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To the Democratic Voters of
the Eighth Congressional District

Although the time for holding the convention to nominate a Democratic candidate for Congress has not been fixed by the Executive Committee, in accordance with the custom of the past, I presume such convention will be held sometime in the month of July, and the announcement herein contained will not be considered premature.

I am an aspirant for the distinction (and I esteem it a very great one) of being the nominee of that convention, and discarding the false modesty so often affected by wily politicians, I take this as the most available method of making my wishes in the premises known.

To those who know me personally, no exposition of my political views is necessary, but as I am practically a stranger to a large element of the Democratic voters of the district, I trust it will not be amiss for me to say, that by adherence, choice and education, I am a democrat "after the strictest sect." I believe the doctrines of governmental policy as taught and expounded by Jefferson, Madison and Jackson, and latterly by Cleveland, are inherent, right; as enduring and unchanging as the "everlasting hills," and withal as salutary and essential to healthy political life as are the water we drink and the air we breathe to our physical well-

being. Moreover, I believe that every departure from these time-honored and crisis tested principles has brought in its train its own evils and involved the country sooner or later in some sudden catastrophe or lingering disorder. Our fathers allowed themselves to forget for awhile the invaluable doctrine of State Sovereignty, and the result was, first, sectional controversy upon the question of slavery, a matter purely of State concern, and then secession, and then one of the most devastating civil wars of any age. Again our fathers, in the exuberance of a mistaken patriotism, and in their too great zeal for the country's material progress in one direction, embarked on the sea of a protective tariff, for our "infant industries," and the result is the establishment of the most gigantic scheme of legalized extortion in the form of partial, unequal and unconstitutional taxation of the nineteenth century.

I mention these instances only as illustrations. To summarize the Democratic creed, as applicable to the exigencies of the present time, it is substantially to this effect: To modify, materially reduce and in some instances abolish the existing rate and mode of taxation, whether it be internal or import; to reduce the necessary expenses of the government to the minimum, to ignore and discourage all sectional strife and animosity, and "in season and out of season" to rebuke and thwart all class legislation; to introduce personal and official purity into every department of the government, and to make its machinery as simple, economical and as little intermeddling with the liberty of the citizen as possible; and above all, to make the constitution our sheet anchor and polar star in all our political voyages.

But without going into details, I feel that on a retrospect of my past career, and an introspection of my present convictions, I can truthfully say, All these things have I "steadfastly believed" "from my youth up." And every one who does believe truly in these doctrines is a good democrat and worthy to be called the "salt of the earth;" and the earnest, hearty support of such believers, either at a convention or at the polls, is the highest tribute of personal favor and honor. But enough on this score.

So far as I am informed, there are up to this time, two other avowed candidates for the nomination—the present incumbent, Col. Cowles, of Wilkes, and Maj. Graham, of Lincoln. I have naught to say in disparagement of these gentlemen. I regard them both as my friends, and take great pleasure in saying that either of them would make, as the former has already made, a most efficient and creditable representative. "Honor should be given to whom honor is due," and I have no disposition to "damn

with false praise" either one of those distinguished exponents of genuine democracy. I may be permitted however to say in reference to Col. Cowles (and I say it in no spirit of injustice or unfairness) that at the expiration of his present term he will have enjoyed the honors and emoluments of the office for six years, and one of the well recognized, if not openly and formally declared doctrines of his party is "rotation in office." In thinking over the list of North Carolina representatives since the war, I can not recall but one who succeeded in winning a fourth term. Others equally as faithful and some even more distinguished than he, coveted this honor very much, but sought it in vain. Whether this was the result of accident or design I will not say, but it is a part of our history.

The democratic party is very powerful, so much so, that the influence of any individuals however great it may be, is insignificant in its bearing upon party weal and success. The time too, is past when any one not having the prestige of a Webster, or a Clay or a Calhoun, can have any extraordinary wholesome influence on federal legislation. This is especially so of Southern members because of the sectional prejudice against them. About the only effect now of long service in Congress is to enable Northern members to foist upon the country the wildest and most ruinous legislative projects and jobberies, in the shape of extravagant Pension Bills, River and Harbor Bills, and Rail Road and steamship subsidies, etc. The old members are usually the "daddies" of all such schemes as these. It is the tribute that the younger members pay to their "influence" from length of service. Considered from this standpoint it would have been a great blessing to the masses had there been a constitutional provision limiting the service in Congress to one term.

Nevertheless, it is perfectly legitimate for any one to claim a fourth, a fifth, or even a twentieth term if he has anything upon which to found such claim. I will only add, and in the spirit of kindness, that where one does ask for more than a third term, he ought to have not only an extraordinary quantity of brain power and legislative calibre, but in addition thereto, an unusual amount of the christian religion, for he will need the last above all things to keep him in the path of rectitude for so long a period of service at Washington. I leave my friend, the gallant Colonel, to say to what extent he possesses this last qualification for a fourth term.

There is one other subject upon which I wish briefly to remark before closing this communication. It becomes pertinent because of the attitude, which my friend, Maj. Graham, one of the aspirants, has assumed in this contest.

I refer to what is known as the Farmer's Alliance. It is conceded that this organization has grown to vast proportions in the State or elsewhere and some have thought that it would revolutionize parties, or at least for the time obliterate party lines. Fears have been expressed by some that it would cripple and disintegrate the democratic party. I have no such apprehensions. So far as I have been able to catch their views, the general scope of its doctrines is in perfect harmony with the democratic party. While it declaims any connection with the two great parties of the day, and proposes to act independent of both, it is plain to see that in the principles it publishes and advocates, it can be nothing more nor less than the handmaid of the democracy. It opposes high taxation, and strikes for tariff reduction and reform—so does the democracy. It wages war with every species of monopoly, trusts, combines etc.—so does the democracy. It proceeds upon the idea that the great agricultural interests of this country have for thirty years been ignored, or rendered of secondary importance and made tributary to other supposed higher concerns, to wit the manufacturing interests of the land; whereas, the exact reverse of this should be the natural order of affairs; and it has now set itself to work to bring about a change in this respect, and to give to every one that tills the earth a fair and equal start in the race for individual comfort, prosperity and wealth. My friends of the alliance will permit me to say that this is no new doctrine. It is nothing more than good old-fashioned democracy. I cannot say therefore that I am sorry this old doctrine has found its warmest advocacy in this new organization. It will emphasize and advertise it with the masses. So long as one is a good alliance man he cannot be an enemy to the democratic party. Those democrats who are arrayed under the Alliance banner, are among the truest and best in the State. They will make their fight, as they ought, within the party lines. Their peculiar principles in the main, are not hostile to that ancient and venerable organization, to which a majority of them, in this State at least, have heretofore so faithfully and zealously adhered. The farmers of the country have simply demanded recognition in the political arena, and because of their numbers, their honorable vocation and the momentous interests they represent and uphold, they are entitled to this recognition, and they should be heard through those who are in full sympathy with them. I know that the democratic party will now, and in the future, as it has done in the past, give a willing ear to their complaints and to their appeals for succor, and by so doing the evils threatened to our organization will be averted, and

"out of this nettle-danger will we pluck the flower of safety."

To my democratic fellow-citizens of the counties of Ashe, Burke, Caldwell and Watauga, I take this opportunity of making my acknowledgements for confidence already extended. By their warm and generous support in the past, they have placed me under obligations which I trust will be intensified and renewed by their adherence to me in the present contest.

W. H. BOWER.

SENATOR VANCE'S LETTER.

There has been a great deal said about the sub-treasury bill that Senator Vance introduced for Col. L. L. Polk in Congress a few weeks ago. He has addressed a letter to Mr. Elias Carr, President of the Farmer's Alliance, giving his views on the subject. He can't support the bill, thinking it unconstitutional, but he says:

"I stand ready to vote for any measure for the relief of the agricultural classes of the community that will serve the purpose, asking only that it be within the power conferred upon Congress by the Constitution. We live, happily for us, in a government of limited powers, but because, as I believe, the present tariff duties are utterly unconstitutional, and but "robbery under the forms of law." I cannot gain my consent to vote for this sub-treasury bill which provides for the loaning of money to the people by the government, and which, in my opinion, is without constitutional authority. I believe, however, under that clause of the Constitution which gives to Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign countries and among the states, that the bonded warehouses now in use for the reception of foreign importations might also be used at every port of entry in the U. S., and others established elsewhere as well, for the reception of domestic articles, intended for export or for sale in other states, and that the government could be made to receive these articles and issue receipts there for upon which the holders could readily borrow money.

I notice with pain that much of the ill feelings of the farmer is directed, not against the authors and upholders of this nefarious legislation, but against their nearest neighbors and best friends—those whose interests are as intimately connected with their own as is that of members of the same household. I observe that bitter feelings are springing up between town and country—between the farmer who brings his product to town and the merchant who buys it and in return sells him his daily supplies—that often the farmer is taught to believe that the lawyer, the doctor or the professional man is hostile to him, or is in some way responsible for the ills which he suffers. I need not say to you that this is all wrong, unwise and hurtful to a degree

to all concerned. It saps the strength of our people and weakens their power to procure redress. We need every body's help, because our oppressors are a great party entrenched in the strongholds of the government. Naturally the redress of wrongs occasioned by unjust legislation is the repeal of that legislation. The great Democratic party of America, now in a large numerical majority, but deprived of the control of the government by the most unscrupulous methods, openly and almost with unanimity, favors the repeal of all the legislation of which you complain. A little strengthening of its hands, and but a little, will enable it to triumph. Its triumph will be yours. A little sapping of its strength, a little division of its ranks, will be its defeat again. Its defeat will likewise be yours. The danger is that oppressed freemen become impatient and impatient men are often unwise. Your great organization is but little more than two years old—it is not yet grown. It cannot look for a great harvest of result before the sowing and maturing of the crop. Already wonderful things have been achieved. Venerable legislators, life-long servants of corporations and Wall street policy have already come to know that there is a large class of the American people called farmers and who have rights and privileges like others. No greater shock for years past has been given to the sleek and comfortable recipients of class legislation than the recent passage through the Senate of the bill to restore the unlimited coinage and legal tender character of silver. This was undoubtedly due to the Farmers' Alliance. For the past six months there has been more discussion upon the condition of the farmers and matters pertaining to their interests than had taken place within ten years previous. The more of that talk the better for the farmers. Their wrongs are so palpable that the justice of redressing them will become more and more irresistible, as the light is turned on. The policy of the farmers, being now right, is to keep within the right. Demand nothing that is illegal, ask nothing that is unreasonable. Especially, it seems to me, they should be careful not to injure their friends. They should hold their forces in hand ready to aid those who favor them and strike those only who are hostile to their purposes and principles. The attempt to make a political party of the Farmers' Alliance for the purpose of supplanting either of the great parties who divide the American people would be a great mistake. In the South it could only destroy the democratic party and leave in undisturbed control that other party which is the author and upholder of the evils by which we are afflicted. By your own rules you exclude from membership a majority

[Continued on fourth page.]