

CAPE FEAR.

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 15, 1876

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Full Synopsis, Explanation and Comment.

The amendments proposed to the Constitution of North Carolina are worthy of the serious consideration of every voter in the State. If it can be shown, as we believe it can, that the proposed amendments will prove an advantage to the people, and an injury to no one, they should meet with universal approval. But this cannot be expected when we reflect that the negro vote, which is manipulated by the leaders of the Radical party, will be cast according to order in almost a solid mass against them. Such a condition of things is a misfortune to any country. Any movement in the way of reform will be liable to be thwarted unless the honest and intelligent voters act in entire harmony; because a few bad men with eighty thousand ignorant negroes at their back constitute a formidable opposition at any time. For this reason it is all important that the changes proposed in our State Constitution should be thoroughly explained and understood, so that the benefits they will confer may be apparent to every unprejudiced man in the State.

We give below a synopsis of the different amendments, with notes explaining their provisions, to which we call the special attention of our readers. Every taxpayer of the State, no matter to which party he belongs, should read these amendments with care, and should vote on them without regard to party bias, notwithstanding the Radical party for the sake of making political capital has arrayed itself in opposition to their adoption.

AGRICULTURAL.
The first amendment is one which was supported by both parties, and requires no argument in its favor. It simply provides that the Legislature shall foster and encourage the farming interest of the country, which is the foundation of all our prosperity. No man will object to this amendment.

SECRET POLITICAL SOCIETIES.
The second amendment provides against secret political societies like the Union League and Kuklux organizations. After the baneful influence exerted by such secret political organizations, we are sure there is no good citizen who wishes to see them revived in our State. This amendment can do no harm, and may prevent great mischief.

CONCEALED WEAPONS.
The amendment on this subject gives the Legislature power to enact laws against carrying concealed weapons, without inflicting, however, the rights of every freeman to bear arms. The practice of carrying concealed weapons, particularly in the present condition of affairs, should be condemned by every peaceable and law-abiding citizen.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.
The proposed change is simply intended to regulate the appointment of officers not otherwise provided for, and to prevent the clash and confusion which the ambiguous section in the present constitution has caused. Under the present constitution the Governor arrogated to himself the power to make many appointments which were not plainly provided for. This amendment clears up that difficulty, and gives the Governor power only to fill such offices as the Legislature has not provided for. In other words, it gives to the people's representatives, the members of the Legislature, the privilege of filling appointments, which have been held heretofore by one man. It interests us with no right that the people now enjoy of electing their public officers, but curtails the power of the Governor, and gives it to the people through their representatives. No friend of Republican government can object to this change. The Governors, in good old times, exercised such power.

JUDICIAL.
The several proposed amendments in the Judiciary department are highly important. The number of Supreme Court Judges, it is proposed, shall be reduced from five to three. This will save to the people every year the salaries of two Judges, which is \$70,000. Before the war we had only three Judges, and the reputation of the Supreme Court of North Carolina was above reproach, and all the business was disposed of with ease and satisfaction to the people. Three Judges can do the business of the Court as well as five, and the salaries of the two extra Judges should be saved.

The number of Superior Court Judges will be reduced from twelve to nine, and the salaries of the three Judges, amounting to \$7,500, will be saved every year. This is a small item in the present impoverished condition of our people, and nine Judges can hold the Superior Courts without difficulty.

Provision is made as of old for the Judges to rotate; that is, no Judge will be allowed to hold courts in the same circuits twice in succession. This will be established by our fathers worked well, and by changing the Judges every year, there will be less danger of corruption and partiality in the administration of justice. Provision is also made for the establishment by the Legislature as experience may arise, of courts inferior to the Supreme Court. This amendment is intended to facilitate the ends of justice and save to the tax-payers the large amounts paid every year for being criminals so long as they await for the regular courts. Special Courts might be established in the larger cities, where the jails are frequently crowded with prisoners guilty of larceny and other crimes, and in the counties provision might be made for the speedy trial and punishment of criminals. This might save annually thousands of dollars paid out for guarding and feeding worthless characters, many of whom are well satisfied lying in jail at the public expense as they would be looting and pillaging honest people. It is also proposed to give the Supreme Court the same jurisdiction they had before the war over questions of fact which will be a great advantage in the settlement of estates, &c., and the Legislature may appoint some other place than Raleigh for the sitting of the Supreme Court.

The provision in the present constitution requiring two weeks for each court is to be changed, so that in small counties, where one week is amply sufficient for the transaction of business, there shall be but one week's term; in larger counties longer terms may be held as the business may demand.

There is provision also made for the election of the Supreme and Superior Court Judges by the people for a term of eight years; but after the first election the Legislature may provide for the election of Superior Court Judges by the voters of the respective districts, and in case of a vacancy, the Governor shall appoint the Judge, who shall serve until the meeting of the Legislature, when that body shall elect for the unexpired term.

Provision is made for the removal of a Judge for mental or physical inability by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. By this provision, the people will be enabled to get rid of incompetent Judges without the delay and expense of impeachment, and a Judge may for similar cause remove an incompetent clerk.

It is proposed to enlarge the jurisdiction of magistrate's courts to all civil actions, where the value of the property does not exceed \$50. This will be a great convenience to the people, as now every little case involving the recovery of property has to go to the Superior Court.

These changes in the judicial department

of the State were voted for by Republicans as well as Democrats, and will not only be a great saving in dollars and cents, but will promote the ends of justice and contribute to the good order and peace of society.

There is one provision which we regard highly important, and which will reduce every white man in the State to support the amendments. It is a notorious fact that the negroes of this and other districts are becoming every year more ambitious for office and more exacting in their aspirations. It is more than probable that a negro will be run by the Republicans in this or the Raleigh district at the next election. O'Hara, who is now a candidate for elector on the Hayes and Wheeler ticket, is an aspirant for Judge. He or some other negro may be elected under the present law, but if the amendments are adopted in 1876, the Judges will be elected by the voters of the whole State, and there will be no danger of such a curse being visited upon us. Is not this enough to cause every decent white man to vote for the amendments?

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.
The changes proposed in regard to county governments is intended for the relief of those counties which have been afflicted with negro rule. The amendment simply leaves the whole matter in the hands of the Legislature to make such changes as the public welfare may require. For instance, if the amendments are adopted, the Legislature may, if the people demand it, provide for the appointment of magistrates as they were formerly appointed, and may also make provision for the board of county commissioners. Such a change is not needed in counties where the whites have a majority and elect competent and honest magistrates and commissioners. But in some counties the condition of the people is pitiable and deplorable in the extreme.

Look at Edgecombe, Halifax, Granville and other Radical counties. The people who pay the most of the taxes have no voice in selecting the county officers; the public money is squandered and stolen; extravagance and swindling are the order of the day; the credit of the counties is below par, and county bonds are sold at a heavy discount and the tax payers have to foot the bills. Ignorant negroes hold the justice's courts, which are a disgrace and mockery in the sight of decent men, and the same character sit on the commission-ers' bench to arrange and regulate the county finances.

Contrast the condition of these Radical ridden counties with that of Wilson, Nash, Wayne, Duplin and other Democratic counties. Here we see white men in office. We see the county finances managed with prudence and honesty; there is no swindling—every thing goes on smoothly, and the county officers are as good as greenbacks. Under such circumstances ought we not, as honest and just men, to be willing to see the magistrates appointed by the Legislature, as they were in olden times, and especially if that will save our brethren under negro despotism from being oppressed and robbed as they now are. We cannot see how any county will be hurt by this amendment and we can all see how some counties will be greatly benefited.

This is the amendment the Radicals are harping upon. They talk justly about local self-government, and the rights of the people. What they mean though by local self-government is the election of negro magistrates, such that they may have the rights of the people in the hands of the negroes of Edgecombe, Halifax, &c., to rule over the white men and women of these counties with a black iron rod, and to defraud them of their hard earned incomes and property.

CIVIL RIGHTS.
There are two amendments proposed on the subject of civil rights. One prohibits the intermingling of the white and black children in the schools, and the other forbids the intermarriage between the negroes and the whites. These amendments, if adopted, will stop the agitation of these questions so far as our State is concerned. The Republican Convention of 1868 legalized the marriage of a white man with a negro woman, and the subject will be agitated again unless it is prohibited in the constitution. We are astonished that any white man should oppose this amendment, but, to his everlasting disgrace, it is said, there was one white Republican delegate in the Convention who voted against it. His name was Thorn, a carpet-bagger from Warren county.

SUFFRAGE.
On the subject of suffrage there are two important changes proposed. One relates to a voter to live 60 days in the county before he can vote, and the other provides that no person hereafter convicted of felony or any other crime infamous by the laws of the State, shall not be allowed to vote until restored to citizenship. Both of these changes are intended to protect the purity of the ballot-box. The system of "colonizing" voters—that is, importing them from one county or State into another, to change the result of elections, has been introduced in our State since the advent of Radicalism, and a law requiring 90 days residence in a county, instead of thirty, would have a tendency to check this serious practice. This provision would give honest men some protection against fraudulent "squatters," who, under the present law, could be brought into the county 30 days before the election to kill the votes of honest and bona fide citizens.

The other provision prohibiting thieves and other felons from voting, commends itself to every honest man. There should be some difference between a good citizen and a bad one, and we do not see how any party can contend that it is right for rogues in the penitentiary to offset the votes of 500 good and worthy citizens. This amendment offers a reward for honesty and a punishment for crime, and it is calculated to check much of the stealing that is going on in the country.

PENITENTIARY.
It is proposed to amend the article on the penitentiary so as to allow the Legislature to put a part of the convicts at work on railroads, &c. This would be a great saving to the State. The penitentiary has already been a heavy expense to the people, and this provision will reduce the expense and make the convicts a benefit instead of a burden.

FREE SCHOOLS.
Some slight amendments are proposed intended to advance the cause of Education in the State, which were supported by both parties in the Convention.

CONVENTIONS.
On this subject, the only amendment proposed is one providing that no Convention shall be called without first submitting the question to the people. There can be no reasonable objection to this wise provision, which will render it impossible to call any Convention in the future without the consent of the people.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.
The changes proposed in this department are of great advantage. Heretofore the Legislature have prolonged the sessions much longer than necessary, and the members have voted themselves such per diem as they chose. The amendment proposed limits the sessions to 60 days, and the pay to \$4 per day and 10 cents mileage. By this change there would be a great reduction in the expense of a Legislature. The cost of a Legislature could not exceed \$50,000, counting everything, whereas the cost has averaged in the last eight years over \$100,000. By this amendment over \$40,000 a session would be saved, more than enough to pay the cost of the late Convention, which the Radical leaders told the people would cost \$50,000.

The other ordinances of the Convention are immaterial, providing for the distribu-

tion of the amendments among the people, the election, &c.

We have given as fully as our space would permit an explanation of each amendment. We do not see how any good citizen who desires the welfare of North Carolina, can vote against them. And even if he did not fully endorse every change proposed, it must be admitted that they would as a whole be of incalculable benefit to the State.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM, ADOPTED AT ST. LOUIS, JUNE 28, 1876.

We, the delegates of the Democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the Federal Government to be in urgent need of immediate reform; do hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this Convention and of the Democratic party in each State, a zealous effort and co-operation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former party to exert their united influence with us in the first and most pressing patriotic duty for the Democracy of the whole country.

We do hereby reaffirm our faith in the permanency of the Federal Union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments, universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered the civil war, and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government; in an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of the Republic; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State, for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before just laws of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conduct unweakened by summary laws; in the faithful education of the rising generation, that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness and hope. We behold the noblest products of a hundred years of changeful history; but while upholding the grandeur of our Union and the charter of these our rights, we believe a free people to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR.
Reform is necessary to rebuild and establish in the hearts of the whole people a confidence in the future of our country, which, after inflicting upon ten States the rapacity of carpet-bag tyrannies, has honeycombed the offices of the Federal government itself with incapacity, waste and fraud, infected States and municipalities with the disease of corrupt government, and squandered four times this sum in needless expense, without accumulating any reserve for their redemption.

RADICAL FINANCE DENOUNCED.
We denounce the failure for all these eleven years to make good the promise of the legal tender notes, which are a changing liability of value in the hands of the people, and the non-payment of which is a disregard of the plighted faith of the nation.

We denounce the improvidence which, in eleven years of peace, has taken from the people in Federal taxes thirteen times the amount of the interest on the notes, and squandered four times this sum in needless expense, without accumulating any reserve for their redemption.

We denounce the financial imbecility of that party which, during eleven years of peace, has made a million dollars' worth of resumption; that instead, has obstructed resumption by wasting our resources and exhausting all our surplus income, and while annually professing to intend a speedy resumption to specie payment, has annually engaged in the most reckless speculation, and a hindrance we denounce the resumption clause of the act of 1875, and we here demand its repeal.

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE DEMANDED.
We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economies, by official retrenchments and by wise finance, which shall enable the nation to assure the whole world of its perfect ability and perfect readiness to meet the requirements of the call of the creditor entitled to payment.

We believe such a system well devised, and above all, entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency, and at no time alarming the public mind by the withdrawal of that vast machinery of credit by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed—a system open, public and inspiring general confidence, would, from the day of adoption, bring healing on its wings to all our business interests, and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts; restore employment to labor and renew, in all its national source, the prosperity of the people.

REFORM IN TAXATION.
Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation so that capital shall be set free from distrust and labor lightly burdened. We denounce the present tariff levied upon nearly five thousand articles as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false pretence. It yields a dwindling, not a yearly rising revenue. It impoverishes many industries to subsidize a few; it protects the tariff with purchase the products of American labor; it has degraded American commerce from the first to an inferior rank upon the high seas. It has cut down the sales of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the return of American agriculture or industry, followed by the loss of people. It costs the people five times more than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production, and wastes the fruits of labor. It promotes fraud and fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that all customs-house taxation shall be only for revenue.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENSES.
Reform is necessary in the scale of public expense, Federal, State and municipal. The cost of Federal taxation has swollen from \$80,000,000 gold, in 1860, to \$150,000,000, currency, in 1870. Our aggregate taxation was from \$184,000,000 gold, in 1860, to \$750,000,000, currency, in 1870, or in one decade less than \$ per head to more than \$18 per head. Since the peace the people have paid to their tax-gatherers more than three times the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government alone. We demand a vigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the government.

WASTE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.
Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate wastes of the public lands and their diversion from settlers by the party in power which has squandered two hundred millions of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than three that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS AND HEATHEN CHINESE.
Reform is necessary to correct the mistakes of the Republican Congress and our diplomatic relations which have stripped our adopted citizens of foreign birth and kindred race recrossing the Atlantic of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific coast to the incursions of a race not sprung from the same great parent stock, and, in fact, now by law denied citizenship through naturalization, as being neither accustomed to the habits of a progressive civilization, nor exercised in liberty under equal laws. We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty-loving German and tolerates the revival of the Coolie trade in Mongo-

lian women, imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men hired to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification by Congress within a constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of the Mongolian race.

REFORM IS THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE.
Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the election, lifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to smother it. The false issue with which they would enkindle sectarian strife in respect to the public schools, of which the establishment and support belong exclusively to the several States, and which the Democratic party has cherished from their foundation, and resolved to maintain without partiality or preference for any class, sect or creed, and without contributing from the Treasury to any—the false issue by which they seek to light anew the dying embers of sectional hatred between kindred people, once unnaturnally estranged, but now reunited in one indivisible Republic and a common destiny.

REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.
Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that the efficient, economical conduct of the governmental business is not possible if its civil service be subject to change at every election—be a prize fought for at the ballot-box—be a brief reward of party zeal, instead of posts of honor, assigned for proved competency and held for fidelity in the public employment. That the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax upon the time of all our public men, nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again professions falsified in the performance, attest that the party in power can work out no practical or salutary reform.

REFORM AMONG THE HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVANTS.
Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service—President, Vice-President, Judges, Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers. These officers, and others in authority, are the people's servants. Their offices are not a private perquisite; they are a public trust. When the annals of this Republic show the disgrace and censure of a Vice-President; a late Speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his rulings as a presiding officer; their friends profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers; five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in jobbery; a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts; a late Attorney General misappropriating public funds; a Secretary of the Navy enriched by enriching his friends by percentages levied off the profits of contractors with his Department; an ambassador to England censured for a dishonorable speculation; the President's private secretary barely escaping conviction upon trial for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; the President's powerless, with high crimes and confessed misdemeanors—the demonstration is so complete that the first step in reform must be by the people, or honest men from another party. The disease of one political organization infests the body politic and thereby making no change of men or party, we can get no change of measures and no reforms.

RADICALS AND RADICALISM MUST BE DRIVEN FROM POWER.
All these abuses, wrongs and crimes—the product of the sixteen years' ascendancy of the Republican party—create a necessity for reform, confessed by Republicans themselves. But their reformers are voted down in convention and displaced from the Cabinet. The mass of honest voters is powerless to resist the eighty thousand office-holders—their leaders and guides.

Reform can only be had by a peaceful, civic revolution. We demand a change of system; a change of administration; a change of parties, that we may have a change of men.

A Story of Joe Jefferson.
The story goes that Jefferson, the actor, went to a bank to cash a check—during the long run of Rip Van Winkle—and the bank official demanded that he should be identified.

"Why," said Joe, "I'm Jefferson, now playing at Booth's."

"That may be," replied the cautious clerk, "but I've seen Rip many a time, and it seems hardly possible you are the man; any way, you must get some one who knows you."

Jefferson slunk against a post in the peculiar forsaken air of the returned sleeper, and said in the words of Rip: "If my top Schnider was here, he would know me."

"Pay that check," cried the cashier.

Bladen County Canvass.
Edwin W. Kerr, Esq., of Sampson, together with the county candidates and others, will address the people of Bladen county at the following times and places:

Kelly's Cove, October 23d.
Colly, at Lewis', October 24th.
Turnbull, at Beeve's, October 25th.
White Oak, October 26th.
Hollow, October 27th.
White's Hills, October 28th.
Bladenboro, October 30th.
Abbottsburg, October 31st.
Brown Marsh, November 1st.
Clark's Mills, November 2d.
Carver's Creek, November 3d.
Elizabethtown, November 4th.

Hon. A. M. Waddell's Appointments.
Col. A. M. Waddell will address his constituents of the Third Congressional District at the following times and places:

Monday, October 16th, at Jacksonville, Onslow county.
Tuesday, October 17th, at Stump Sound, Onslow county.
Wednesday, October 18th, at Sandy Run, Pender county.
Monday, October 23d, at Newport, Carteret county.
Tuesday, October 24th, at Beaufort, Carteret county.
Wednesday, October 25th, at Cedar Island, Carteret county.
Friday, October 27th, at Sanders' Store, Carteret county.

Major J. C. McKee's Appointments.
Maj. James C. McKee, Democratic candidate for Elector in the Third Congressional District, will address the people at

Richland, Onslow county, Tuesday, October 17.
Magnolia, Duplin county, Thursday, October 19.
Rocky Point, Pender county, Friday, October 20.
Beaufort, Carteret county, Tuesday, October 24th, with Col. Waddell.
Clinton, Sampson county, Saturday, October 25th.

The Mechanics and Workmen's Tilden and Vance Club of Raleigh's latest Good idea. Roll on that big ball of Democracy and Reform.
Judge Merrimon at Winston on the 18th.
Charlotte desires to hear our gifted Davis before the end of the campaign.

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Black and Colored MOHAIRS, all prices; POPLINS, SERGES, ALPACAS, CASHMERS, HUNTER CLOTHS, CLOAKINGS, FURS, CLOAKS, SHAWLS, BLANKETS, Men's, Women's and Children's UNDERWEAR, Handsome CASSIMERES. FULL LINE OF CARPETINGS!

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THE CAPE FEAR WILL ADVOCATE in a straightforward manner the principles of a pure and manly Democracy in State and country. In its humble way it will uphold the banner unfurled by Jefferson, carried aloft by Jackson and now proudly borne by Tilden. The CAPE FEAR will recognize no difference between those who fight the battles of the people against high-handed Radicalism, entrenched in places of power and seeking to maintain its corrupt hold on the same. By whatever name called, the Defenders of the Country's Liberty and the Inalienable Rights of the People are Democrats. To them the CAPE FEAR will ever speak with the voice of reason and affection. In their behalf the CAPE FEAR will ever be found struggling.

The new paper will give warm encouragement to the agricultural, mining and manufacturing interests of the State. It will urge immigration. But while it will extend the hand of welcome to the sturdy foreigner or other immigrant, it will seek to impress upon the people already here the necessity for economy, thrift, labor and fidelity to home and State. North Carolinians must build up North Carolina.

In presenting certain popular Literary Features the CAPE FEAR is ahead of its contemporaries. No American daily newspaper places original fiction habitually before its readers except in the form of sensational intelligence. Stories for the fireside, both serial and complete, will be found occupying a short space in the CAPE FEAR. The literary matter of the paper will, however, always be subordinated to the news.

Brevity and Convenience, Accuracy and Impartiality will be leading characteristics of the Intelligence Department of the CAPE FEAR. The news of the day, City, State and General, will be presented in the clearest, condensed and most attractive form possible. Usually, the important news of the day, the first page. Under this denomination we include the Market Reports and River and Marine Intelligence. Such matters are too frequently crowded in small type in a corner. The Commercial News will be carefully compiled and corrected.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

The basis is either on the week or the year. The CAPE FEAR will be furnished at Ten Cents per week, One Dollar and Twenty-Five Cents for Three Months, Two Dollars and Fifty Cents for Six Months and Five Dollars for One Year. Delivered by Carrier in the City or Suburbs. No paper sent by mail unless the subscription has been prepaid. Collections made by Carrier every week, and no paper delivered for a longer time than a week to any one who does not pay for it promptly. Cash is the word.

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A WEEK.