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THE PRESIDENCY.

MR. CRAWFORD IN GEORGIA.

In the House of Representatives in Georgia, a warm and protracted discussion took place on the 12th ultimo, on a resolution recommending Mr. Crawford as President. The following extracts will show the temper and sentiments of some of the prominent speakers:

Wash. Rep.

Mr. Kenan thought the course proposed by the resolution to be an unprecedented one. He defied gentlemen to show precedent for it. Other states had made recommendations. But have their Legislatures done so in their official capacity? He had heard of no instances of the kind. He had heard of caucuses in Washington and elsewhere, but never before heard of such a proceeding as that now before the House. This House is called upon to express what the opinion of the people will be twelve months hence. How can this be done? He had not ascertained what their will now is, much less what it would be at the end of the next year. Besides, he would ask how dare we take upon ourselves this power? We, in effect, by doing so, go forth and dictate to the people what their will and opinions shall be. This would be to sap the foundation of our constitution.

Gentlemen appeal to our state pride. He had as much state pride as any other man. But on this question he had a national pride, which he thought ought to have the preference. He would choose a President of the United States, and not of a State. Look to the list of candidates—and their services. What has this man done for the country, that he should be brought before this Legislature, for our recommendation. If he has done any thing, let it be shewn. Show his reports. In one of them there is a mistake of \$3,000,000. That is great. Mr. K. said, he would speak openly—he would not support Mr. Crawford, but would go all lengths against him.—He said he would support Andrew Jackson—a man who has done more for his country than any other man in it. Mr. K. here entered into a detail of the services General Jackson has rendered in his various Indian campaigns, and at New-Orleans, and urged these as constituting a claim on the gratitude of the nation. General Jackson, said Mr. K. ought to be supported on these grounds, and further because he would give tone, strength, and energy to the government. He would purge Washington. This, Mr. K. said, was his deliberate opinion. Yet, if the people should think differently, he would let them have their choice.

Mr. Campbell regretted that this delicate subject had been brought before the House. He did not regret it because he was not prepared to vote on it as well as on every other question that might come before him, but because, at the present moment, both this Legislature and this country are like a body of combustible matter, ready to explode on the introduction of the smallest spark. When parties are thus situated, the better feelings of the human heart give way to its frailty. Reason yields to discord.

He regretted the introduction of it on another account. Every precedent of this kind that occurs in our history, may, in time to come, be resorted to, to justify wrong. It is wrong now that we, as a Legislature, should presume to dictate to the people. Do we find any power of this kind delegated to us by the constitution of the United States, or of this state? Ask the people themselves: Let gentlemen state if, in the contest of the last election, the people made this requisition of them. Did they say—introduce this resolution, and pass it? Sir, the people never gave such an authority. The privilege of choosing those who shall rule over them, they will never delegate on occasions like this. Then, what right have we, as a Legislature, to assume it. It is an act of usurpation upon which the people will frown indignantly—and for the commission of which they will justly consider themselves insulted. One encroachment on their rights will be plead in justification of another, and the time will come when they will be misrepresented. He was willing that their will should be expressed. But evils incalculable will inevitably grow out of the

mode by which we now propose to express it. Having this view of the subject, he found it call on the House to beware of it acted. Gentlemen tell us it is the wish of the people that the resolution should be passed. He did not say that this was the fact. Between two candidates who were first brought before the people, he believed Gen. would give her preference to John C. Calhoun. But between him and someone who had since been brought forward, he doubted whether this would be the result.

Mr. C. started himself opposed to a caucus at Washington. It is true, he said, that nominations had been sanctioned by practice. The election of three of our Presidents had been secured by caucus nominations. But, if gentlemen recur to the history of those times, they will ascertain that the people of this country were then divided into parties. There were two parties. One was in favor of adopting a party adverse to our views. To prevent the adoption of it, our representatives in Congress, acting on principle, went a little beyond their legitimate powers, to secure the success of the republican candidate, and save the interests of their party. How stands the case now? Every candidate is of the same political faith. All have received employments at the hands of a republican administration. They are all republicans, and of the school of Jefferson too. On what great principle, then, are we about to divide the country? We are not leaving principle entirely out of view, and adhering to personal feelings and predilections? Such, he thought, the house was pursuing.

Mr. C. said, if he was asked, whether as a citizen of Georgia, he would not prefer a candidate of Georgia to all the others, his answer would be plainly and distinctly that he would not. He would ask what claims Mr. Crawford had on this state. In what battle has he distinguished himself? When the east is arrayed against the south, and a powerful enemy pressing on us from without, was he at the helm of state? Were Clay and Jackson were rendering essential services to these United States—when Calhoun, against whose shield the lance of Randolph was snivered, as acting the second Jefferson, where was your Crawford? He was in gloriously basking in the sunshine of peace and tranquillity. For this man, said Mr. C. he could not vote—neither could he recommend him to others.

Of feelings are appealed to. If we are fact from feeling, let us see what we are doing. We are recommending to the people of this Union, a man who is actually the weakest of all the candidates. As things now stand, it is almost certain that the election will be brought into Congress. What will be the result there? Even admitting that Mr. Crawford is the favorite of this state he cannot get but two votes. Thus then, you are acting from feeling, and holding up the weakest candidate to protect the interests of the south. Beware how you act. But above all, take care how you indulge these sectional feelings. He would vote for a southern candidate in preference to a northern, if he possessed superior qualifications. But he was a citizen of the United States, and, as such, would regard these feelings as the idle wind.

Mr. Thomas, of Warren, regretted that so much unnecessary feeling had been excited. He had hoped that the merits of the candidates would not have been brought into the discussion. For slander permits no man to pass untaunted. He rejoiced that the resolution had been brought forward, but he regretted the torrent of acrimonious invective that, in the discussion of it, had been poured forth. We have a right, he said, as legislators, and as individuals, to express our opinions on all subjects. He was gratified that he had this privilege, more particularly as a citizen of this state was the man, whom it is proposed to recommend to the people of the United States. Other states are recommending their candidates, and shall we be silent? Let the voice of the Legislature be heard, and let the majority prevail. He was in favor of a caucus, because it had this object—by a contrary course a plurality might result.

The course we are now pursuing, he said, was justified by precedent; for, if he was not mistaken, a resolution similar to that now on our table, was passed by the legislature of this state in reference to the election of Mr. Jefferson. As regards the constitution, he held that the resolution did not invade it. We are only exercising our right guaranteed to us by the constitution. We wish to express our preference of one of the candidates—how shall we express that preference better? If gentlemen come here ignorant of the wishes of their constituents on this subject, they have not taken proper pains to ascertain

their wishes. He knew the sentiments of his constituents, and was ready to express them. He understood the resolution to express the opinion of the legislature entertained of the wishes of the people, and so far as concerned him, it expressed that opinion correctly.

Mr. T. repeated that he was in favor of a caucus, because it gave us a Jefferson, and he hoped it would give us a Crawford. It will enable the majority to govern, and as long as it prevails, the republic will be secure. Take the power, he said, out of the hands of the majority by shifts, and changes, and manoeuvres, and you may open the road for the introduction of a tyrant more terrible and bloody than Bonaparte.

Mr. Fort regretted that the argument had been taken up. But as it had been, he was ready to meet it. He was ready to take up the question on the resolution of the Senate, and give his objections to it. Gentlemen regret the warmth that has been excited. But how are we to oppose a resolution of this sort without giving offence. How shall we call an individual before this house, for the expression of his opinion, without investigating his conduct? Mr. F. hoped he would not, in the few remarks he had to make, go into personality. If he did, he begged to be excused.

Mr. F. thought, that inasmuch as the constitution of the resolution was directly for the election of President, the resolution was directly at variance with it. He then went on to inquire whom Georgia had at stake in the resolution. A man, he said, who stands at the head of a party as large and as wide as the United States. From their numbers they must be regarded with respect. But what are they? Trace them where you will, and you will find them in favor of legislative bodies and against the people. Here, they say, the people should not elect their electors. Trace them where you will, and you will find that as the people wither they flourish, and as the people flourish they wither. In New-York at one time their prospects run high—now they are nearly prostrate. They have still one slender hope hanging on a portion of the Senate of that state. Are the republicans of Georgia called upon to support such a party as this? For his part, he claimed neither brotherhood, sympathy nor fellowship with them. He could not become a member of a party that was against the people. Look again to the several states. In Virginia they flourish because the elective franchise is limited to freeholders. In Delaware and North-Carolina, they flourish because the people are unequally represented. He could belong to no such party. He was joined with the party which rested on the broad foundation of the people throughout the Union.

The resolution is short and simple, and easily understood. What is its object? To secure to Mr. Crawford the voice of Georgia? No. Is it to secure support for him in other states? Certainly not. Is it to maintain the triumph of his party here? This is most assuredly its object. If it was intended to express the unbiased opinions of the members of the Legislature, why was it brought up here, where we are compelled to vote on it? Why was the question not taken up in a caucus? He could answer the question. In a caucus there would have been but a lean majority.

Mr. F. thought that the interest of Mr. Crawford and Mr. Adams was united. He had been credibly informed that Mr. Crawford's supporters, if they could not get their favorite, would take up Mr. Adams, and support him. Mr. F. then went on to say, that the cause of Mr. Crawford was waning and dying throughout the United States. His party may have strength here, but there are other men who are attracting the attention of the people. The brilliant talents, and the pure patriotism of Mr. Calhoun, cannot remain without admirers. Is there not another, whose achievements have shed a lustre upon this nation? In all the difficulties of savage warfare, who was foremost in the place of dangers? Will the people of Georgia forget the efforts of Jackson? Put the question to the votes of the people, and he will not be forgotten.

Thus far our reporter has been able to write out his notes. The debate was continued, and will be published. For the present, we are compelled to be contented with merely a synopsis of what passed.

Mr. Law followed Mr. Fort in a luminous argument, to shew that the house had both a constitutional and legal right to act on the resolution. He also quoted precedents of a similar course from the journals—when the house, on motion of Mr. Lyman, adjourned.

Saturday, Dec. 13.

The resolution was again taken up, and, after some conversation as to the

true state of the question, before the house—Mr. Branham called for the previous question.

Mr. Kenan opposed the call. Mr. Branham explained his motives for making the call.

Mr. Hutchinson opposed it. Mr. Branham then withdrew the call for the previous question.

Mr. Jones, of Camden, renewed the call. Mr. Cone opposed it, because it precluded amendments. He wished to amend the resolution.

Mr. Jones positively refused, tho' solicited by a number of the friends of the resolution, to withdraw his call.

The house then went into discussion of the merits of the resolution. Mr. Glascock rose and gave his reasons for his opposition to Mr. Crawford. He then entered into an eloquent and highly wrought eulogy on the character and services of Mr. Calhoun. He also spoke in warm terms of Gen. Jackson, and contended that the legislature were not prepared to say who was the favorite candidate of Georgia.

Mr. Hutchinson followed, and objected to the resolution because it was an unwarranted assumption of power by the legislature. He then took up the history of Mr. Crawford, traced it up to the present day, and found through the whole of it subjects for strong and severe censure, which was freely bestowed. He then replied to the gentleman from Chatham, and contended that the precedents urged by that gentleman were not in point.

Mr. Upson next rose, and made a powerful appeal to the house, and in support of the resolution on considerations arising from personal predilections—local interests—and the general and leading features of the general government. He next took up the history of Mr. Crawford, and repelled the censure thrown on it by the gentleman from Richmond. He quoted a precedent from the journal of the House of 1806, and contended that it was exactly in point, and must have received the approbation of the gentleman from Richmond. He then replied generally to the arguments of the opponents of the resolution.

Mr. Cone thought Mr. Crawford ought to be President, but he wished to have the resolution amended.

Mr. Hutchinson explained the circumstances under which the resolution of 1806, that had been quoted as a precedent, was got up and passed, and contended that the same circumstances did not now exist.

Mr. Burnside did not declare his preference for any particular candidate; he opposed the resolution because he tho't the legislatures had no power to act upon it, and because he had no means of judging what were the wishes of the people.

Mr. Fort referred to his arguments of yesterday, and maintained that they were unanswered. He then went on to give a further delineation of the character of Mr. Crawford's party in this state—when

Mr. Daniel called him to order.

Mr. Fort disavowed any intention to wound the feelings of any gentleman, and went on to refer to the public measures of Mr. Crawford's friends in this state, as grounds why he objected to him and his party.

Mr. Pooler next rose, and in a short and eloquent address, which had a powerful effect upon the house and the gallery, gave his reasons for supporting the resolution. His remarks called forth a loud expression of applause from the gallery and the lobby.

Mr. Cone repeated his objections to the resolution in its present shape—when

Mr. Branham rose, and distinctly disavowed any intention to excite warmth, or to wound the feelings of any man, said that it would appear from the vote about to be taken, that all who voted against the resolution were opposed to Mr. Crawford, when such was not the fact. He wished to bring the matter to a point, and would put some plain questions with a view of removing any erroneous impressions that might go abroad, from the final vote on the resolution. Only five gentlemen had, on this floor, he said, declared themselves to be opposed to Mr. Crawford. Are there more than five gentlemen in the house who will declare themselves opposed to that gentleman? If there be, let them rise.

From five to twelve persons rose, (the reporter could not ascertain the exact number.) Several of them spoke together.

Mr. Kenan said he was opposed to Mr. Crawford, and gloried in that opposition.

Mr. Watson said that the gentleman from Putnam had challenged those who dared to express an opposition to Mr. Crawford to show themselves. For

himself, he was never afraid to express his sentiments on any occasion, and if it would give any satisfaction to the gentleman, the house, or the persons present, they might understand he preferred Jackson or Calhoun.

Mr. Glascock and Mr. Hutchinson simultaneously called the gentleman from Putnam to order, and Mr. H. said it was improper to put such questions to the house. It was unfair thus to call on gentlemen to say who and what they were.

Mr. Branham said, that his view was simply to show to the world that all who would vote against the resolution were not opposed to Mr. Crawford, and in doing so, he wished to wound the feelings of no man.

Mr. Cone rose, but was declared to be out of order.

Mr. Stafford said his private opinions were known. As an individual he had objections to Mr. Crawford, but these objections were waived. He would not state them. He would support Mr. Crawford at present, but would hold himself free to oppose him hereafter, if he thought proper.

Mr. Glascock asked if the friends of Mr. Crawford were not all opposed to Mr. Monroe's administration.

There seemed to the reporter to be an unanimous exclamation, No! no! no! All this was mingled with repeated calls for the question, from the house.

Mr. Branham wished to know if he was out of order.

The Speaker pronounced the whole proceeding, by way of interrogation, to be out of order.

Mr. Daniel rose, and wished to ask a question.

Mr. Campbell rose, and strongly protested against the course the house was pursuing, and pronounced it to be entirely out of order, and contrary to parliamentary practice.

Mr. Daniel continued to ask for permission to be heard—but could not.

The house called the question—the question.

The Speaker called the house to order, explained the objects and the consequence of the previous question—and then put the main question, which was carried.

The question then came before the house on the passage of the resolution. It was decided by yeas and nays as follows:

For the resolution	67
Nays	40

A writer, in the *Sparta* (Tennessee) *Review*, under the signature of "A Western Republican," in speaking of the merits of the several candidates for the Presidency, observes,

"It is known that Mr. Calhoun, as a professional character, has attained the first honors which belong to that liberal science which has been his favorite pursuit in early life; and that his political course has not only been exempt from censure, but in every point of view, *unexceptionable*. It has been conceded by all that he has talents of the first order and unblemished integrity. The only objection that I have ever heard urged against him is, that he is too young a man to fill the station to which he aspires. Though he is the youngest man before the public, yet this objection seems to run counter to the intention manifested by the sages and patriots who formed our Constitution. They provided against the evil of entrusting the American Administration to young and inexperienced hands, and say that no man shall fill the Station till he arrives at a certain age. They lay down the line of demarkation, as a certain criterion, by which we are to be governed; this constitutes the rule upon this subject, and one which is easy of application. But what would be the consequence of pursuing a different plan? Some would fix upon the age of 50, some 60, some 70, and at length we should be lost in the mazes of doubt and uncertainty. Hence we conclude that this objection to Mr. Calhoun is either unfounded, or this provision of the constitution void."

"With respect to Mr. Crawford, I regret that I am somewhat at a loss to know in what his merit consists, unless we conclude with the Editor of the *Raleigh Register*, that the circumstance of his having declined being a Candidate at the Election of Mr. Monroe, gives him an ascendancy at the present period. This learned Editor commences as tho' he intended to treat the subject with justice, declares himself in favor of Mr. Crawford, and after keeping the mind in suspense for some time, with respect to the reasons which influence him in his choice, very gravely tells us, that at the last election, after a fair experiment, it was ascertained that there was a majority in favor of Mr. Monroe, and forsooth that Mr. Crawford declined!! He does not condescend to tell us whether Mr. Crawford's ad-