

# North-Carolina Free Press.

Whole No. 285.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Tuesday, January 10, 1832.

Vol. VIII—No 21.

The "North-Carolina Free Press,"  
BY GEORGE HOWARD,

Is published weekly, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per year, if paid in advance—or, Three Dollars, at the expiration of the year. For any period less than a year, Twenty-Five Cents per month. Subscribers are at liberty to discontinue at any time, on giving notice thereof and paying arrears—those residing at a distance must invariably pay in advance, or give a responsible reference in this vicinity.

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## DOMESTIC.

**Convention.**—In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Mr. Whitaker, of Macon, presented the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were read, ordered to be printed, and made the order of the day for the following Tuesday:

WHEREAS many of the good people of North-Carolina entertain the opinion that the Constitution of the State is defective in some of its fundamental provisions, and requires amendment; more especially in the present mode of Representation, which instead of being on the just and equitable basis of taxation and population, is according to counties, unequal in size and greatly disproportionate in wealth and numbers;

AND WHEREAS, local jealousies and divisions, growing out of this state of things, have for many years existed among the people, distracting the councils of the State, and obstructing liberal and wholesome legislation—a condition of things which the character and prosperity of the State loudly require should be removed from among us, that we may become one people, possessing common rights and influenced by a common principle.

AND WHEREAS, many of the good people of this State entertain the opinion, that the Seat of Government should be removed to some place uniting more advantages than the city of Raleigh: Therefore, for the purpose of removing these defects, on principles of compromise and mutual concession, and with a view of restoring good feeling among our citizens, and harmony in the councils of the General Assembly:

*Be it Resolved*, by the General Assembly of the State, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, that it is expedient to call a Convention of the freemen of North-Carolina, for the purpose of considering the propriety of amending the Constitution of the State; and also of removing the Seat of Government.

*Resolved further*, that it shall be the duty of the Sheriffs of the several counties in this State, on the day of next, after twenty days notice, to open polls at the places where elections are usually held in their respective counties, under the same rules and regulations, as elections for members of the General Assembly are now held; and all free white men over the age of 21 years, having been citizens of the State twelve months immediately preceding the day of election, are requested to attend

said polls, and vote for Delegates to a Convention.

*And be it further Resolved*, that the delegates so chosen, shall be distributed among the several counties as follows, the same being on the basis of federal numbers, that is to say:—the counties of Ashe, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Currituck, Chowan, Camden, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Haywood, Jones, Lenoir, Macon, Martin, Nash, Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Robeson, Tyrrell, and Washington, each, one delegate—the counties of Anson, Bertie, Beaufort, Cabarrus, Chatham, Cumberland, Caswell, Craven, Duplin, Davidson, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Johnston, Moore, Montgomery, Northampton, New-Hanover, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Richmond, Sampson, Surry, Wilkes, Warren, and Wayne, each, two delegates—the counties of Burke, Buncombe, Guilford, Granville, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rutherford, Stokes, and Wake, each, three delegates—the counties of Lincoln, Orange, and Rowan, each, four delegates.

*Be it further Resolved*, that the delegates so chosen, shall meet in Convention, on the day of — next, and when duly organized, shall proceed to consider the propriety of adopting the following articles as a part of the Constitution of the State: And said Convention shall be restricted and limited to the propriety of adopting or rejecting these articles, or any, or either of them, and no other.

**ARTICLE I.** The Senate shall be composed of members, biennially chosen, one from each county in the State. Senators and Electors shall both possess the same qualifications as are now required of each respectively, by the Constitution.

**ART. II.** The House of Commons shall be composed of members, biennially chosen by the free white men of the State, in the same manner as hereinafter prescribed; and the members and their electors shall possess respectively, the same qualifications as are now required by the Constitution.

**ART. III.** Representation in the House of Commons shall be equal and uniform, and shall be regulated and ascertained by the General Assembly, once in every ten years, on the basis of federal numbers, that is, three-fifths of the black population added to the whole of the white population. The ratio on which the Representatives shall be distributed among the several counties, at the period of every ten years, shall be so fixed by law, as not to give fewer than ninety, nor more than one hundred members to the House of Commons, over and above the Representatives of the towns, if the borough system should be retained. When a county may not contain a sufficient amount of federal numbers to entitle it to a member, and when the fractions of the adjacent counties added thereto, are still less than the ratio, then two or more counties may be joined together for the purpose of sending one member or more, according to what they may be entitled to

send by the settled ratio. When there are two or more counties, adjacent to each other, having fractions over and above the ratio fixed on, if such fractions when added together, will amount to the ratio, then one member shall be added to the county having the largest fraction. The first arrangement on the principle of the amendment, shall be made by the General Assembly, in the year 1841, and until then, the House of Commons shall be composed of members from the several counties, as follows, to wit: [The resolution is at present in blank as to the arrangement.]

**ART. IV.** The General Assembly shall meet once, in every two years, but should the public interest require it, the Governor, in the interim, may call an extra session.

**ART. V.** The Governor, Public Treasurer, and Secretary of State shall be biennially chosen on joint ballot of the two Houses. No person to be eligible to the office of Governor longer than four years, in eight successive years.

**ART. VI.** Whenever any town in this State, not now entitled to representation, shall possess a population of — souls, such town shall become entitled to send one member to the House of Commons; and when any town, now represented or hereafter to be represented, shall cease to possess a population of — souls, then such town shall forfeit the right of representation.

**ART. VII.** No higher taxes shall be imposed on the slave, than on the white poll, and slaves shall not be taxed at an earlier age than twelve years, nor at a later age than fifty years.

**ART. VIII.** The Convention shall determine on the expediency of removing the Seat of Government, and if they determine on removing it, then they shall fix the place of removal, which shall become the permanent Seat of Government until removed by the people in Convention assembled.

**Tariff Resolutions.**—In the Senate, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Mr. Dishough presented the following resolutions, which were laid on the table, and a message was sent to the House of Commons, proposing to refer them to a joint select committee:

WHEREAS, the good citizens of the State of North-Carolina are now convinced that the present Tariff laws of the United States are unequal in their operation, unconstitutional in their spirit, and vauccillating in their effect upon all the Cotton growing States: And whereas the confederation of the States was formed in the spirit of mutual compromise, conciliation and protection; and therefore every law that is subversive of the fundamental principles and spirit of that holy compact is destructive to the permanency and duration of the Union, by cooling the ardor of the republican spirit that cements the States together—by engendering jealousies among the different States—alienating the love and affections of the people from their government; and if persevered in, will gradually estrange the spirit of reciprocity and

brotherly love, [without which no people can be prosperous and happy; and which will expose this boasted palladium of liberty to the will of rapacious tyrants. It is therefore confidently believed that a mere mention of these principles will awaken a spirit of justice in those who enacted those obnoxious and oppressive laws, and who have the power to enforce obedience to them.

*Be it therefore resolved*, by the General Assembly of the State of North-Carolina, that we, the representatives of the people, do believe that the present Tariff is an indirect tax upon the Southern States, uncalled for at this time, unwarranted by the spirit of the Constitution, and, if not speedily repealed, will impoverish our citizens, and stern necessity will drive us into measures, at the very thought of which all our better feelings revolt.

*Be it further resolved*, that our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested to make the most strenuous exertions, and to use all proper means in their power to bring about a repeal of the most obnoxious of the Tariff laws.

*Be it further resolved*, that the foregoing preamble and resolutions be signed by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, and that a copy of them be transmitted to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

*From Washington City.*—The following letter from the Hon. JOHN BRANCH to a gentleman of this place, has been furnished us for publication.—*Halifax Adv.*

*Washington City, }  
Dec. 21, 1831. }*

My dear Sir: I have received yours of the 14th inst. and will cheerfully attend to your commands.

The papers afford you full details of the proceedings of Congress—the business of which may be said as yet scarcely to have commenced. Numerous matters, however, of high interest, have been referred to the several committees and will probably be reported to the House early in the next month. We may then, I think, look for a warm, and, perhaps, violent discussion upon some of them, especially those relating to a reduction of the tariff, internal improvement, etc. It is difficult to conjecture what may be the result of the propositions on these subjects. We are not without hope, however, that a modification of these measures, regarded as so important to the South, will be obtained. On these points you know my sentiments, and it is unnecessary to say, that I shall join in every reasonable effort to get rid of laws which, to say nothing of their doubtful constitutionality, are unequal and unjust.

I have the pleasure to enjoy, personally, the good will of a large number of the members of the House, and with some of them the most friendly intimacy. This, in a measure, reconciles one to the tedium of Congressional duty, and the absence from homes and firesides.

You have, no doubt, seen that the public prints, both in Opposition and in favor of the Administration, continue to heap their abuse upon me. They seem, indeed to have clubbed their talents in these attacks, each trying to rob me of the small share of reputation I have received, by a course of faithful service to the public for years past.

The Opposition prints abuse me, because I have not taken the stand of enmity to the Administration which they say I had threatened, and which might have contributed something to the promotion of the views of their party, etc. etc.

Of this conduct of the Opposition presses, I have no right to complain. They have been my enemies from the moment I took sides with Gen. Jackson. Every man who goes into public life must expect his share of this partisan obloquy, and must be prepared to breast it manfully or suffer perpetual annoyance and vexation. I have never sought to conciliate the favor or propitiate the enmity of the party. I neither ask their friendship or forbearance.

The Administration papers abuse me, because they say, that my feelings and wishes are against them, though I dare not, from fear of the indignation of my constituents, take a stand openly in hostility to them, and that I am pledged by declarations, made during the pending of my election, to give the Administration my support.

It is very true that I did declare, that I would use my best efforts in its support, so long as the principles which brought it into power, should be acted upon—and this I should have done as fervently without a pledge as with it; and this in the case supposed, will be faithfully given. But should it happen that the Administration, regardless of its pledges, shall depart from that course of policy, and that line of limitation of its powers as fixed by the Constitution, it will be seen, that I dare do what I believe to be right—what I have all my life determined to do—that is, support principles rather than men. And if the intelligent district I represent should be dissatisfied with this exercise of my discretion, I shall cheerfully surrender the trust which has been confided to me to some less scrupulous on these points, and who will be ready, *fas aut nefas*, to obey the dicta of the powers that be. But I trust that this will be unnecessary; and that, adhering to the principles which have always governed my public conduct, I shall be justified in giving a fair, and decided support to the Administration; and at the same time promoting, as far as my influence can go, the best interest of the country.

Yours, with much respect and esteem.  
JNO. BRANCH.

**Cold Weather.**—The Wheeling (Va.) Gazette says, that the mercury in the thermometer, (Far.) on Sunday morning the 18th ult. at that place, stood at 16 degrees below 0—which was 10 degrees colder than the coldest day last winter.

*Petersburg Times.*