

N. CAROLINA FREE PRESS.

Whole No. 436.

Tarborough, (Edgecombe County, N. C.) Tuesday, January 8, 1833.

Vol. IX—No 20.

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 subscription 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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Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they may not be attended to.

DOMESTIC.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT.

The Joint Select Committee, to whom was referred the letter of his Excellency the Governor of South Carolina, to his Excellency the Governor of this State, with the accompanying documents, REPORT—

That the union of the North American Colonies, and the subsequent declaration of Independence, are political events of momentous interest in the history of this country; and are associated in the recollection, and embalmed in the affections of the people of this State. These were monuments of imperishable fame, proclaiming to an oppressed and benighted world, the rights of man, and his capacity for self-government. In support of these principles the illustrious WASHINGTON led our fathers to battle; and valor established in the field, what wisdom had declared in council. These were united efforts in a common cause; the watchword was then "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable." Victory added lustre to the spar-spangled banner, the storm of war disappeared, and peace smiled on "the land of the brave and the home of the free."

"To form a more perfect union," and "to secure the blessings of liberty" to themselves and their posterity, the heroes and patriots of the Revolution established the Constitution of the United States of America. It is a splendid production of human wisdom; admirably combining and harmoniously intermingling the elements of liberty, and the principles of social order. Political philosophy, throughout the world, looked in amazement on the august spectacle; while the votaries of legitimacy in the Eastern hemisphere, predicted its early dissolution—Hitherto, disappointment has blasted their hopes.

This Constitution has secured to us the enjoyment of happiness for forty-five years; experience has proved it to be fitted to every exigency; it has conducted us to glory in war and to prosperity in peace. Should this temple of liberty totter to its fall, it will overwhelm in its ruins the rights of man, and his hopes "will be extinguished for ever." We will become a mark for the finger of scorn; man's capacity for self-government will be a theme of ridicule, and a subject for derision; instead of the doctrine of universal emancipation, the dogma of universal despotism will be proclaimed to a degenerate world.

The people of this State are ardently attached to the Constitution, and sincerely devoted to the Union. The spirit of '76 glows in their bosoms with its primitive ardor; they recognize the right of the oppressed to break asunder the ties which connect them with the oppressor; but it is a right which should not be exercised for "light or transient causes." The dissolution of the Union will be accompanied by deeds of violence and scenes of blood, at the sight of which valor may stand appalled. The arm of the son raised against the father—the poniard of the brother plunged into a brother's bosom—the wife weeping over the murdered body of her husband—the widowed mother bewailing the loss of her only son—are all unexaggerated incidents of Civil War. May God, in his mercy, avert

this awful calamity from our beloved country!

Although a diversity of opinion prevails in this State, as to the constitutionality of the acts of Congress imposing duties on imports; yet, it is believed, a large majority of the people think those acts unconstitutional, and they are all united in the sentiment, that the existing Tariff is impolitic, unjust and oppressive; and they have urged, and will continue to urge its repeal. As the National Debt is so nearly extinguished, all concur in the propriety of reducing the duties on imports to a Revenue standard, which should be graduated to the wants of the General Government for current expenditures. They believe this system of policy is one of the cardinal objects of the present Administration; and that a reduction of the Tariff will annually occur until the desired abatement be attained. They are opposed to the collection of Revenue by the Federal Government for purposes of Internal Improvement, for reasons not necessary now to be assigned. The proposed reduction of the duties will relieve the Southern States from the evil of which they complain. Then, in a period of tranquility and profound peace, a Convention can be assembled in the mode prescribed by the Constitution, to revise and amend that charter of our rights, so as to remove all doubts as to the constitutional power of Congress to impose duties on importations for the protection of any branch of industry.

The General Assembly of this State think, that the doctrine of Nullification avowed by South Carolina, and declared in an Ordinance made by a Convention which recently assembled in Columbia, is revolutionary in its character, will, in its operation, be subversive of the Constitution of the United States, and leads to a dissolution of the Union. This opinion is entertained with much deference to the opinions of others, and is now expressed more in sorrow than in anger, and from a deep sense of duty to our neighbors. We cherish sentiments of the highest respect for the virtue, talents and chivalry of the citizens of that State. They no doubt believe, that a crisis of fearful and oppressive extremity has arrived, when no other alternative is left to patriotism, but boldly to stand forth in defence of reserved rights, and valorously to resist the oppressor. The philosophy of the human mind teaches us, it is so constituted, that honest differences of opinion will arise; manly ingenuousness forbids their concealment, and magnanimity will duly appreciate their expression, and receive it with forbearance. Let us not deceive ourselves with "the cry of peace, peace, when there is no peace;" this would be the language of delusion and folly. Truth and justice forbid, that we should "ought extenuate, or ought set down in malice;" in the hour of trial and difficulty, ingenuous frankness is the dictate of generous hearts glowing in an honest cause.

This is an awful crisis. The attitude which our Southern Sister has assumed, and the relation in which she now stands to the Federal Government, fill us with the deepest solicitude, and the most heart-thrilling anxiety. North Carolina is not only deeply implicated in the existing controversy, as a member of the Union; but from her proximity to one of the contending parties, and their community of interests, may be vitally involved in the issue of the conflict. She is the border State, and her fields may become the battle ground of the combatants. These considerations justify us in approaching, with feelings of kindness our sister State, and in soliciting her to pause ere she takes a leap, the consequences of which are not within the reach of human eye. With the olive branch of peace in our hands, and with the offerings of conciliation in our hearts, let us address her in

the language of friendship, and implore her to the exercise of a little more forbearance. Let us beseech her to recollect the long agony of her departed worthies in the great struggle for freedom; let us remind her of their toil and suffering, and of the blood and treasure which were expended in the establishment of our political institutions. Let us invoke her in the name of her Pinckneys, her Rutledges, her Sumters, and her Marions—let us call upon her in the name of liberty and the rights of man, to pause. We have been taught by more than human wisdom, that "blessed are the peacemakers;" let us then endeavor to procure an adjustment of the existing controversy, and let us use all constitutional means in our power, to produce a reconciliation between the contending parties. To that end, your Committee recommend the adoption of the following Resolutions— [Here follow the resolutions as inserted in our last paper.]

[We extremely regret our inability to insert entire the Resolutions reported to the Legislature of Virginia, by the Joint Select Committee on Federal Relations, &c. The 7th resolution disapproves "the remedy" of Nullification—the 8th, is as follows:

3. Resolved, That we have observed, in the recent Proclamation of the President of the United States, principles avowed, and powers assumed for the Federal government, which we feel it to be our solemn duty to disapprove and protest against. That we regard them as violating the true construction and spirit of the Constitution, and as inconsistent with the doctrines which this State has repeatedly asserted. That we hailed the communication of the President to Congress, at the commencement of its session, as the harbinger of better times, as recalling the government to the objects for which it was originally constructed, as leading a way to the removal of the cause of all our existing difficulties, and as containing an exposition, as just as it was able, of the true principles on which our admirable political system was intended to be founded. That we feel called on to express our disapprobation of the principles of the recent Proclamation, lest our silence should be misinterpreted, and the known approbation of Virginia of other measures of the present Administration, should be regarded as sanctioning opinions which we sincerely believe to be of dangerous tendency, and which, if admitted, would obliterate the lines which separate the States, and revolutionize the character of our government as a confederacy. That although the people of these United States, it is true, assented to the present Constitution, and are bound by all laws made in conformity thereto; yet we regard it as equally true, that it was a confederacy formed by the States as such, ratified by the States as such, and of which the States, as distinct political communities, are now the members. That we can never consent to deny the right of any individual State which voluntarily entered into this political association for an indefinite period, to withdraw herself peaceably from it, when causes shall occur, which in her judgment shall render such secession necessary. That while, however, we regard a State as having a right to secede from the Union, "when the sole alternatives left are the dissolution of the Union without limitation of powers," we think that prudence dictates that no State should ever resort to such an alternative, until the last extremity has been approached, and every constitutional effort has been tried, and every peaceful experiment exhausted, to obviate the supposed injury.

That in case of "a deliberate, palpable and dangerous exercise of other powers not granted by the said compact, the States who are parties thereto have the right, and are in duty bound, to interpose for arresting the

progress of the evil, and for maintaining within their respective limits the authorities, rights and liberties, appertaining to them."

That as a consequence from this principle, asserted in 1793, we can never recognize the conclusion assumed in the Proclamation, that a citizen of a State which has peaceably withdrawn itself from the confederacy, who in discharge of the allegiance he owes his own State, and in obedience to her laws and mandates, violates a law of the remaining Union, can thereby forfeit his life as a traitor. That we view with regret, some of the doctrines held forth in the Proclamation, as to the origin of our government, as involving a more latitudinous construction of the federal compact, than was ever contended for by the ancient federal party in our country, and we awfully fear that their tendency will be, unless happily arrested, to accelerate the very catastrophe their promulgation was intended to repress.

[The Raleigh Register says: We learn from an unquestionable source, that a few days since at Spartanburg, (S. C.) Mr. Calhoun and Gov. Hamilton were hung in effigy.

[Duff Green, editor of the U. S. Telegraph, has made an address to the public, for the purpose of giving a statement of the circumstances attending the assault made upon him on Monday, 24th ult. by Gen. Blair, a member of Congress from South Carolina. He says, that "Gen. Blair is perhaps the largest man in the United States; in the vigor of life. I was passing him on the pavement, and without any previous warning, he struck me a severe blow with a large club on the head. The blows were followed up until I was brought to the earth, my left arm broken, and my left leg disabled and severely wounded. At this crisis, the by-standers interposed and separated us. In reply to an inquiry from a by-stander, Gen. B. said the provocation was, that I had called the Union Party of South Carolina Tories."

[A personal encounter took place at Edwardsville, (Illinois) on the 16th ult. between Gov. Ninian Edwards and Judge Smith, a Judge of the Supreme Court of that State. In the version of the affair given by the former, he says that the Judge approached him with two loaded pistols, and presenting the muzzles of both at him, offered him his choice, calling him a damn'd dog; whereupon, the ex-Governor, instead of accepting the offer, knocked the Judge down with his fist, and caned him until they were separated by the intervention of others.

[The Courtland Herald states, that the act passed by the Legislature of Alabama at its last session, prohibiting the importation of slaves into that State, has been repealed the present session.

[We have received the first number of a new paper, published in Wilmington in this State, by H. S. Ellenwood, Esq. late of Hillsborough, called the "Wilmington Advertiser."

The Editor in an address to his patrons and friends, stating the course which he shall pursue, says that he "feels bound to oppose the new doctrine of Nullification in all its forms, and by whomsoever advocated." With regard to the Tariff, he says, "our views are in concert with those of President Jackson, as expressed in his message to Congress."

Raleigh Constitutionalist.

[The West Point Cadets, with the liberality and spirit which characterize them on all occasions, have transmitted \$500 to the Treasurer of the Polish Committee, as their contribution for the relief of the gallant exiles of Poland, thrown destitute on our shores.