

THE WILMINGTON POST. OFFICIAL ORGAN. PUBLISHED SUNDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

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RATES OF ADVERTISING: Per square, one time, 75 cents.

CLUB RATES: Our readers are informed that "club rates" so often inquired about cannot be less than \$2.00 per year.

OPENING THE CAMPAIGN. Special to the Post!—A Message from a Leading Republican.

RALEIGH, FEB. 13, 1871. DEAR SIR:—I have not written you sooner because I have been waiting to see what turn things would take.

The City Treasurer notices people who have not paid up. The Cutter "Seward" has been up several days repairing her machinery.

Mr. Newell advertises his Sewing Machines, and gives notice that hereafter he will have a large stock of harness and saddles on hand.

The Post will be furnished to clubs of ten and over at the rate of fifty cents for three months!

SCHOOL CONCERT.—There will be a concert and exhibition of the Red Cross Sunday School on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 22d and 23d inst.

Hog War.—The hog ordinance has been enforced rigidly, and numerous poor porkers have been captured.

SOMETHING WRONG.—Numerous complaints are made of "lost or missing" letters, papers, and mail matter generally.

SKATING ASSEMBLIES.—We regret to learn that our citizens will hereafter be deprived of the day skating assemblies.

SLANG.—The following lines embrace the favorite slang expressions of the day:

Yet beautiful and brave he stood, Crying "how's that for high?"

MANNERS.—Young folks should be mannerly. How to be so is the question.

GOOD EXHIBIT.—The following statement of the financial condition of Richmond county, we lay before our readers as exhibiting "proof positive" that the Post's advice, "business men for office," is the thing:

Table with financial data for Richmond County, N.C., including Allowances by the Board from July 1868 to September 1st, 1869, and Receipts for same period.

The above shows how the people's money has been used under radical rule in Richmond county. And it should be borne in mind that when the radicals took charge of the county it was in debt some \$12,000.

GOV. CALDWELL'S MESSAGE. HE DECLINES TO ORDER AN ELECTION. HE IS SUSTAINED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, RALEIGH, Feb. 13th, 1871. To the Honorable the General Assembly of North Carolina: GENTLEMEN:—

There has been certified to me "an act concerning a Convention of the people," ratified on the 8th day of February, 1871, by the terms of which the Governor is required to issue a proclamation commanding the Sheriffs of the respective counties in the State to open polls and hold an election for a Convention, &c., &c.

When the act was upon its passage in the Senate, I was the presiding officer of that body, and then stated that as the bill did not recite that it had the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members of each House of the General Assembly, I deemed it unconstitutional and could not declare it passed.

I deem it respectful to state briefly why I think said act unconstitutional. Article 13, Section 1, of the Constitution declares that "no Convention of the people shall be called by the General Assembly unless the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members of each House."

I am aware, however that it is contended that the Legislature does not call the Convention, but only authorizes the people to call one. For the sake of argument I suppose this to be so; it only makes the case worse, for in my opinion, there is no event in which the people can call a Convention except as a revolutionary measure.

If the act under consideration only submitted the question to the people whether they will have a Convention or not, then there might be some plausibility in the argument of its friends, that the General Assembly was not calling a Convention by a bare majority; but was simply inaugurating a mode by which the people might express their desire that a Convention should be called.

and amend the Constitution or to adopt a new one. When our present Constitution was adopted it was of no force or binding effect until it was submitted to the Congress of the United States and received its sanction and approval.

A feeling of doubt and uncertainty as to the future, exists in North Carolina. There is some reason why it should exist. And, therefore the slightest circumstance will be seized upon as foreboding evil by the sober, steady men and women of the State.

The dread of being deprived of the protection of the honest and wise in the present Constitution will create a deep feeling of anxiety and interest among the people, and contribute to exasperate and heighten the general excitement beyond that which we might expect in ordinary elections.

With an earnest desire to arrive at a correct conclusion and to do nothing rashly or unadvisedly, I have betaken myself to the great fountain of law in North Carolina, and sought information from the Supreme Court on this vital question.

It is in the interest of peace, quiet and public order, and to prevent probable serious conflicts and collisions of authorities that I invoke the General Assembly to relieve me from the embarrassment of my present position.

I have endeavored to state the honest judgment of my mind upon this important question. I have asked in a spirit of sincerity and truth, and have ascertained the opinion of the Supreme Court that my judgment might be enlightened by their views.

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An early answer will confer a great favor. Very respectfully, Your ob't servant, TOB R. CALDWELL, Governor.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, SUPREME COURT, RALEIGH, Feb. 11th, 1871. To His Excellency, Gov. CALDWELL: SIR:—In reply to your communication of the 9th instant, I have the honor to say, the Chief Justice, and Justices Rodman, Dick and Settle are of opinion that the act to which you refer, is in violation of the Constitution.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE. Leadership. RALEIGH, Feb. 12, 1871. MR. EDITOR:—There is only one thing needed by the Republican party in this State, to insure their success in the coming election.

He has all the qualities requisite for a leader—youth, vigorous, energetic, a lawyer, and of revolutionary fame and renown. Again we utter the watchword, Harveys our leader. Victory is sure in 1871 and 1872.

STATE. The Statesville American republishes an address of Hon. Zebulon B. Vance, to "the citizens of the Eighth Congressional District" in 1861.

"We cannot say that it has confined itself to the announcement that the Telegram would not be a political journal, but 'simply a live news and commercial paper.'"

How can any "live" and independent paper, devoted to the real interests and prosperity of North Carolina, do otherwise. Give it up.

The Raleigh Telegram says that Gen. R. B. Vance, brother of Gov. Vance, has been elected Principal of the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind, vice John Nichols, resigned.

Enclosed herewith I send you a copy of an act passed by the present General Assembly, entitled "An Act concerning a Convention of the people."

It will be better that Governor Caldwell and the Supreme Court concur in what has been hitherto the general and almost undisturbed opinion of the public in this State; to-wit: That the General Assembly has no power, either directly, or by the intervention of the people, to call a Convention, except the law be authorized by a majority of two-thirds of all the members of both Houses.

In yesterday's issue, in our Local and State columns, information was given of barn-burnings in Orange, and Ku Kluxism in Chatham. Where is this thing to stop? The Courts of civil law seem unable to prevent it; and martial law, of itself, perpetuates greater outrages upon an innocent people. It is the vain attempt to arrest it by civil process, the innocent suffer, under suspicion and arrest, even more than the guilty, while in the majority of instances, the actual criminals go unpunished.