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GEN. JESSE SPRIGHT'S ADDRESS,

Delivered at the meeting of the citizens of Greene county, friendly to the election of Gen. Jackson, in Capt. Beeman's district, on the 2nd of February.

FELLOW CITIZENS,—The purpose for which we have assembled cannot fail to be known to you all. The question, who shall preside over the destinies of a nation, is at all times important, and one that should be calmly and dispassionately considered. The contest is one for power, and therefore every friend to his country must feel a deep interest in its final issue. The great question which agitates the political world, is, who shall be President of the United States? It is the subject of fireside as well as public conversation, and permit me to say, that, in my humble judgment, it is not at all rendered the less important on account of the two distinguished personages who are candidates for the appointment.

I know of no principle so well calculated to give stability and strength to the operations of a government as that contained in our State Constitution—the right of the people peaceably to assemble & consult for the public good. It seems, Gentlemen, to have a just representation of the purpose for which we have assembled. That whenever the people shall conceive their rights invaded, and their liberties trampled under foot by those in power, they have the legitimate right peaceably to assemble, and in the name of the constitution to forbid such acts. Why, Gentlemen, shall it be said, because John Quincy Adams is President of the United States, that his acts, however unrighteous they may be, are to be free from censure? Is it to be said, because we are common farmers, that we have not the Constitutional right to express our disapprobation to his anti-republican and ungodly administration? Are we, I ask you gentlemen, to fold our arms in icy sleep, and see our rights, our dearest rights go for a mess of pottage? No, gentlemen, that moment we, as a free people, yield up our rights (those rights which were the result of a bloody struggle for liberty) into the hands of such politicians as John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay—that moment, as a nation, may we cease to exist. Let it be remembered, my countrymen, that if the friends of Gen. Jackson in Greene county cannot boast of so much intellect as those of Mr. Adams, they can boast of the same right of suffrage, for it is a cardinal principle in our government, that, from the humblest citizen to the most exalted nobleman, suffrage is the same.

I presume, gentlemen, that among a very large and decided majority of us who are now assembled, there is as little difference of opinion in regard to the fitness and qualifications of Gen. Jackson, as there is of the unfitness of his opponent and his entire unworthiness to preside over the American people. Such being our sentiments we are proud to avow them; we feel anxious of testifying to the world our attachment to the "Military Chieftain." Although the meetings which have been had in Greene hitherto, friendly to Gen. Jackson, have been the subject of much sport and ridicule from the Adams party, yet I hope it will be considered a fair and honorable principle of warfare to push the seat of war into the heart of the enemy's country; and then combat them with their own weapons. I believe I am warranted in saying that the first attempt of this kind was manifested by the friends of the administration. Meetings friendly to the Administration had been gotten up in several counties of the State previous to any attempt on the part of the friends of Gen. Jackson. But that which is sometimes sweet in the mouth is better in the stomach. Three months ago, when the cause of Mr. Adams was thought to be prosperous, meetings for his benefit were called; but when it was found that those Administration meetings were not so numerously attended as was anticipated, the cause became suddenly unpopular and useless; and now the friends of Gen. Jackson are charged with trying to carry their point by storm, by opening their purses, &c.

In regard to the present Administration, from the beginning I have been opposed to it on principle; but notwithstanding, as one of its subjects, I have felt willing to obey its mandates and precepts as far as I thought it was consistent with the interest of the country. I have not, therefore, been one of those who have rendered an indiscriminate opposition; and, in regard to its friends, I must confess their principles I abhor and detest; yet personally I respect them. I cannot, fellow citizens, help remarking on this occasion that I regret to see those friends to the Administration more disposed to view this contest in the form of a personal difference than a political struggle; and also a disposition rather to misrepresent than to present the question in its true light. This fact recalls to my mind what I have just read in an administration paper, printed in the city of Raleigh, called the *Register*, in a communication over the signature of *An Adams man*. The gentleman commences his address by quoting *verbatim* the notice which the Star gave of the Administration meeting in Snow Hill on the 15th of December, and labours very ingeniously to prove that the result of this meeting was not the effect of any long or pre-conceited plan of the friends of Mr. Adams; but was the work of a moment; for says he, "*to make* a show of numbers, constituted no part of the motive for calling an administration meeting in Greene. It was necessary to have a meeting or lose the chance of being represented in the Administration Convention at Raleigh." Now, gentlemen, I affect not to disbelieve what this "*Adams man*" says. I am willing to attach all truth to it that it can possibly merit. The gentleman himself admits "*that a few written advertisements*" were stuck up and some letters written. If his object was not to call out Mr. Adams' strength in Greene, why was this done? That gentleman well knows the size of our county; a few written advertisements stuck up a few hours previous, was sufficient. The hon. Chairman, who presided at their meeting, lives further from Snow Hill than any man in the county; and it seems he got notice of the intended meeting. But from the time the gentleman expresses, it seems the object of the meeting was to have a voice in the Raleigh Convention. This may be the fact or it may not. For my own part, I can see no earthly reason why it was necessary for Greene or any other county in this district to be represented in the Raleigh Convention. It seems the Administration meeting held at Newbern in November last, had fixed on the election. "*The decree of the king went forth, and all the people had said Amen.*" But continues this "Adams man," "with the majority of this county we are ready to measure tongues or pens, but as to measuring arms, or counting noses or opening purses, would ask to be excused." We might almost as well fall under the malediction of the second section." (Hear him! Hear him!) What this second section means? Who under heaven (besides this Adams man) can tell! In regard to measuring tongues and pens, I can assure the gentleman that as one of the acknowledged majority I would beg leave to be excused from so much of the drama as relates to pens. For to use the words of the celebrated Roanoke Orator, "*I have no gift at this special pleading at the retort courteous and the counter check quarrelsome till things get to the point where nothing is left for it but to back out or fight.*" But as to measuring tongues, let the gentleman unmask himself, and avow his proper name; and if I can think that I am any ways on a par with him, I will think about it. For I can assure the gentleman I am not to be lorded out by that sort of bait—"*burnt children dread the fire*," and I can assure the gentleman that I am not so much of a political Quixotte as to run a tilt against a windmill in full operation. But says he "I was present at the meeting. Not the tread of an Administration foot, nor the whisper of an Administration tongue disturbed the proceedings of this truly decorous Jackson meeting." What the honorable gentleman means by the term "*truly decorous*," I am at a loss to know, unless he means to cast reproach. Words are only intended to convey ideas; and it happens to be the case sometimes that the idea intended to be conveyed is directly opposite to what the words themselves say. If so, the gentleman, whoever he may be, (for I know not his name,) will permit me to say to him, and that too in a language which I hope will not be mistaken, that his assertion is a base calumny. I may not know as much about decorum as that gentleman does; but as far as I am able to judge, our meeting was conducted with the utmost good order. It was organized by calling Major Pope to the chair, an old and respectable citizen of the county, and one who, in times past, we all delighted to honor, and one, I say without contradiction, who is as firmly attached to the interest of the country as any man in it, the Adams man to the contrary notwithstanding. My friend Doctor Hendon, who stands near me, acted as our Secretary. Why the notice which the Star took of the Adams meeting at Snow Hill should have elicited such an unprovoked attack on us? I know the statement in the Star was confirmed in several letters which I received, and certain I am that no disrespect was intended. I saw for the first time the result of the Adams meeting at Snow Hill, at Raleigh, whilst at the Legislature, and read it with much pleasure. Because although I differed with my county men, I was glad to see them meet in the true spirit of the Constitution, and openly and fearlessly assert their opinions; and I must say on this occasion, that the smallness of their number when compared with their respectable standing in society, does not at all render their meeting the less respectable.

But to return to the *Adams man* who has honored us with his notice in the Register. In the 5th section he says "with a perfect knowledge of their weakness, I trust the friends of the administration in this county will ever be superior to the pitiable fear of being in the minority, or the worse than silly ambition of going with the majority right or wrong."

There is something, my friends, in these words which seem to strike at the very root of our respect and standing, if we have any. I too, with the gentleman, do hope that he and his party, not only in this county, but in every county throughout the State, "will ever be superior to the pitiable fear of being in the minority," and, with him, heartily wish that we may never be actuated by that "silly ambition of going with the majority right or wrong." And I do hope, nay, I firmly believe that there is not a citizen of Greene county who is actuated by a motive of this kind. But all this is in perfect accordance with the stale argument heretofore assumed by the Adams party in this State: "That we are an unprincipled faction, combined for party purposes to oppose the government right or wrong." It is well known that Satellites shed no light of their own; it is only such as they borrow from the planet in whose orbit they revolve.

Now, this gentleman and his party know, that this is not the fact. As far as my humble abilities have enabled me to see into the motives of those opposed to the government, they are determined to get rid of those in power; but in the mean time, to take care that the public good shall not thereby suffer. Hence, all those measures of the Government which are founded on the true policy of the country have received from this "unprincipled and abused faction" a very able and efficient support. I challenge the friends of the Administration to point to a single subject which has been recommended by the President founded on the true policy of the country, which has not been by the opposition in Congress supported without regard to party. All those measures connected with the finances of the country, are committed, in Congress, to the care of Mr. M'Duffie; and those measures connected with the militia, to Col. Hamilton; who are justly styled the ring leaders of our faction. It is known to the friends of the Administration that we oppose the election of Mr. Adams on two grounds, to wit: principle and policy. First, from principle, because he is an apostate Federalist, and deserted his party and betrayed them, Judas like, just to obtain power. And here, fellow citizens, suffer me to remark, that I am lost in astonishment at the course of some of the "*consistent Federalists*," in rendering Mr. Adams an indiscriminate support. What, vote for a traitor, who has deserted you in time of peril, and not content with deserting his party, but must tell Mr. Jefferson the leading Federalists of New England were plotting to destroy the government. Yes, gentlemen, some of the leading Federalist, who are now supporting Mr. Adams through thick and thin, were, 20 years ago, hurling the curses of Emaliek against him, for deserting his party; and not content with supporting him, but labor day and night in support of a cause which is deckledly opposed to the true interest of the country. How, gentlemen, I ask you, shall those characters escape the condemnation that awaits them?

In the second place, we oppose the re-election of Mr. Adams because he has, from his infancy, been a hanger on government offices. He has been educated in European pomp, where he has imbibed all the abominable principles of aristocracy which characterize the European Courts. He is an avowed aristocrat himself, and is an unblushing advocate for political corruption. Jelly. We also oppose the election of Mr. Adams, because his elevation to the great dowy was effected by his league with Mr. Clay; which disgraceful act, on the part of Mr. Adams, and traitorous on the part of Mr. Clay, stands erected as a monument of disgrace to the republican institutions of this country. Yes, Gentlemen I assert, and on the assertion will pledge my sacred veracity, that upon a minute examination of the circumstances attending this extraordinary coalition, there will be found to exist more corruption and political intrigue than there was attached to either the transactions of Benedict Arnold or Aaron Burr.

4thly. We oppose the election of Mr. Adams because it gives sanction to a principle monstrous in its nature, formidable in its appearance, and destructive in its operations. It just places it in the power of one President to palm upon the people a successor of what cast he pleases. Look, my friends, at this succession of secretaryship! Look at what it is calculated to lead to. Thomas Jefferson was elected President, and chose James Madison Secretary of State. At the end of his term, Mr Madison was chosen President, and he appointed James Monroe Secretary of State. At the end of Mr. Madison's term, Mr. Monroe was elected, and made John Q. Adams secretary of State. At the end of his term John Q. Adams was elected President, and chose Henry Clay Secretary of State. Now, continue the principle, and re-elect Mr. Adams, and who will be our next President? Why, Henry Clay; and under the same rule, who is to be the next President? Why, Daniel Webster or some ring leader of the Hartford Convention. This succession of Secretaryship has something in its tendency alarming to the minds of honest republicans. It strikes at the very root of our government, and saps the purpose for which it was created. Can you, Gentlemen, boast of a republican form of government, where such a state of things as this exists? Can you say that your government, though free in principle, is so in practice? What was the sentence which you have so recently passed on the abominable practice of Caucusing? Have you not for this very act—nay I may say usurpation of power—arraigned some of your public servants, and "*turned them to grass?*" Y a Gentlemen, not three years ago you expressed your indignation against this abominable practice by arraigning some of your servants at the public tribunal, and have stamped on their foreheads the indelable mark of condemnation. But, Gentlemen, here is an evil which threatens in a ten-fold degree, more alarming and distressing effects. In this case, one individual holds the Caucus, and one you have no power over, but in the other, it is your representatives, who you can, if you please, arraign at any time.

But mainly and chiefly do we oppose Mr. Adams' re-election because his administration is a proscribed one, and should be marked with indignation by every republican as being inimical to the liberty of this country. This is philosophically true, and is susceptible of demonstration if time would permit. Look, Gentlemen, at his famous Panama mission. In this particular instance, he has assumed a prerogative, never before claimed by any of his predecessors, and one wholly unknown to the constitution. And what is more surprising, the mission has cost us between 50 and $100,000, and our ministers have returned without ever seeing the Congress, or being able to tell what was their deliberations. Look, Gentlemen, at the Georgia controversy. Do we see the President, in the true spirit of our constitution, protecting the citizens of Georgia against the aggressions of a foreign foe? No, Gentlemen, we have not. We have seen him send a military prefect into a sovereign State, to inquire into the validity of the law of the land, and because his refined taste and correct notion could not swallow the roughness of an Indian treaty, it was set aside and another formed, characterized by all those forms of State diplomacy for which Mr. Adams is justly celebrated. And what was the effect of this treaty? Why, one in which our citizens were cheated out of their money, and it taken to Washington to be squandered under the eyes of a corrupt Administration, for the most licentious purposes. And when the President saw the citizens of Georgia remonstrate against it, what do we hear? Why, they are threatened with the bayonet, backed by "a supe radded obligation even higher than human authority." Equally contemptible and ridiculous is his conduct in regard to the British West India trade. By his neglect and high-minded notions of state etiquette, we have not only lost a trade worth 6 millions of dollars annually, but our best nursery for seamen. Again look at his plan of Internal Improvements, a power which I am certain the framers of the constitution never intended the general government should exercise. It must be known to you that our federal government is one of delegation of power from the several states, and its powers are marked out. "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther." The General government can do nothing but what is expressly delegated, whilst the state governments can do every thing not forbidden. Now, I challenge any of the friends of the administration to point out that clause in the constitution that authorises the general government to carry on a plan of Internal Improvements in a sovereign state. Speaking on this subject recalls to my mind the subject of rail roads. While Hamilton Fulton and his gang were planing the destruction and disgrace of North Carolina, a few years ago, I do not believe they dreampt of a Rail Road. But of late, it seems suddenly to have aroused the public mind, and I know of no one who has more contributed to bring the system of Internal Improvements into vague, than the celebrated "*Carlton*," who, if I have been rightly informed, is a well known clerical aristocrat, and a firm believer in the doctrines of John Q. Adams and his faction. But, Gentlemen, erect those rail roads in North Carolina, "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." I have been led to think, in my serious hours of reflection, that it would present a melancholly spectacle to see overseers posted on these roads at every gate, clothed with federal power, to demand from the citizens of a sovereign State toll—for what? To educate the poor children on? To improve the moral condition of the State? no; but to go to the support of a puritan Administration. There are some schemes of speculation so horrid in their nature, that they will not even bear the lash of censure. Of this class is the celebrated rail road system. These, Gentlemen, form the leading objections to Mr. Adams' re-election.

I shall now, in a very brief and candid manner, proceed to notice some of the objections which are used against Gen. Jackson. Every thing which rumour, prejudice, ingenuity, wisdom or knowledge can devise, has been poured forth against this patriot, in the impure fury of thousands of unprincipled enemies. And we cannot, with a candid mind, wilfully wishing, [illegible] principle which has no parallel in the history of this world. I defy the man who has been celebrator of Gen. Jackson to point to one single circumstance in the history of the world where female chastity has ever been assailed to answer party purposes. What! Gentlemen, make the sole of the wife a principle whereby to test the qualifications of the husband! God forbid. Among all the bloody contentions betwixt the houses of York and Lancaster in the kingdom of Great Britain, there is not a parallel for this case of abuse. I will not, Gentlemen, detain you with any remarks on this part of the subject. I have in my possession documents free for your examination. They come from a source which admits of no doubt. I challenge the most rigid scrutiny. The charges hitherto brought against Mrs. Jackson are false, scandalous and ridiculous. The base and vile perpetrators of them stand convicted before an indignant public. And if they do not repent of their evil deeds, and that speedily, when the great day of retribution shall come, they shall be cast into "utter darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

But, gentlemen, independent of this objection, we hear it not unfrequently urged "that General Jackson's moral character is not sufficient to entitle him to the confidence of the people." It is very true, gentlemen, that moral character is a very essential prerequisite in the qualification of any man for an office. But before this principle is established, I should recommend to have impartial judges called in to decide what morality consists in; for I cannot give into the idea that it consists in squandering the people's money to buy billiard tables and chessmen with. And furthermore, I do not conceive it a very great test of morality for a President to associate himself with such a man as Henry Clay. No person has ever pretended to deny that General Jackson, like all other men living, is, in a greater or less degree, subject to the imperfections of human nature. In his youthful days, like all other young men, he was engaged in those scenes which characterise youth. I hesitate not to say, that in my opinion, if the same rigid scrutiny had been exercised towards a great many individuals in the world (who appear pure) that has been against General Jackson, their conduct would not, in all probability, stand quite so clear as it does. But, gentlemen, I would ask, is there no pardon to be obtained in this world for the vice of youth? Is it not a fact that some of our most valuable citizens, in youth, were mere pests to society, but when come to maturity, have reformed and made useful citizens? Look at Chancellor Wythe, of Virginia, one of the greatest men this country has ever produced. During the first thirty years of his life he was a mere rake, but suddenly reformed and became an ornament to society, and filled some of the first offices in the gift of his county. But you are told that General Jackson has dyed his hands in the blood of his fellow citizens—he is a duellist. Yes, gentlemen, that is the fact.—Some fifteen or twenty years back he was engaged in two or three affairs of this kind; and, I ask, is he the only man whom you have ever honored, who was guilty of this sin?—Let me ask some of these Adams men, who are railing against General Jackson for being a duelist, if they have never gone both tooth and nail for a man who has been guilty of this crime? Yes, gentlemen, they have; and I for one. And to this day, if his health would admit of it, I would gladly assist in giving him the first office within the gift of North Carolina. Although I do not countenance the practice of duelling, yet I can see no necessity of our meddling with the private disputes of others; and especially after a lapse of twenty or thirty years. And as to General Jackson's moral character for the last twenty years, it is second to that of no man living. You have, fellow citizens, heard thousands of reports in regard to this patriot which the friends of Mr. Adams have started without the least shadow of evidence. If I were disposed to be merry on this occasion, I could say much in ridicule of the course pursued by the enemies of General Jackson; for they seem indeed to pursue altogether an *ex parte* course. In fact, they assume the mode of trial in regard to General Jackson, which is said to be pursued in the court where the "Prince of the power of the air" presides: one man sits as judge, jury and witness.

But, gentlemen, you are told that General Jackson has set at defiance your Constitution; he has trampled it under foot. I suppose this charge is founded on the circumstances which grew out of the battle of New Orleans and the Seminole war. These transactions transpired some ten or twelve years ago.—At the time when they occurred every body said amen to them. They were looked upon as some of the brightest stars in our political horizon; but now, to subserve party purposes, they are raked up, and the coalition presses have trumpeted them forth to the world with as little truth attached to them as there is justice in the cause they support. Gentlemen, I do not mean to weary your patience by going into an investigation of these transactions. Congress sanctioned them, and the people sanctioned them; and no man living supported the cause of General Jackson in regard to the Seminole war with more zeal than did Mr. Adams. And, gentlemen, among the politicians of the day who are now railing out against General Jackson for his conduct in regard to the two cases just named, are some who, to my knowledge, approved his conduct; but now, on the contrary, to answer their end in support of an unjust and unholy cause, they are sinning against light and knowledge, by suppressing truth and candor.

But lastly, you are told that General Jackson has no other claims to the Presidency than those of a military character, and that he is a military chieftain. I need not tell you that General Jackson, from his youth, has been held as a firm and moderating Republican, a man of splendid talents. I need not tell you that he has ever been regarded as nature's great man. In him are implanted those inestimable qualities which characterise the republican, statesman and soldier. Gentlemen, I have never heard it assumed before that military talents combined with civic worth, disqualified a man for filling any office. Where, I ask, is the impropriety of your President having a knowledge of military tactics? Is he not commander in chief of your armies? My friends, the history of the late war abounds with proof sufficient to justify this fact. I am apt to think, if General Jackson had been President during the last war, the capital would not have been deserted and burnt.

But "General Jackson is a military chieftain." Now, gentlemen, I shall detain you but a very few moments with this. It may be that I do not understand the true definition of the term "military chieftain" as well as many but, if I do, I rather something like duty in time of civil war any man who [illegible] with the command of slavery, and by the force and power of bayonets to the will of government, and deliberately [illegible] these in power and take command himself, [illegible] of his military prowess, is a military chieftain; if gentlemen please, they may call it in time of peace. Now, I say, [illegible] true definition of the term military chieftain. Jackson comes so near being one as "Bunker to the Carthaginian shore." And further, I ask this or any, who is likely almost to the President, and goes forth to prove, in a military chieftain, however military his character may be. So that the assertion that Jackson is a military chieftain, is a gross attempt to impose upon your good sense and understanding. Some of the partisans of the day have endeavored to draw an analogy between General Jackson and Bonaparte. But, gentlemen, ask you, does the General aspire to the Presidential chair through the access by which Bonaparte reached the crown of France? or do his friends wish to place him there by such means? If we cannot effect his election purely and honestly, we expect to "give up the ship." We intend to use all honorable means to support his election, but no other. We hold him up as a victorious sacrifice for the sin of a polluted country. We believe his elevation to the Presidency will be the means of restoring our government to its primative purity. He and he alone is the man whom the honest yeomanry of this country delight to honor; and the name of Andrew Jackson will be sung by millions yet unborn, when those of John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay will be a byeword, not only for the virtuous, but even the profligate and abandoned. I will no longer detain you, gentlemen; I am admonished that I have already wearied you. I cannot, however, close this desultory address without tendering you my most hearty thanks for your kind attention.

JACKSON MEETING.

At a very numerous assemblage of the freemen of Mecklenburg county, convened at the court-house in Charlotte, on Tuesday, the 26th of February, 1828, on motion of Col. John Sloan, *Joseph Wilson*, Esq. was called to the chair; and on motion of Washington Morrison, Esq. *Isaac Alexander*, sen. and *James M. Hutchison*, Esqs. were appointed secretaries. The object of the meeting was explained by the chairman, in an able and eloquent address, of considerable length. After which on motion of Dr. Stephen Fox, a committee, composed of Wm. Julius Alexander, Thomas B. Smartt, and Washington Morrison, Esqs. Gen. Michael McLeary, Maj. Matthew Bain, Col. John Sloan, and Dr. Samuel Henderson, was appointed to report an address and resolutions expressive of the sentiments of this meeting on the subject for which it was convened. The committee then withdrew; and shortly afterwards returned, and submitted the following report:

Animated by the same patriotic zeal and devotion to the principles of liberty, which, during the dark and portentous period of the Revolution, distinguished their hardy and chivalrous ancestors; and anxious to preserve, pure and unimpaired, the republican institutions of their country; a portion of the citizens of Mecklenburg county have this day assembled together for the purpose of declaring to the world the stand which they design to occupy in the approaching presidential contest.

The friends of Gen. Jackson in this county, confident in their superiority, have not heretofore exerted themselves actively in his cause; hence it has idly been reported, and by some perhaps believed, that the vote of Mecklenburg will be given to the Administration candidate. We cannot for a moment believe that an opinion so entirely at variance with the fact, could have been circulated for any other purpose than mere political effect. If, however, the inaction of the friends of Gen. Jackson should have led any into the error of believing that Mr. Adams could in any event, obtain a majority of votes in this county, the time has now arrived when they should be awakened from the delusion in which they have so fondly indulged. The freemen of Mecklenburg still hold in proud remembrance the gallant deeds of their patriotic ancestors; they yet remember, with pride and exultation, that it was here the ball of the Revolution received its first impulse; that here, in the village of Charlotte, their chivalrous forefathers smarting under the wrongs of British oppression, *met on the 20th May 1775*, and unfurling the standard of freedom, *first* raised the banner cry of liberty. Cherishing such recollections, and stimulated by an example so bright and glorious, the high minded citizens of Mecklenburg can never think of yielding their support to a coalition, whose policy tends to the destruction of the best interests of our country.

The struggle, fellow-citizens, in which we are engaged, is one of the deepest importance and concern to every individual in this country; it is emphatically "a struggle of principle." Those pure institutions purchased by the blood of our forefathers, have been rudely assailed; and by the arts and stratagems of an aristocratic combination, nearly wrested from our grasp. It is to reinstate, on its former basis, the good old cause of the people, founded on the principles of republicanism, that the present struggle has been commenced—that cause, to gain which Washington hazarded his life in the field; and to establish which, Jefferson toiled and labored in the cabinet.

In accordance with a common usage and custom in such cases, your committee will proceed to lay before the meeting a few of the leading and prominent causes upon which their opposition to the present Administration is founded: an enumeration of the whole would serve to address greatly to your proper traits.

Although your committee admit that Mr. Adams was presented to the presidential chair in accordance with the forms of the constitution, it is obvious that he obtained that office against the wishes of a majority of the people of the United States; this, it may be alleged, can be no objection; your committee are constrained to think differently; a President of the United States should possess the confidence of the people; unless this be the case, the patronage and policy of the Administration must and will be governed and controlled, not by the solid interests of the country, but with a single view of upholding its power. Your committee believe that the conduct of the present Administration has been such as to justify the common, nay, almost universal expression of distrust and dissatisfaction, which it is evident now pervades our country. Your committee would call your attention to the first message of Mr. Adams, as containing his views on the tariff and internal improvement. He recommends a tariff of duties amounting almost to a prohibition; thereby attempting to impose an additional burden on the agriculturist, to support the manufacturer. He recommends a system of internal improvement to be carried into effect, upon a scale well calculated to drain our treasury of its last cent. In his mission to Panama, Mr. Adams arrogated a power to himself unknown in the constitution and violated a maxim of the father of his country, in endeavouring to engage us in entangling alliances with the Governments of South-America.

Your committee believe that the present Administration has sedulously employed the patronage of this government in sustaining itself in power. It is believed that the peculiar interests of this section of the United States, have been shamefully neglected in regard to the West India trade. The course of the Administration was such as to subject the State of North-Carolina to the loss of its profitable trade to the British West India Islands. The arrogant tone assumed by Mr. Adams, towards the Governor of Georgia, when he threatened, in a style of kingly authority, to march a hostile force against that State, is highly censurable; it betrays a haughty and ungovernable spirit, which for the gratification of its ambitious military desires, is recklessly disposed to plunge us in a bloody war with a peaceful sister State. These, as before stated, are but a few of the objections which exist to the present Administration; but we object to Mr. Adams because we have no confidence in his political principles: we first see him in the Senate of the United States, a federalist in principle as he professed, and opposed to the acquisition of Louisiana, and to her reception into the Union as a free State. In the spring of the year A. D. 1807, he presides over a meeting convened for the purpose of prostrating the Administration of Mr. Jefferson; and in the winter of the same year, we find him abandoning that party, denouncing its views and principles, and advocating the dangerous doctrine that the recommendation of the president compelled the senate of the United States to *act* and not *deliberate!* To these objections, we add, that Mr. Adams was educated and schooled in foreign courts, (which has been the boast of his friends,) a tutelage illy calculated to inspire a profound respect for the republican institutions of our country, but on the contrary well adapted to inculcate the opinion that our government, in his own language, is, "weak and penurious," and that the representative of a free people should not "be palsied by the will of his constituents."

Your committee believe that the election of Andrew Jackson to the presidency will promote the best interest of our country: we have the fullest confidence in his capacity and political integrity. In his youth, we find him engaged in the glorious controversy, which resulted in our Independence: we see him in maturer age filling the highest offices of trust which his country could confer on him: and we see him retiring from them with the entire confidence of his constituents, and without a murmur of disapprobation, or a solitary reflection upon his integrity. We have seen him commanding the armies of our country whilst engaged in a war with ruthless enemies. In this situation, he is seen to display talents of the first order, and a devotion to his country, which induce him to risk every thing dear to him as a soldier and a patriot, to save his country. During the last presidential canvass, we behold him within the reach of the highest office in the gift of a great nation—no law of the republic was to be violated, no feeling of the heart to be outraged, no prejudices of mankind to be shocked, at the reception of it; but he subdued the temptation, as he subdued the foes of his country, and rejected the offer with disdain. In such a man, as President of the United States, the people may safely confide the high destinies of this country.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we consider that course of policy pursued by the present administration, as inimical to the best interests of this country; and that we will use all fair and honorable means to