permitted to publish the following private letter received in this city from a gentleman now traveling in Alabama :-

MONTGOMERY, ALA., Nov. 28, 1867. DEAR SIR: -Thinking that a few lines from this point would not prove uninterest ing at the present juncture, I avail myself of the leisure afforded by a day's rest in my journeyings to give you a brief account of the sayings and doings of the convention

now assembled in the State capitol. I confess I had not formed a very favorwith its members in session, I beheld a respectable and dignified body of men, mainly whites, whose orderly deportment and near Baltimore. respectful demeanor at once arrested my attention and banished all disposition for in political as well as social life, whilst he ridicule or contempt. I soon secured my-self a seat, and remained watching the pro-judices. ceedings for some time. The debates were very interesting, and displayed much vigor of thought and terseness of expression. By a wise rule adopted early in the session, each speaker was limited to ten minutes, the grandfather of James K. Polk; he was which secured condensation in argument, while it added variety to the entertainment for an outsider like myself. The discussions were chiefly carried on by the whites, whose quicker intelligence and readier discernment the schoolmate of Thomas Jefferson, James were chiefly carried on by the whites, whose gave them a decided advantage. Occasion- Madison and Lafayette, who all long since, ally, however, a colored member essayed to have been wrapped in the shroud of that express himself, which he did in his own itcal language, remarkable chiefly for the absence of any regular method in its composition. The illustrations used in the course of argument were often homely and occasioned merriment, but seemed quite aproin passing that some of these colored delegates have had no mean education, and possess, in addition, the advantages of a varied experience. All the members seemed impressed with the importance of the work in which they were engaged, and anxious to ment. Others there were in the prime of

Take it all in all, as I have heard it fre-State at that time was a very large propor- the judicial ermine. That they did not command a larger support from the whites The control of Congress over the suffrage is due in a great measure to the tenor of

> Hoping you may find the above of suffimain, dear sir, yours very truly,

POSTSCRIPT. MOBILE, Nov. 30, 1867. There are so many misrepresentations affoat as to the character and designs of the southern unionists, that some effort should be made to correct them. The position of are stigmatized as socialists, enemies to their own race, &c., and if they venture to come out openly in favor of reconstruction on the congressional plan, their business is run down and their families neglected, so that many, very many, who might otherwise be relied so. on for active aid, deem prudence the better part of valor. I could give you many par-

ticulars, but have not time. This State is peculiarly fortunate in havlarge, who properly appreciates the situation and is doing all he can to aid the convention. I had the pleasure of an introduction to him day before yesterday. Yours, &c.

Things Lost Forever. Lost wealth may be restored by industry -the wreck of health by temperance-alien-

The Oldest Man-108 Years Old. There is residing at this time in the village man in the State of Ohio, and probably in

His name is John Folgate. He was born those who have now the power would prefer in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, in the to be represented by a single man, sent by month of February, 1759, making him 108 themselves alone, rather than by twenty years old. He emigrated to Ohio in 1829. elected by a constituency in which the blacks and has lived, since that time, and industrious, quiet, and unobtrusive life in Jefferson. when he settled in that village-having already attained the period in life designated

the United States.

burden of so many years die. under medium size-but exhibits a compact clusive of the interest) of over \$16,000,000. form and well constructed body, which, no But our payments ought to commence with ing at impartiality and equality in dischargexcellence and muscular perfection.

Elizabeth Wolgamott-the very mention of payment \$2,000,000, the third \$3,000,000, and this branch of service. I wait the further whose name starts bitter tears in those old the last \$32,000,000 in 1900; and besides pleasure of the Convention. eyes that have led him upward through the meeting the annual interest, we should have darkness and labyrinths of a century. His paid more than \$500,000,000 of the prinwife was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, three years before the battle of Lex- would pay annually in proportion to our conington, and three years after the birth of the stantly increasing means; for we must reflect great Bonaparte. She had often seen and that according to the census we could pay spoken to Washington. Her death occurred \$29,000,000 as easily in proportion to our January 29, 1849, in her 78th year. An only wealth in 1900 as we could \$1,000,000 in child was their wedded inheritance, and the 1860. old man, who carries on his back the weight of well nigh a million hours, weeps and wonders that the son, aged fifty years, should be dead and the father here.

He was a teamster in his early years about Baltimore, Maryland, and in Pennsylvania, but for the last sixty or seventy years has been engaged in mechanical labor. He was able opinion of this convention, judging drafted in the war of 1812, shouldered his musket, but was discharged on account of surprise when, on being brought vis a vis was too far advanced in life to be a soldier. At the time he was drafted he was keeping a tavern at a place called "sporting hill,"

In politics he was an Old Line Wnig, but

He was thirty years old when Washington was first made President, and gave him his vote. He was old enough to have been the father of Generals Jackson and Scott, and eleven years old when Whitefield the leader of Calvanistic Methodists, died; he might have been the father of Tom Moore and Lord great unknown mystery-death,

His ancestors were of the pure German tation talk, but in tolerably good gramma- stock, and his language is the broken "Pennsylvania Dutch." His seat in the sanctuary is seldom vacant, and he is what may be termed a true Christian, not one of Sunday pretention who delights in religious ostentation of manner, but is the plain reflecting pos to the points at issue. I might remark disciple. In church he often starts the hymn himself and leads in singing. He is invariably in good humor-"all his tickets from nature being stamped with a smile,"

For venerable years, hearty and respected old age, we do not believe his parallel is to be found in the United States. The facts narrated here were received from the lips of the old man himself, who is well known in vention had to leave the instrument in a tokened a ripe experience and careful judg- the county and can be seen by any one wishing to visit him. His mind seems clear, he would at a future day be applied to over- or and more eager interest. The few young live another ten years. Memory seems to have failed him most, but his general faculties are vigorous and strong.

Said Madame de Stael: "It is difficult to grow old gracefully;" but had she seen the subject of this sketch, she would have added, "but it is possible." He has "grown old gracefully" and without an enemy. If Byron could say: "In my little life I

have outlived kingdoms and empires," what might be the exclamations of this old man. May he, in the sober decline of a marvelously protracted life continue to enjoy the calm and rest which is his glory and his

If we are doomed to be old and gray and feeble, let us invoke his happy resignation and sublime tranquility of mind.

Great Britain.

Relative estimated increase of wealth in Great Britain and the United States, taking the period from 1851 to 1861 as the standard, and the increase during that period as the

, 11	GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.
1861	\$31,500,000,000
	43, 155,000,000
1881	59, 122, 350, 000
1891	80, 997,619,500
1901	110, 966,837,714
_	THE UNITED STATES.
1860	\$16, 159,616,068
	36, 693, 450, 585
1880	82, 865, 668, 849
	187, 314,353,225
	423, 339, 438, 289
1910	465, 663, 482, 116

Commenting upon these estimates, Hon. R J. Walker says: Thus our wealth in thirty three years would be more than quadruple that of England.

"The Earopean bankers, and especially the people of Germany, now fully understand these results. They know, also, the reasons do it well: of our hitherto wonderful progress-our free institutions, our immense emigration, addloyal men here is still a trying one. They ing nearly three thousand millions to our wealth from 1850 to 1860, and our magnificent public aomain, with our homestead and pre-emption systems. They know, also, our capacity for resumption, and look with amazement and distrust at our failure to do

> "I nm opposed to any considerable pay ments at present in extinguishment of the principal of our public debt; not because I regard a public debt a blessing; far otherof payment will the public interest be best promoted.

one hundred millions of dollars is to increase SPORT OF STREET STATE

oppressive process, have extinguished our whole national debt of \$2,500,000,000. According to very principle of political economy, such a process, so oppressive to our in-dustry, and retarding so much the progress of our wealth, would have diminished the aggregate in 1901 at least then per cent. It would be much greater, but even at ten per cent, the diminution in 1901 would be \$46,-566,348,211. Now, deduct from this the whole debt then extinguished, and the difference would exhibit a loss of national wealth He was consequently seventy years of age in 1901 exceeding \$44,000,000,000 as the result of such oppressive taxation. Now, to sale, for future debts, and so surround and pay six per cent. interest annually and inspire our poor people with a sense of patreduce the principal of such a debt as ours riotism and independence, adding to manlidistinction whatever of race or color shall be existence, and at which most men, under the is more than England or any other country ness all the charms naturally resulting from has been able to accomplish in the same time. the consciousness of dwelling under our own Physically he is rather small-probably To do this require an annual payment (exdoubt, eighty years ago, was one of physical a much smaller sum, say beginning with ing the responsible duties you have imposed only \$1,000,000 and go on increasing at the on me, and asking much indulgence for the He was married at the age of thirty to rate of \$1,000,000 a year, making the second many unsuitable mistakes of inexperience in ciphl of the public debt in 1900. Thus we

NORTH CAROLINA.

MURDER IN JONES COUNTY. -- Report reached the city yesterday morning that Col. J. H. Nethercutt had been murdered at his his audience the better; the formal "ladies residence in Jones County, two miles from Trenton. The most conflicting rumors were his whole speech to the temperature of a lecsoon afloat; as far as we can learn the facts in the case are about as follows:

On Sunday night, while Col. Nethercutt and his family were seated around the fire in the sitting room, some persons entered the house, and before Mr. Nethercutt who was facing the fire place, could turn, some one discharged a musket, almost instantly the stump. To become a master in the art killing Mr. N., the ball passing through his

The murderers, who are reported to be five colored men, then attacked Mrs. Nethercutt by striking her upon the head with a chair. Report says that Mrs. Nethercutt's skull was broken by the blow and that she cannot survive. The murderers then proceeded to lock the children of the family in lights shone in their private homes, what the smoke house next to the dwelling, and they said when seeking wives or woen sroth-ransacked and robbed the house. During ing wives, that might be of some use to us. the night the children made their escape from the smoke house and gave the alarm to the neighbors.

Word was at once sent to Trenton and Newbern and parties were started to ferret out the murderers or pursue them. Major Van Horn the commandant of this post, at once sent a detachment of troops under command of Lieut. Fletcher to the scene of the

Sheriff Colgrove of Jones County is also in pursuit.

This horrible murder has caused great excitement and gloom throughout the counties bordering on the scene of the tragedy, and the opinion is universal that the most energetic steps should be taken to punish the fiendish murderers. No steps, labors or money ought to be spared in the effort to bring these out-laws to justice and it is to be hoped that Rewards will be offered to aid in bringing them to light.

Col. Nethercutt was a gentleman in middle age, who had served his County as Sheriff before the war and held a position as Major and afterwards as Colonel in the Confederate service. Many conflicting rumors were in circulation as to the probable motive of the murderers, but there can be no doubt, if the above report be a true one, that robbery was their object. Col. Nethercutt has been a very quiet and peaceable citizen since the close of the war, and no act of his since then could have made him an enemy. It will be remembered by our readers that the Union Soldiers who were hung at Kinston in 1864 were alleged deserters from Nethercutts Batallion. The men alleged that they were recruited with the understanding that they should not be taken out of the state and deserted when the battallion started for Virginia. This unfortunate affair made ene mies for Col. N., who, was however entirely blameless for the order which sent his command out of the State.

We make this statement in relation to Col. N's., command, on account of a rumor which was freely circulated that the murderers were probably white men, who were in the Col's. P. S. Since writing the above we learn

from Deputy Sheriff Ballinger that new evidence elicited strengthen the supposition that the murderers were white men with blackened faces. Still later reports say that Mrs. Nethercutt died yesterday of her injuries .- Newbern Republican.

Address of Judge Underwood.

Below will be found the Address of Judge UNDERWOOD, made upon taking his seat as President of the Virginia Constitutional Convention. The Virginia papers have nothing but slang to utter, when speaking of this Convention. This address of Judge UNDERWOOD states that the majority of the Convention understand their work and will Gentlemen of the Convention: I am sin

cerely sorry that your suffrage has not secured an abler and a wiser presiding officer. You have my hearty thanks for your generous and nattering appreciation of my poor efforts in the cause of human freedom and human equality. God grant that, with Christian charity and benevolence to all, and with as much forgiveness and forgetfulness of past injuries and past conflicts as is consistent with future safety, we may address ourselves to the great work of framing the most humane, beneficent, equal and just coning a governor, elected by the people at wise: but when the debt is incurred the great stitution possible—a constitution which shall question is, by what system and at what rate provide for all the children of Virginia that noblest and cheerful deference of a State and the preventive of crime, a thorough and effi-"To decrease the principal of our public cient mental and moral education, diffusing debt by present annual payments of fifty to knowledge and wisdom as the blessed sun diffuses light and heat, promoting industry, to that extent the present burden of taxation, art, manufactures and commerce, encouragwhich is grinding out the substance of our ing all the higher developments of mind and people and immensely retarding the progress heart which gives elevation of purpose, digrd the fearful blot of wasted in 1091 would, he \$200,000,200,110. Now domestic life. May we form a convention or 100,000 for a Convention.

ation in shape of licences, and in every other form, from all other useful and lawful busi ness pursuits, and make every citizen contribute to the necessities of the State in proportion to his property, protected by the power of the State.

A constitution which shall give to every family as a school and refuge of those heavenly virtues that giorify the relation of husband and wife, of parent and child—a reas-onable hope of obtaining the security and sanctity of a castle by means of a provision exempting a comfortable house, from forced vine and fruit trees, where none shall be able to molest or make us afraid, ever arriv-

When Women Vote-

An amusing writer anticipates the time when women shall vote, as follows:

When women yote our stump speakers will have need of change in style. What is to be the salutation ? "Fellow citizens" is too cold; citizen has acquired a masculine limitation, so much so that, prominent as women were in the French revolution, the distinction of citoyenne was never lost. We suggest "feblow-creatures," the sex being already used to creature as a term of endearment. The closer the stump-orator can bring himself to and gentlemen" for a beginning would freeze ture. It will be very necessary to learn, before attempting a political campaign, how women like to be talked to, Married men, especially those who have kept well the respect and affection of their wives, will have the advantage. In fact, the man who has never made love will be good for nothing on of stump-speaking will need more of an apprenticehip than passing through the lecture room of a professor of rhetoric. Teachers of elocution will have to revise their rules. Demosthenes and Cicero and Burk and Web ster will cease to be models for what is recorded of their sayings was uttered to influence men; If we could get at how these great Coldlogic must be banished from the stump; we shall have to impress that unnamed taculty, higher than the reasoning powers, which jumps to coaclusions. Appeals to the spreadeagle and to the memories of our revolutionary grandsires will no longer serve as staple material; one dash in a speech of love for lettle children will be worth more than any quantity of veneration for great men, dead or alive.

The vote for and against Convention in the State of North-Carolina.

We give below the vote for and against a Con-

vention, as far	as received:	4 1 7
	For Convention.	Agai
Alamance,	000	00
Alexander, Anson,	1,182	60
Ashe,	0,00	· · ·
Burke,	792	23
Bertie,	0,000	. 00
Beaufort,	0,000 1012	42
Buncombe, Brunswick,	813	34
Bladen,	944	32
Chatham,	2,116	88
Chowan,	823	27
Cabarrus, Camden,	1,042 700 maj.	28
Caldwell,	000	00
Catawba,	780	33
Cherokee, Carteret,	0,000	00
Caswell,	0,000	00
Clay,	000	00
Craven,	3,186	. 59
Cumberland, Cleaveland,	1,720	85 39
Currituck,	000	- 00
Columbus,	577	50
Duplin,	1,055	93
Davidson,	0,000	00
Davie, Edgecomb,	0,000	00
Forsyth,	1,062	2
Franklin,	1,460	77
Gaston,	822	63
Guilford, Granville,	1,766 0,000	00
Greene,	,000	- 00
Hertford,	705	500
Halifax,	2,543	- 73
Hyde,	0,000	000
Harnett. Haywood.	. 000	00
Henderson,	898	56
Iredell, Johnston,	0,000 1,329	601
Jackson,	000	000
Jones,	000	000
Lenoir,	1,134	349
Lincoln, McDowell,	677 498	288
Mecklenburg,	1,604	44
Madison,	400 maj	000
Macon,	000	000
Martin, Moore,	0,000	000
Montgomery,	744 mai.	000
New Hanover,	2,928	1,09
Northampton,	0,000	000
Nash, Orange,	000	000
Inslow.	000	000
Pitt,	0,000	000
Person,	742	746
Polk, Pasquetank, &		000
Perquimane,	000	600
Rowan, & Davi	e 2,610	540
Robeson,	1,048 1,026	389
Rutherford, Randolph,	0,000	000
Richmond,	000	000
Rockingham,	000	. 000
ampson,	1,129	785
Yadkin,	808 853	230
tokes,	548	9
Stanly,	939	89
Cyrrell,	176 maj	000
Fransylvania, Union,	256 1;059	170
JIIIOH.	4,026	66
Wake.		
Wake, Warren,	2,200	60
Wake, Warren, Wayne,	2,200 1,645	1,08
Wake, Warren,	2,200	60

The whole registered vote of the State is 174,717. It is necessary that a majority of this vote, to wit, 87,300, shall have been cast on the question of a Convention. We have returns as above 42,545 votes in 42 Counties. If the vote of the Counties to be heard from should be in proportion to the above Counties, the whole vote of the State on the question will not be less than 130,000. Of this number we may calculate on 90,000