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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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DOMESTIC.

From the Raleigh Register.

Change of the Constitution.

On this 11th day of January, 1834, a meeting was held in the city of Raleigh, by those members of the General Assembly who advocate a change of our State Constitution, for the purpose of adopting such measures as might be best calculated to effect this object:—When on motion of Mr. Robert Martin, (the Senator from Rockingham,) Gen. Edmund Jones, (the Senator from Wilkes,) was appointed Chairman, and on the several motions of Mr. William A. Morris, (the Senator from Anson,) and Mr. John Clayton, (the Senator from Buncombe,) Messrs. William R. Hargrove of Granville, and James A. King of Iredell, (both members of the House of Commons,) were appointed Secretaries.

The Chairman explained the objects of the meeting and invoked them to act with that deliberation and prudence which the occasion called for, but so as to furnish to the majority of the people a reasonable prospect of obtaining those equal rights and that measure of political justice which had been again denied at the hands of the Legislature; although it had been urged upon that body by the petition of 30,000 freemen, and was enforced by the necessity of the State and the interests of all the people.

Messrs. R. Martin of Rockingham, and Mat. R. Moore of Stokes, members of the Senate, and Messrs. Charles Fisher of Rowan, James Seawell of Fayetteville, William A. Graham of Hillsborough, members of the House of Commons, and also Mr. William J. Alexander, of Mecklenburg, Speaker of the Commons, respectively addressed the meeting and discussed the different propositions and suggestions that were laid before them.

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Charles Fisher of Rowan, the following Resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, that a Committee to consist of five or more persons, and to be nominated the Executive Committee, shall be appointed to prepare and publish an Address to the people of North Carolina, on the subject of reforming the Constitution of this State; also to prepare or cause to be prepared and published, such Essays as they may deem best calculated to awaken public attention to the necessity of Reform and to the causes which have heretofore prevented its success.

Resolved, that this Executive Committee may appoint Committees in each county to aid them in distributing the Address and other publications among the people, and to collect small contributions in their respective counties and remit the amount, in order to defray the expenses that will be incurred for printing and other incidental charges.

Resolved, further, that whereas, upon the petition of 30,000 freemen of the State, the Senate of the General Assembly did prepare, discuss and pass a bill to provide for taking the sense of the people in relation to the propriety of electing Delegates to a Convention, who shall be authorised to consider of and amend the Constitution of the State, so as to provide certain alterations therein specified, and no others: And whereas, the said bill was rejected in the House of Commons by

the vote of a small majority of that body: And whereas, the rights of the people and the best interests of the State require that the said alterations should be made at an early day: And whereas, it is on every account desirable that these changes should be effected under legislative sanction: It is hereby earnestly recommended to the people of every county, in the State, to instruct their Representatives in the next General Assembly to provide by law for authorising the election of Delegates of the people, to be chosen upon the basis stated in the said bill, or upon a basis similar to it; but to restrict the said Delegates in Convention, to the duty of considering and proposing to the people alterations in our State Constitution, to be subsequently approved or rejected by the people themselves; and to restrict them from making any alterations or amendments whatever, except such as are stated in the bill which was rejected in the House of Commons, as aforesaid.

Resolved, further, that the Convention bill which was rejected, this day, by the House of Commons, be spread at large upon the minutes of this meeting as a part of the same.

[The bill appeared at length in the Register of the 14th inst. and is therefore omitted here, but will be published with the Address in pamphlet form.]

Resolved, that the members of the present General Assembly be requested to furnish the Chairman of this meeting, or the Chairman of the Executive Committee, with the names of such persons as they may consider to be the most fit and proper to be placed upon the County Committees—not exceeding ten in each county.

Resolved, that the Chairman shall nominate and appoint the members of the Executive Committee, and if a vacancy occurs after such appointment, the remaining members thereof are authorised to fill the same.

Thereupon the Chairman nominated as an Executive Committee, the following persons, to wit: Wm. H. Haywood, Jr. of the city of Raleigh, Chairman; Romulus M. Saunders and Weston R. Gales, also of the city of Raleigh; Wm. A. Graham of Hillsborough; James Seawell of Fayetteville; and Wm. R. Hargrove of Granville county.

On motion, it was
Resolved, that the gentlemen who are nominated upon the Executive Committee, by the Chairman of this meeting be respectfully requested to accept the office and to discharge the duties assigned to them.

On motion,
Resolved, that the proceedings be published and that the Editors of all newspapers in this State, be requested to insert them in their papers.

On motion, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.
E. Jones, Chairman.

Test,
Jas. A. King, } Secretaries.
Wm. R. Hargrove, }

From the Chapel Hill Harbinger.
Counties of North Carolina.—We have supposed that the following exhibition of the date of the erection of the different counties of North Carolina, and of the origin of the names they bear might be acceptable to the readers of the Harbinger. It will serve to give a general idea of the progress of the settlements first along the seaboard and afterwards into the interior. Martin has been the authority principally followed. His work is an immense improvement on Williamson's miserable excuse for a history of North Carolina, though from the little examination to which we have had an opportunity of subjecting it we are satisfied that it will be no difficult matter to detect in it errors as well as deficiencies. With a single exception the acts of the Legislature by which the counties were estab-

lished give no intimation of the motive that led to the adoption of the name imposed. In some cases there is no room for doubt in regard to its origin, but in others it is in a considerable degree uncertain. Thus with regard to Edgecombe Precinct or county, first established by a resolution of the Governor and Council in April 1733, and whose name Martin passes sub silentio it is—probable only that it was thus denominated in honor of Richard Edgecombe, one of the ministers of George I. He was made one of the Lords of the Treasury in 1717, re-appointed in 1720 and made Vice-Treasurer for Ireland in 1724. The divisions which were not permanent are printed in italics.

1660. It was about this time or perhaps a little earlier, that the first permanent settlements were made in North Carolina by emigrants from Nansemond county, Virginia, who established themselves on the northern side of Albemarle sound.

1663. Charles II. granted the whole country lying south of Virginia to seven Lords proprietors. It was divided by them into two counties—Albemarle and Clarendon, bounded and separated from each other by the Cape Fear River.

1671-83. The county of Albemarle or rather that part of it lying on the northern side of Chowan river, to which the settlements were at this time confined, was on the first of these years divided into three Precincts called after some of the Lords proprietors. To these a fourth was soon after added and as early as 1683 they began to be called by the names they still bear, derived from the streams flowing through them or the tribes of Indians inhabiting their banks, *Carrituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan*—Pasquotank included Camden; and Chowan and Perquimans included Gates. Beyond the sound and river they had no definite limits.

1707. The southern part of Albemarle was separated and formed into a county called Bath; which was subdivided into three precincts on the Tar, Pamlico and Neuse rivers bearing the names of Wickham, Pamlico and Archdale. The relative population of the two counties may be inferred from the fact that in the Legislature which met this year there were 20 members from Albemarle county and 6 from Bath.

1722. From an act of the Legislature passed this year it appears that since the last date there had been some new arrangements of the Precincts.

Hyde Precinct co-extensive or nearly so with the present county of that name, had been formed out of the eastern part of Bath county and called after Edward Hyde who was Governor of the province from August 1810 till Sept. 1712.

Beaufort Precinct comprehending the settlements on the Tar or Pamlico was thus denominated in honor of Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort—at this time one of the Lords Proprietors and Palatine for some time previous to May 1714 when he died.

Craven Precinct including the settlements on the Neuse and Trent in honor of William Earl of Craven one of the original Lords Proprietors.

Carteret Precinct was this year separated from Craven along its southern part on Core and Bogue sounds so called in honor of another Lord Proprietor.

Bertie Precinct separated from Chowan including the country on the west side of Chowan river and on the Roanoke was called after Henry and James Bertie, who had acquired by purchase the rights of two of the Lords Proprietors.

The four last or frontier Precincts had no definite boundaries on the west reaching as is stated in the act establishing Bertie "as far as the limits of this government."

1729. *New Hanover precinct.* The

settlements on the Cape Fear begun in 1723 were formed into a precinct called in honor of the reigning family *New Hanover*.

Tyrrell precinct. The county between Albemarle sound and Hyde, comprehending what was at that time part of Currituck, Pasquotank, Chowan and Bertie and forms now the counties of Washington and Tyrrell, was enacted into a precinct called *Tyrrell* after Sir John Tyrrell who like the Messrs. Bertie had become a proprietor by purchase.

The proprietary government ceased this year. The population of the State is said by Martin to have amounted to only ten thousand of whom the six precincts of Albemarle county contained 7,000, the four precincts of Bertie 2,500, and the precinct of New Hanover 500. This is less than half the present population of Orange county, and a slender subject therefore for the volume which he devotes to them, especially when the fewness of the documents that are accessible on this side of the Atlantic is taken into the account. Indeed this part of his work, though valuable is somewhat liable to the criticism of being a history of the world at large rather than of the State of North Carolina. N.

Town of Madison.—The Salisbury Watchman says: One of the fruits of Virginia enterprise in North Carolina, is the rising importance of this town. The improvement of the Roanoke and Dan rivers, the completion of the Petersburg rail road and the probable success of the Portsmouth and Roanoke rail road have contributed to give Madison, which is situated at the head of navigation on the Dan, a very handsome start in the march of prosperity. Six or seven stores are about to be established there, and we learn that accessions to the population are making continually. The business on the river, we understand, is already quite brisk, and from its local situation in the heart of a fine tobacco and wheat country, it bids fair to be a place of importance.

Ohio.—A scene has been exhibited in the Senate of Ohio, which reflects deep disgrace on the parties concerned in it. A letter from Columbus, dated on the 11th ultimo, to the editor of the Cincinnati Advertiser, describes it as follows:

"Yesterday afternoon in the Senate, while Mr. Duncan was speaking on the revaluation bill, and far in the minority, and wrathful therefor, Mr. Ellsberry rapped on his seat with his knife. Mr. Duncan concluded and the Senate adjourned. Immediately on the adjournment, Mr. Duncan proceeded to where Mr. Ellsberry was, in his senatorial chair, and asked him who it was that rapped while he was speaking. Mr. Ellsberry replied "it was I." On this Mr. Duncan made a pass at him and struck him. Mr. Ellsberry immediately rose and clenched Duncan, and the next moment the two Senators lay sprawling on the floor, amidst chairs and desks, in the rough and tumbling of fearful strife. They were soon parted—but in the press and confusion of the crowd they got together again—when Ellsberry struck Duncan with his knife, and gave him a wound in the arm some three or four inches in length and one or two in depth. They were both taken from the Senate Chamber, and nothing more has occurred in the matter since. Ellsberry brandished his knife so furiously that several were slightly wounded in attempting to part them."

It appears from a statement in the New York Star, that 34 Banks in the State of New York have in circulation notes to the amount of \$6,118,417, and that the specie held by the same Banks, amounts to \$329,493, only, being an average of five cents and three mills specie, to a dollar in paper.