

The Carolina Watchman.

VOL IX.—THIRD SERIES

MR. HENDERSON'S ADDRESS
To the People of the 30th Senatorial
District.

To the Electors of Rowan and Davie:

The letter of Mr. Hobson, which appears in the *Watchman*, of the 3d inst., supposes that it is by the "open letter" of Mr. John C. Foard "to the Farmers and Mechanics of Rowan and Davie," leaves me no alternative but to pick up the gauntlet, which those gentlemen have so dexterously thrown down. Mr. Hobson, "as Chairman of the Davie delegation, authorized" the editor of the *Watchman* to "announce J. C. Foard as the nominee of Davie county" for the Senate—the being—as Mr. Hobson alleges—"the choice of the Davie delegation." Whether any—and if so how many—of the Davie delegates "authorized" Mr. Hobson to make that "announcement," as chairman of that delegation, neither Mr. Hobson nor Mr. Foard has thought proper to explain. Did a majority of them do so? When and where did Mr. Hobson's delegation meet? And did the people of Davie county have notice of, or in any way authorize such meeting?

Mr. Hobson attended the Senatorial Convention, which met at South River on Saturday the 29th day of June, participated in the deliberations of that body, and acted as Chairman of the Davie delegation. The proceedings of that convention, as published in the *Watchman* of the 3d inst., do not show that he withdrew from the convention, or even protested against its action. For the information of the voters of Rowan and Davie, I herewith subjoin a brief summary of the proceedings of that body:

Frank Brown, of Rowan, was elected president; S. J. Tatton, of Davie, secretary. The following named delegates were present: From Rowan—Jno. W. Mauney, Frank Brown, W. H. Overman, C. H. McKenzie and Wm. R. Fraley.

From Davie—Dr. J. W. Faison, Dr. J. W. Wiseman, T. F. Eaton, B. L. Smith, W. H. Hobson, W. T. Hickler, F. W. Smith, Frank Charles, B. Bailey, J. L. Adams and J. L. Woolruff.

On motion a joint committee of three from each county was appointed to decide which county had the right to name the Senator. The delegation from each county separated and appointed its own members of this committee.

Rowan selected Jno. W. Mauney, Wm. R. Fraley and C. H. McKenzie. Davie selected W. H. Hobson, Dr. J. W. Wiseman and J. L. Woodruff. The committee retired and after deliberating returned, and Mr. Mauney for the majority reported that Rowan was entitled to name the Senator—four members of the committee voting in the majority.

Mr. Hobson for the minority protested against the report of the majority—two members of the committee voting in the minority. The majority report was lost by a vote of 7 against 8. Both majority and minority reports were then laid on the table.

After much discussion as to the mode of voting, Mr. Mauney moved that each county be entitled to vote according to its Democratic strength at the election in November, 1876—this method giving Rowan 22 votes and Davie 11—motion adopted by a vote of 8 to 6—Davie men and 4 Rowan men voting in the affirmative, and six Davie men in the negative.

Messrs. John C. Foard and John S. Henderson were then put in nomination, and the convention proceeded to ballot for Senator: Rowan cast 29 votes for Mr. Henderson and 2 votes for Mr. Foard; conceding to the latter the vote of Franklin township, Mr. W. H. Hobson declined to report the vote of Davie county, but Mr. B. Bailey, on behalf of the minority of the Davie delegation reported 4 1/2 votes from Davie for Mr. Henderson, which the chairman refused to allow to be counted, upon the ground that it would be a breach of parliamentary etiquette to recognize any vote not handled in by the chairman of a delegation. The votes of two townships for Mr. Foard were also tendered to the President, which he declined to allow to be counted. The President then announced that Mr. Henderson having received a majority of the votes cast, had received the nomination of the convention.

You will observe that the action of the convention was deliberate and popular, and that I received a clear majority of the Democratic votes of the two counties, to wit: Ten-elevenths of the vote of Rowan, and about two-fifths of the vote of Davie—representing ten townships in Rowan and two in Davie—*Twelve* in all out of *Seventeen* in the two counties.

It is insisted, however, without proof, that several of the townships of Rowan county, which were represented as having declared for me, and whose vote I received at the Senatorial Convention, are not really for me but for Mr. Foard. Which are they? Is it Scotch-Irish? That township voted for me almost unanimously at the primary meeting, and was solid for me in the Rowan County Convention. Is it Unity? That gave me a small vote at the township meeting, and also at the County Convention. Is it Mt. Ulla? That acted in the same way as did also Locke. Let the friends of Mr. Foard to name a single township in Rowan county, the vote of which was counted for me in the Senatorial Convention, where he received any votes whatever, either at the primary meeting, or in the Rowan County Convention. And in Franklin township, which the friends of Mr. Foard claim to be so strong for him, no ballot was taken at the primary meeting.

Mr. Foard says that "the county of Davie met" in convention "and voting by townships recommended my name." That same convention recommended my name and also the name of Mr. John H. Clement. The official report of the Davie County Convention does not show that Mr. Foard received the vote of a majority of the townships represented in that convention. The secretary of that convention, in an official letter, which I presume is now in the hands of the late secretary of the Senatorial Convention, stated positively that at the Davie County Convention John C. Foard received three votes, John S. Henderson two votes, and John H. Clement one vote, and that no one having received a majority of the townships there was no choice for Senator on the 1st of June at Mocksville.

Nobly has denied, that in the Davie convention I received the votes of Mocksville and Calahan townships.

How does Mr. Foard expect to reverse this overwhelming preponderance of the voters against him? What difference does it make to him whether Rowan county was represented at the South River convention by delegates from each township or not, so that the voice of Rowan county was truly heard there through her duly accredited delegates? It is not the custom of Rowan county to be represented in a Senatorial convention by townships. She has never yet been thus represented. Her rule is for the townships in their primary meetings and at the county convention to signify their preferences, and the delegates appointed to attend the Senatorial convention, whether few or many, are expected to reflect the wishes of the people of the county as thus expressed.

The reason why Rowan, this year, sent a small delegation to South River was for the purpose of avoiding the usual incidents of a large, excited, angry and tumultuous body of men. Rowan hoped and expected that Davie would send a small committee of representative men to confer with the committee on the part of Rowan. It was believed that a small delegation of five or six from each county could settle all disputed questions amicably, peacefully, and without passion, prejudice or bitterness.

Every large political convention, the members of which are actuated by strong and angry partisan feelings, is frequently the scene of noisy, disorderly and disgraceful proceedings, and this too, in spite of all the efforts which men, who love peace and hate strife, can make to calm the troubled waters and to bring about "unity and concord."

Mr. Foard, in his "open letter" says, "that the delegates met at South River, and no nomination was declared." This is a mistake, as will appear by reference to the published proceedings. It was not only declared to be the nominees of the convention, but it was the undisputed choice of the voters of twelve townships out of seventeen, in the two counties.

Mr. Foard seems to fear that I will attempt to hold over him "the party whip and to lash all who object" to my nomination. But I am not so devoid of sense and prudence, as to wish to be elected by any but the most fair and honorable means. I demand for myself nothing but an open field and fair play.

Although I have never sought office, I have filled several positions of trust and usefulness—and whenever I have been a candidate before the people, I have encountered opposition. But I have never yet been tempted to secure my election by appeals to the passions and prejudices of particular classes of society, nor ever been forced to adopt any of the devices for winning votes, so commonly made use of by the political charlatan and intriguing demagogue.

In Rowan and Davie counties I am personally known to large numbers of the people, and my reputation and public record is known, and can be read of all men. It is true I am not a farmer by profession. But is it anything to my discredit, because I am a humble member of a learned, an honorable and a liberal profession? Why should there be any antagonism between these two classes of society? There is none except when fostered and encouraged by the one class or the other. I have lived on a farm all my life, and am the son of a man who has always been a farmer and has never pursued any other avocation. I have as much sympathy for the farmers, as a class, as Mr. Foard can possibly have, and I am quite as fully identified with their interests as he.

As a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1875, I earnestly supported that amendment to the State Constitution, which compelled the legislature to create the Department of Agriculture. And during the last session of the Legislature, I actively supported every good bill which was calculated to advance, not only the material interests of the whole State, but of the Agricultural and Mechanical classes in particular. I endeavored to be the friend alike of all classes and professions, without regard to caste, race, color, or previous condition.

Experience is a safe counsellor, and teaches us lessons of wisdom and discretion. As I grow older, I find that I am gradually becoming more and more conservative and *conservative* in my principles and conduct, I entered public life about seven years ago a fiery young partisan, and was somewhat noisy in my denunciation of all who differed with me in political opinions. But I have changed all that. I am still as strongly attached to the political party of which I have always been a member, as I ever was.

By education, by inclination and by conviction, I am a democrat—no one can be truer than myself to his party affiliations and allegiance. But I feel more kindly and more tolerant towards my political adversaries than formerly, and I have made it the rule of my public life, not to do a wrong for the purpose of gaining a partisan triumph. For this reason, therefore, when the majority of the Democratic party in the last Legislature purposed to declare vacant the seats of three Representatives—one white and two colored—from the counties of New Hanover and Pender—who had been elected by overwhelming majorities at the polls, I protested against such a policy; and as a member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections wrote the majority report, which retained those members in their seats. I took this course because I did not believe the reasons given for the expulsion of these members to be sufficient or just.

For this action on my part, I received the condemnation of many of my political associates, and of the leading Democratic daily newspaper in the city of Raleigh. But I had what was far better—the approval of my own conscience.

I deplore as much as any man can the present depressed condition of business, and the financial embarrassment of all classes of our people—and I shall rejoice to see the day when the country will be again prosperous. The Bowan township meetings were held on the 1st of April, and the County Convention on the 1st of May. Mr. Foard's suggestion, therefore, that my friends have been opposed to my interest which he represents, is—an entire mistake. On the contrary, I have recently become the target of the efforts of the Friends of the People, too many in the house of my own immediate friends. The war against me being one of unscrupulous and unprincipled men, and I did not because I have done any wrong—not because I am iniquitous for the position—but simply because I am a champion of the working classes, fully identified with the farming Interest. There is no natural or real antagonism between a lawyer and a farmer, and the friends of the People, too many in the house of my own immediate friends, have never had any other home but the poor, the sick, the infirm, the aged, the lawless, and only untrue, but preposterous and absurd.

I have none but the kindest personal feelings for Mr. Foard and his family. Our relatives have all been kind and considerate of me, and my ways were regarded, not only as a warning of mine, but a personal friend. I regret the necessity of this statement, which has been forced on me.

Is there any impossible for me to withdraw from the convention and succeed in getting a majority of the people to the ballot box?

If you shall do this, I will report to the people of the Davie delegation to the convention, my promise to serve you diligently, faithfully and zealously, and will endeavor to discharge the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and to the honor of God has given me. It is unnecessary to add that I am in favor of an honest and economical administration of public affairs; and of purity, ability and integrity in the conduct of *any* department of the goVERNMENT.

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SALISBURY, N. C., JULY 18, 1878.

NO 39.

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that there is no time for distraction, alienation and division among those of the same household. Party bonds are loosening—prejudices are being removed, and the people of all classes and parties, in North and South, are uniting in a spirit of conciliation and good feeling. This time has come for higher aspirations than mere party. Men are uniting, disuniting and uniting again, in a spirit of conciliation and good feeling.

With very high regard, I beg leave to subscribe myself. Your friend and obedient servant,

JOHN S. HENDERSON.

July 9, 1878.

HER STOCKING DID IT.

She was very pretty—but there came a time when I don't care the least for her beauty—her soul was so much more attractive than her body. She was no humble wild-flower maiden, but a woman who had received a magnificent dower of blue blood, including talents, and all that culture could develop in a beautiful and intellectual woman washer; all that wealth could bestow upon her she possessed. She had the good fortune to be no singularity of nature, but all was a symmetrical and very harmonious whole.

I loved her, and I possessed the humbleness of true love. The more intimately I knew her, she made me conscious of things that were mean in myself. Out of this feeling grew jealousy of other men.

A bitter jealousy. She was too sunny and generous a temper to pick for flaws, nor could she know a man as other men knew him.

She could not understand that Dr. Cosgrove was irritable in private, as he was suave and agreeable in public, and I would not tell her that Capt. Langdale seldom paid his debts. They were but two of her many admirers, and they were both hand-somer and shadier than myself. In time I was miserable on their account.

I cannot now, in cold blood, accuse her of coquetry, but Stephenie St. Jean was of French blood on her father's side. Beside speaking that language perfectly, she had the French woman's secret of fascination. A trifle more in vivacity, when surrounded by gentlemen, made her utterly irresistible.

I am not responsible for the controveSIES which has so recently been the theme of discussion, as to whether Rowan or Davie is entitled to name the Senator this year, I have never sought the nomination of either, but I have been assured by prominent citizens of Davie county, that Davie would not only be perfectly satisfied with me, but that she did not claim the right to name the Senator, and that it was perfectly understood in Davie, that it was Rowan's turn. I have before me at this writing a recent letter from a gentleman of the highest character, and of great influence in Davie county, in which he says: "Up to the time of David's county meeting, I had never heard of any person claiming that it was Davie's turn to furnish the candidate; thought we had no contest with Rowan on that score." I was also assured that there had been a distinct agreement between the two counties in the year 1874, that Rowan should have the right to name the candidates for the years 1876 and 1878. My own investigations confirmed what my Davie friends had represented to me.

The following is the record of the Senators elected in the two counties for a series of years.

1861, Wm. March, of Davie county.

1862, R. F. Johnston, of Davie county.

1858, Wm. M. Robbins, of Rowan county.

1872, Charles Price, of Davie county.

1874, John H. Clement, of Davie county.

1876, W. H. Crawford, of Rowan county.