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BY GEORGE HOWARD.

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POLITICAL.



From the Salisbury Carolinian.

AN ADDRESS

Of the Democratic Convention, when met at Salisbury on the 20th day of May, 1842—to the People of North Carolina:

(continued.)

Now, the Democrats do not object to paying taxes for the reasonable support of Government, but they are utterly opposed to paying taxes to enrich the manufacturers.

Besides the great injustice of the "protective policy," we object to it on another ground:—like the Banking system, it creates a privileged class of men in the country, and will eventually subvert the very nature of our Government itself.

As evidence of the effect of this system upon the large landholders and upon the day laborer in England, we have only to turn to any newspaper of that country, which finds its way to this.

"It is said that, by the death of the late Duke of Cleveland, his eldest son succeeds to £80,000 a year, or nearly \$390,000; Lord William Pawlett has a legacy of \$60,000, or more than \$2,500,000; and Lord Harvey another of £440,000, or upwards of \$2,000,000; there is a legacy of £200,000, or nearly \$1,000,000, to a grandson; the Dowager has the Yorkshire estates, the house in London, and an immense amount of plate, jewellery, and furniture.

"In the same paper we find the death of the Marquis of Herford announced, with the remark that he died worth £2,000,000, or upwards of \$9,000,000.

"Now, let us view the reverse side of the picture. We extract the following, from the first paper at hand as a recent report. The cases stated are accompanied by others of like character, and are no doubt, true representations of thousands and tens of thousands of cases in England, Scotland, and Ireland:

"Let us peep into the report of the poor law commissioners, that we may the better understand this new doctrine, which the humanity of Great Britain is about to engrave on the law of nations.

"These commissioners visited the poor in their abodes of wretchedness, and the

following are a few of the facts selected from their report:

"One witness says: I am counted a good laborer, and when there is employment to be had, I am seldom idle.

"I am idle for about three months in the year, on an average.—In the beginning of the summer I was idle for three weeks, one day after another. I had no provision I sold every article in my house, rather than let my wife go out; you may be sure we eat the price of them very sparingly; at last I sold the pot I had to boil my potatoes, and I walked out of the door myself, my wife and six children. We went off where we were not known, and begged."

"Another says: I would engage to work at home every day in the year for eight pounds without food or support of any kind."

"Another, in answer to the question, do your family generally use milk with their potatoes, says: Milk, so I solemnly declare, before my neighbors here, that I have been lying in my bed having a blister after blister on me, and did not drink a quart of milk, but eat potatoes and salt herrings, and had no drink but cold water. A great many of us would pray the Almighty to take us off; it would be better for us than to live in our poverty and need."

Here, we have a sample of the effects of "Protective policy," and of unequal laws in England. We see the privileged few, rolling in riches, wrung from the hard earnings of the many, we see them glittering in jewells, and feasting off of gold and silver plate, while the poor eat potatoes, and salt herring."

Yes, at this very moment, they have a Bill before Congress to re-establish, and make permanent the protective system on this country. It is a remarkable fact too, that they are doing this, at the very time, when the British Government has abandoned it as a source of misery and suffering among her own people.

During the present Session, they passed another act authorizing a further loan of five millions more, making seventeen millions. The same act authorizing the Government to fund on interest, all the outstanding Treasury notes, to the amount of \$8,750,000; making a grand total of \$25,750,000.

But in one year after they came into power, they authorized a funded permanent debt of twenty five millions seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars! and all this in time of profound peace.

EXPENDITURES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The expenditures of the Government during the last year of Mr. Van Buren's administration amounted to a fraction more than 22 millions of dollars. Mr. Van Buren himself, and all his friends in Congress were anxious to reduce them still more, and without doubt, if they had been continued in power, this would have been done.

The Whig leaders during the campaign of 1840, declaimed loudly against these expenditures; they denounced them as extravagant, and promised, if elected, that they would at once bring down the expenses of the Government to 14 or 15 millions per year. Well, they were elected, and placed in power;—the question now is—have they fulfilled their promises? Have they brought the expenses of the Government down to 14 or 15 millions per year? We answer, no; they have neither done it, nor attempted to do it; but on the contrary, during the very first year of their power, they have increased the expenditures many millions;—thus falsifying all their pledges.

During the campaign, they assured the people that 14 or 15 millions annually were enough to carry on the Government, and that they would require no more. Scarcely, however, were they seated in power, when their leader Mr. Clay, Chairman of the Committee of Finance, declared, and afterwards reiterated the same in a Resolution,—that twenty-six millions of dollars was the lowest sum with which the Government could be carried on. Before the election, they professed that 14 millions were sufficient; after the election, they required 26 millions.

Again, the Whig Tariff Committee on 31st March, 1842, laid a report before Congress in defence of high taxes, from which we make the following extract:

"It is repeated, the precise amount required to carry on the Government is uncertain;—but in the opinion of the Committee a smaller sum than \$26,000,000 or \$27,000,000,—(twenty-six or twenty-seven millions) will not suffice for the ordinary expenditures."

Now, if the Whigs in Congress have so grossly violated their pledges, as, in one year, to have increased the expenditures of the Government twelve millions of dollars beyond what they had promised, what may not be expected from them in a few years more, if they are continued in power? We leave the subject to the people, and shall proceed to

THE NEW NATIONAL DEBT.

When the Whigs were contending for power in 1840, they told the people that the Democrats had involved the Government in debt many millions of dollars,—some said twenty, some thirty, and some went as high as forty millions.

To ascertain the truth of the matter, the United States Senate at an early day in the present Session, directed the Secretary of the Treasury to report how much the Government did owe when Mr. Van Buren went out of office. The Secretary's answer is contained in Senate Document, No. 11, of the present Session.

He states that the only form in which any debt was contracted during Mr. Van Buren's term, was in the emission of Treasury notes, and that the amount of Treasury notes outstanding on the 3rd of March, 1841, was \$6,607,361 54. This amount included about one million of Treasury notes taken up and in the hands of receivers, but not cancelled;—thus showing that the only debt against the Government when Mr. Van Buren went out of office, was \$5,607,361, in outstanding Treasury notes. This could hardly be called a debt at all,—for these notes were receivable for Government dues, and were coming in.

Now, let us see what the Whigs have done as respects a public debt since they came into power.

During the Extra Session, they passed a law authorizing a loan of twelve millions of dollars.

During the present Session, they passed another act authorizing a further loan of five millions more, making seventeen millions. The same act authorizing the Government to fund on interest, all the outstanding Treasury notes, to the amount of \$8,750,000; making a grand total of \$25,750,000.

Thus when the Whigs received the Government they found it clear of debt, save the \$5,607,361 of outstanding Treasury notes.

But in one year after they came into power, they authorized a funded permanent debt of twenty five millions seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars! and all this in time of profound peace.

Sorely, the Whigs must be acting on the maxim of the old Federal party, that a National debt is a National blessing, otherwise they would not have rushed into so large a debt in so short a period of time. Since they have managed in the course of one year to create a public debt of nearly 26 millions of dollars, what may we not expect in the three years to come if the people do not arrest them, in their wild career of extravagance and prodigality? Let all who value their rights and would not wish to see taxes and tariffs entailed on themselves and posterity, come to the rescue before it is too late.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

Among the acts passed by the Federal party when formerly in power was a Bankrupt law. The Republicans, were universally against it, and soon as they came into power, they repealed it. Mark the analogy;—among the acts passed by the Whigs at the Extra Session, was the Bankrupt law. The Democrats are universally opposed to it, and as soon as they regain power they will, assuredly repeal this most odious Law.

The Democrats are opposed to it because it is a gross violation of the obligations of contracts which exist between debtor and creditor; and because it is demoralizing and corrupting in its influence on the community.

It is now known that this law was passed by a combination between its particular friends, and those who were in favor of distributing the proceeds of the public lands; one set who voted for it, went for plundering the Public Treasury, and the other set for defrauding honest creditors.

All who are in favor of repealing this most iniquitous law, should remember that it can only be done by turning out of power, those who passed it, and who now advocate it.

DIVIDING OUT THE PROCEEDS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS—STATE DEBTS.

The Whigs at the Extra Session under the influence of Mr. Clay, passed a law to take from the public Treasury the money brought in by the sales of the public lands, and to give it away to the several States. This was done when the income of the Government was not sufficient to meet the expenditures, and of course doing so would create a still greater deficiency. How was this deficiency to be supplied? Why by taxes on the people—and, are the people

willing to give away three millions of dollars annually, and then see themselves taxed to replace this amount in the Treasury? Are they willing to empty the Treasury by grants of this kind, and then by taxes and tariff to fill it again?

One of the arguments in favor of this Whig Law, is that a number of the States have become deeply involved in debt, and that Congress ought to help them by this grant of money. Is this just? If other States act foolishly and run into debt, is it right to tax the people of North Carolina, to pay their debts? Shall we be made to suffer for the folly and extravagance of other States? The Democrats say, let every State pay its own debts.

The People may thank the Democrats of North Carolina, that our State is now clear of debt;—they always set the r faces against Whig schemes for borrowing money to embark in wild plans of Internal Improvements; but for this, as bad off as the people now are, their condition would be ten times worse. Even with this escape, our people are suffering immensely from Whig policy and Whig misrule; and now, shall they submit to a tax of three millions annually to pay for the folly and extravagance of other States.

This abominable law, as well as the Tariff, and the plan to raise the expenditures of the Government up to 26 millions annually, are favorite projects of Henry Clay. He is now the Whig candidate for next President, and if elected, the people of North Carolina may expect to taste the bitter fruits of all these schemes.

Let the farmers and laboring classes take timely warning, before it is too late.

THE PRESENT TO MRS. HARRISON OF \$25,000 DOLLARS.

One of the most objectionable of the acts passed by the Whigs at the late Extra Session, is the law making a present of twenty five thousand dollars to Mrs. Harrison out of the Public Treasury.—The Whigs all went for this law, the Democrats went against it.

As large as this sum is, we object to it less on account of the money, than as an evil example set in our Government; we fear it is the entering wedge of the British Pension system among us. In England, thousands of the nobility and Government favorites, receive Pensions for life out of the Public Treasury; and the people are ground down with heavy taxes to supply the means to pay them. Shall this system be introduced in our Government? Begin it once, and where will it stop?

Besides, why make a present to Mrs. Harrison more than any body else? She stood in no need of it—he was not suffering, she was already rich. Was it because she was a President's widow? If this be the reason, then hereafter the widows of all Presidents may claim like presents; and if granted to the widows of Presidents, why not to the widows of all Public Officers—from the highest to the lowest?

Is it right, at a time when distress pervades the country,—when the Treasury is empty and new taxes have been laid, to fill it,—that the Whigs should give away \$25,000 of the people's money to one already rich, and far above want? Look through the land,—see how many poor widows there are toiling by day and night to support their helpless orphans—is it right to tax their salt, their morsel of sugar, and their coarse raiment, to raise \$25,000 to be given away to a rich old Lady, who lives in a fine house, who owns splendid lands, and is surrounded with all the comforts of life? If this be right, then let the people applaud the Whigs, and prepare for the British Pension system; if it be wrong, then unite and turn out of power a set of men, who, in their short career of recklessness, have already done more injury to the country than can be repaired in ten years to come.

THE VETO POWER.

The people ought not to shut their eyes to the efforts now making by Mr. Clay and his followers to change our Government by striking from the Constitution one of the greatest safe-guards in it against Congressional usurpations,—we refer to the Veto Power. This clause in the Constitution was sanctioned by Washington, Madison, and all the other great Patriots who framed our Government; and afterwards when Washington and Madison, were Presidents, both of them exercised it. No party or class of politicians ever found any fault with it, until it stood in the way of a United States Bank. But having defeated Mr. Clay and the Bank men in their schemes, they at once commenced war upon it, and continue to wage it with unmitigated vengeance. They seem to think if they can only abolish this part of the Constitution, that then they can go ahead. But will the people quietly stand by and see this vital feature in our Constitution sacrificed to an aspirant's ambition, or to Bank cupidity? To say nothing of the evils the Bank will bring upon the country, mark the other consequences that will follow. The Veto Power stands in the way of Mr. Clay and the Bank Whigs—they strike it

from the Constitution. After awhile, some other clause will stand in the way of some other aspirant or reckless party;—they too will strike it out; and thus our sacred Constitution will go piece by piece until it will become entirely subverted, and our Republican form of Government changed to a Monarchy or despotism. The Democratic party of North Carolina deprecate these assaults on the Constitution; we believe it to be an Instrument framed in wisdom, and patriotism;—under it, the American people have enjoyed many blessings; all we ask of the Whigs, or any other set of men, is to preserve it in letter and in spirit, pure and inviolate.

WHIG PROSCRIPTION.

When the Whig politicians were seeking power in 1840, they made a great outcry against "proscription;" they promised that if they should get into power, to "proscribe proscription." They have kept this promise, like all their others. Never before under our Government have as many men been turned out of office for opinion's sake, as during the first four months of Whig power. They swept the country from Canada to Texas. Valuable officers, with large helpless families have been sent adrift, not for any fault, or neglect of duty, but merely because they were Democrats, and to make place for some hungry Whig who claimed his reward for party services. Let the people contrast these practices of the Whig leaders, with their promises in 1840, and answer—are they right?

THE AFFAIRS OF OUR OWN STATE.

In the political revolution of 1840, the Whigs obtained the ascendancy of the Legislature of N. Carolina, and elected their candidate for Governor.

We regret that the limits of this address, will not allow a full examination into the affairs of our own State. It would be well, however, for the Democratic candidates for the next Legislature to bring these affairs before the people;—let them procure the Journals of the last Legislature, and read from them to the people; there they will see Whig policy, Whig extravagance, Whig proscription fully exemplified. Never before in N. C. has there been such a reckless, extravagant, and proscriptive Legislature. Scores of hungry politicians in the Legislature and out of it, were there scrambling for the crumbs of office. Many received their reward;—some of them who were put in office, are wholly incompetent to discharge the duties, and thereby the public interests have suffered. Others are now enjoying the "spoils," and mixing up their official duties with Whig politics—both Federal and State,—trying to convince the people that the Bankrupt Law—the Tariff—the National Debt—extravagant appropriations of Congress—the grant to Mrs. Harrison—the Bank doings—all, all are right.

Let the people consider these things and judge whether they are right, whether they meet their approval or their condemnation.

PROMISES contrasted with PRACTICES.

The people should keep in mind the promises of the Whig leaders in 1840, and contrast them with their performances in 1841—'42. They then told the people that the Democratic administration had brought the "hard times" on the country, and they promised if Gen. Harrison should be elected, that a great change would soon take place, that property would increase in value, that prices would rise, money become plenty, and general prosperity spread over the land. The people placed confidence in these promises, and elected Gen. Harrison and put the Whigs in power;—the question now is, have they verified their promises? All know that they have not. Money is scarcer, prices lower, distress more general, times harder now than when the Whigs came into power. The people then have been disappointed and deceived, and their deceivers can make no satisfactory excuse for it. One of two things is certain; at the time they made their promises they either believed what they promised, or they did not believe it. If they believed that they could do what they said, then the result proves that they were wholly ignorant of the real causes of the distresses of the country, and like ignorant physicians were prescribing in the dark and at a venture; but if they did not believe that they could perform their promises, then they acted the part of hypocrites, and wilfully designed to deceive the people. Let them take either horn of the dilemma. If they believed it, then they have proven themselves to be too ignorant to be further trusted. If they did not believe it, then they have shown themselves to have been hypocrites, wilfully making false promises to deceive.

But some of them attempt to excuse themselves by laying the blame on Gen. Harrison's death, that is, at the door of Providence. This excuse will not bear a moment's examination. It is true, as Senator Mangum says, that "the vengeance of