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THE CAPE FEAR, Wilmington, N. C.

CAPE FEAR.

CICERO W. HARRIS.

TUESDAY MORNING, DEC. 12, 1876

THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION.

By the count of the Supreme Court, declared on Saturday, the Constitutional Amendments were carried by a amjority of .14.091.

When we consider the opposition in this State to changes in the Constitution, these are highly gratifying figures. The people have shown by their action that they mean to be emancipated from the maligu influences by which they have been surrounded for seven or eight years. They have spoken with no voice of uncertainty-in tones of, trumpet-tongued determination.

feel a North Carolina pride, and as a North Carolinian "to the manner born." we rejoice at the prospect ahead for our brave old State.. Under Vance and the new Constitution the tears of the past will all be wiped away. In the new, regenerated land there will be no furrows of ruin, thank God, or if a as they may subscribe for. trace of the old sorrowing time appear, it will be but as a way-mark of the past, fading out in the glory and freshness of the redemption era.

THE STATE DEBT.

The matter of adjusting the public debt of North Carolina is one that requires much forecast and practical wisdom. The subject has been referred by the two houses of the General Assembly to a joint committee composed, as we think, of some of the most able members of the body. There is hope of these gentlemen being able to agree upon some wise plan for settling the debt at a time within the ability of the people to pay and, on terms to which they and the creditors both can give

THE WORKOFTHE LEGISLA TURE.

After January 1, 1877, a new Constitational era in North Carolina begins, Reforms, which before were impossible. can then be carried out. The Amend- days. ed Constitution goes into effict on that day. The Legislature meets after its holiday enjoyments about that, time. If it shall devote its term of sixty days faithfully to the work imposed upon it all will be done that can be done at present for the improvement of the Commonwealth-its weal and its glory.

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The new paper will give warm encour agement 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.

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manency 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-gov ernment; in an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle | meanors-the demonstration is to con of the Republic; in the supremacy of the plete that the first step in reform must be civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State, for party. The disease of one political organ 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 unvexed by sumptuary 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 hun dred years of changeful history; but while upholding the bond of our Union and great charter of these our rights, it behooves a free people to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE DEMANDED. We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economics, 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 any of its promises at 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 not time an artificial searcity of currency, and at no time graming the public mind into the with-drawal of that yast 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 harassed industry, and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts; restore employmet to labor and renew, in all its national source, the prosperity of the people.

Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation so that capital may 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. Iti has impoverished many industries to subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might 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 half our 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 customhouse taxation shall be only for revenue.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENSES. Reform is necessary in the scale of public expense, Federal, State and municipal gut of Federal taxation has swollen from \$60,000,000, gold, in 1860, to \$450,000,000, currency, in 1870. Our aggregate taxat on was from \$184,000,000, gold, in 1860, to 8730. 00,000, currency, in 1870, or in one decade less than & per head to more than \$18 per head. Since the peace the per ple have paid to their tax-gatherers more it an thrice the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government alone. We demand a vit orous 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 thrice that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS AND HEATHEN CHI

Reform is necessary to correct the mis takes of the Republican Congress and the errors of our treaties, 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 natuexercised 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 pur poses, and Mongolian men hfred to per form 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 necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the election. litting it above the two false issues with which the officeholding class and the party in power seek to smother it. The talse 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 partizanry 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 batred between kindred people, once unnaturally estranged. but now reunited in one indivisible Republie and a common destiny. REPORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

REFORM IS THE CAMPAIGN ASSUE.

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 Two Dollars Per Annum, in Advise higher grades of public service-President,

and others in authority, are the people, servant. Their offices are not a private grace and censure of a Vice-President late Speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his ruliur as a presiding officer; their friends profiting secretly in their votes as law-makers; five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives expensed in foldery, a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts; a lan with us this first and most pressing patri-otic duty for the Democracy of the whole funds; a Secretary of the Navy enriched we do here readirm our faith in the per-naneucy of the Federal Union, our devo-levied off the profits of contractors was be Constitution of the United his Department; an ambaisador is England censured for a dishonorale speculation; the President's private sen-tary barely escaping conviction upon tra-for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Scenetary of War imprached for high crimes and confessed mists by the people, or honest men from another ization infests the body politic and thereis making no change of men or party, at can get no change of measures and a reforms.

> RADICALS AND RADICALISM MIST DRIVEN FROM POWER All these abuses, wrongs and crimes, the product of the sixteen years ascend

ancy of the Republican party-create a necessity for reform, confessed by Repub licaus themselves. But their reformer are voted down in convention and deplaced, from the Cabinet. The man of honest voters is powerless to resist the and guides.

Reform can only be had by a peacely civic revolution. We demand a change system; a charge of administration; change of par ie , that we may have , change of men,

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