

ADDRESS

OF THE

WHIG CONVENTION, WHICH ASSEMBLED AT
ASHEBOROUGH ON THE FIRST DAY OF JUNE 1839,

TO THE

PEOPLE OF THE TENTH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

In obedience to calls from various parts of this District, a Convention of Delegates met in the town of Asheborough on the 1st of June, instant, to nominate a candidate to represent you in the next Congress of the United States. That Convention imposed upon us the duty of communicating to you the result of their deliberations, and the reasons therefor. Your late representative having declined another canvass, it became necessary to take measures to call out some gentlemen of known and approved political principles. The name of Charles Fisher, Esq., of Rowan, had been announced to the people of the District as a candidate for their suffrages; but they were left in ignorance of that gentleman's opinion on some of the most important political measures of the day. It was not, therefore, to have been expected that a party whose Polar Star is principle, would be content to give their support to a man who is not known to be the firm and unflinching advocate of those great principles, the ascendancy of which they believe to be essential to the permanency of our incomparable institutions. They accordingly determined to invite into the arena one, about all of whose political opinions there was and soon to be no doubt. This the Convention have done, and have unanimously resolved to present to your favorable consideration and support the name of PLEASANT HENDERSON, Esq., of Rowan; a true fellow-citizen, whose talents and integrity deserve your warm and united support; and whose sound Republican principles in connection with superior qualifications, must secure it. Mr. Henderson is the firm and decided, but consistent opponent of the re-election of Mr. Van Buren; because he believes the measures of his Administration dangerous to the liberties of the people. We invite you, fellow-citizens, to a brief examination of what we believe to be some of the most dangerous and alarming of those measures, because we think that every party as every man should be judged by their acts and not by their professions.

1st. *The Currency.*—When the late administration declared war upon the United States Bank, and resolved upon its destruction, the country were promised, in exchange for the excellent currency of that institution, a "better currency," and were assured that the State Banks, beyond all doubt, would furnish it. Well, that experiment was tried. The *Pet Banks* were invited and encouraged by the President, to great liberality in the extension of their discounts. These Banks readily complied, and soon flooded the country with their paper. This state of things, it was seen, could not last long; and was soon succeeded by the most painful, distressing and universal pecuniary pressure, with which this country has ever been visited. And in the midst of this wide-spread ruin and dismay, when the country was bleeding at every pore, then the authors of it "laughed at our calamities and mocked when our fear came on." This ruinous "experiment" was followed by another untried "expedient" "The Sub-Treasury," the *thrice* proposed, and *thrice* rejected measure of this experimenting Administration. In 1834, when this very financial scheme was introduced, then for the first time, in Congress, it was promptly rejected by all parties, and none reprobated in stronger language than the "Globe," the mouth-piece of the party in power. Then our political quacks having just commenced the first of their series of financial experiments, the *Pet Bank* scheme, were not prepared for this, the very enemy of that system. It is impossible in an address like this, to state all the many weighty objections to this truly alarming measure.—There are two, however, which we will here notice, and which, if the only ones, should carry condemnation of it to the mind of every patriot.

1st. It proposes a currency for the Government, separate and distinct from that of the people. One of these currencies must be better than the other, and that that would be the Government's it requires no foresight to discern. And when too that currency shall be received in Gold and Silver, it must always be at a very high premium, while the people's money must ever be depreciated and fluctuating. Further, while the Government claims the right to receive all its dues in specie, it pays its debts, (to use the favorite phraseology of the party) in "rags and shimplasters." Now let us ask what is the Government but the very creature and agent of the people? and whence does it derive the right to provide for itself a "better currency" than for the people, its creator? Besides, the premium which this money must always command will open the door to speculations upon the people by the favorites of the President, the Office-holders.

2nd. Another serious and unanswerable objection is, that the Sub-Treasury would, in effect, place the revenues of the Government under the control of the Executive. This its friends deny, but out of their own mouths shall they be judged. When in 1834, the arbitrary removal of Mr. Secretary Duane created such excitement throughout the country, in defence of the President, his friends contended that all Office holders were responsible to the President and not to the people, and that therefore they must obey the order of their master, the Executive, or be dismissed at his pleasure. Now put the Sub-Treasury in operation, place all the money of the Government in the hands of men whose official existence, eye and whose bread too hangs on the will of the President, and then apply the doctrine of the party, and how stands the case? Could the Executive desire a more complete control over the Treasury? Could the mind of man devise a better scheme for the preservation of power? No wonder then that the Administration of Mr. Van Buren cling to it with the grasp of death, for their political existence is suspended upon it. And are you so regardless of your dearest rights as to be willing to commit a power so tremendous and alarming, to the hands of any man, it matters not who?

The ruling dynasty, as fond of new names as of new measures, have changed the cognomen of this their bustling and have introduced it under the imposing title of Independent Treasury. A name selected with singular propriety; for once clothe the President with the tremendous power which it would give, and he and his party can easily make it an *Independent Treasury*, and themselves an *Independent party*; independent of the forms, as they now are of the spirit of the Constitution; independent of all of the checks and balances of our republican system; independent of the great source of all power, their masters, the people. The party now in power attained it by the professions of a great regard for economy and reform, their practice has been, extravagance and corruption. Mr. Adams' administration was most severely censured by the present economical party, for its extravagance. Mr. Adams expended in four years about \$3 millions; Mr. Van Buren in two years, over 70 millions! It is true that his friends charge this extravagance upon the Whigs of Congress. But this attempt is too bare faced to succeed. The Constitution has armed the Executive with a veto power,

as a check upon any measure calculated to injure the country. When therefore any bill is carried through both Houses of Congress it becomes a law only by the president's approval, unless two thirds concur in its passage. Now we ask Administration men when has Mr. Van Buren applied his veto to a Bill proposing to appropriate the people's money to any purpose, however uncalled for and extravagant? The present party in power has been in the ascendant for the last ten years, during which time they have had a majority in the House of Representatives, and under Mr. Van Buren's Administration in the Senate also. They are therefore responsible for all extravagant and wasteful appropriations, because they have had, and still have the power to prevent them. And let it not be forgotten that the Whigs, for opposing this waste of their constituents' money, were charged by the friends of the Executive with want of liberality and patriotism, and of a design to stop the wheels of Government. The Administration party came into power with the profession of a sacred regard for the freedom of elections, and with a determination that the "patronage of the Government should not come into conflict with the freedom of elections." Their practice is to require every incumbent of office to take an active part in all elections, to influence as much as possible public opinion in favor of their master, the President. But not content with this violation of past pledges, they impose upon their office holders a TAX upon their salaries to be used as an electioneering fund.—This is professing one thing and practising another with a vengeance!

We have thus, fellow-citizens, taken a short and hasty notice of many of the dangerous and destructive measures of Mr. Van Buren's Administration. We now plainly ask you, will you sustain a party which advocates such doctrines? Your liberties are in danger, the power of party is blighting every thing before it, and unless speedily checked must ere long sap the citadel of our liberties, and in its ruin destroy the brightest and last hope of the friends of freedom throughout the world. Party is becoming every thing, principle nothing. The contest is already commenced, the battle is now being waged, with principle on one side and party on the other. Be on your guard, then; the noble fabric of our liberty, and our blood bought institutions are worth an effort to preserve them. Remember that sleepless vigilance is the price of liberty, and that apathy and indifference are the sure road to despotism. To be free, then, you must be vigilant. Trust than no man, whose opinions are concealed, or who is not known to be good and true to those great principles for which we are battling. Can you then lend your hand to the promotion of Mr. Fisher? Has he any claims upon your suffrages? Does his recent course entitle him to your confidence? It is a custom originating in frankness and honesty and hallowed by time for every man so soon as he becomes a candidate for Congress to communicate his sentiments to the District through the medium of a Circular. This Mr. Fisher has failed to do, although he has now been a candidate for considerable time. Is there nothing in this to excite apprehension? And especially when he has the control of a paper in this District, thereby possessing every facility of making known his opinions. The result of last summer's elections proved that Whig principles were far in the ascendant in this District. Does Mr. Fisher belong to that party? If so, his course we should conceive a very plain one. He had only to say so. If however he does not belong to the Whig party, and is an enemy to the success of their cause, it would be dangerous to his election to disclose that fact. We have no doubt that ceaseless efforts will be made to induce you to believe that Mr. Fisher is the friend of those principles which the true Republicans believe so essential to the permanency of our institutions.

Go then, fellow-citizens, to the polls, and cast your votes for that man who conceals nothing, who disdains concealment; for the man who is known to possess sound political principles. Mr. Henderson deserves your support from every consideration of principle and of duty. He is a gentleman of superior talents and very extensive attainments; he is and ever has been a sound and devoted Republican, and if he be elected, he will serve with ability, fidelity and integrity; and with honor to himself and to his District. Fellow-citizens, we will not permit ourselves to doubt or to fear the result. No, fellow-citizens, resolve to do your duty. Ours is a glorious cause. Go then for your country, yes, let all the ends you aim at be "your country's, your God's and truth's," and the victory and the glory will be yours.

Signed:
ISAAC BURNS, G. W. PEARSON,
JAMES F. MARTIN, B. L. BEALL,
CHARLES BRUMMELL, WILLIAM B. LANE,
BENJAMIN SWAIN, JONATHAN WORTH,
JOHN H. HAUGHTON, JO N S. GUTHRIE,
M. Q. WADDELL, JOSEPH HOUSER.
June 15, 1839.

Correspondence of the National Intelligencer.

New York, June 10, 1839.

Our banks pull and haul, the one upon the other, without concert of action, even in Wall street; and if disunion exists there where the banks are within a hundred yards of each other what of discord there must be in the 26 States, where banks are parted by hundreds of miles! There continues to be disorder in the currency, spasmodic contractions, derangement of exchanges, trouble and uncertainty as to the state of the money market. The city abounds with unavailable Southwestern money. No one can calculate what it will cost him to collect what he sells far from home. All interests intensely feel the want of that for the currency, which is so essential to the Government of the country—a head; a power with the capacity of co-operating action—what George Washington and James Madison approved as President of these United States.

John L. Stephens, Esq. the well-known traveller in the East, our newspapers announce as appointed to fill the vacant mission to Guatemala.

The Cotton Circular, reputed to be from Humphrey and Biddle, continues to be the topic of talk in the street. It has not yet affected the cotton market, unless the keeping it in its present position be considered as such.

The Great Western leaves Thursday with a full complement of passengers.

With the exception of U. S. Bank stock, the stocks have had to-day generally a downward tendency. U. S. Bank has gone up to 121.

The firemen of the city hold a great meeting to-night on the subject of the creation of the 24 new hose companies to oust their chief engineer.

The Montreal Courier says that Sir George Arthur, after fully examining into the affair of the American schooner at Brockville, despatched a messenger to Washington on the subject.

The political prisoners now in Quebec, some 70 or 80, it is said in the Courier, are to be sent to New South Wales.

If the wind had not been from the east so long—it is not now—we should be looking for later news from Europe—to hear which there is not a little anxiety.

Pleasure is a shadow; wealth is vanity, and power a pageant; but *Knave* is extatic in enjoyment, perennial in fame, unlimited in space, and infinite in duration. In the performance of its sacred office, it fears no danger, spares no expense, omits no exertion. It scales the mountain, looks into the volcano, dives into the ocean, pierces the earth, enriches the globe, explores sea and land, contemplates the distant, ascends to the sublime; no place too remote for its grasp; no heavens too exalted for its reach.—[*De Witt Clinton.*]

THE CITIZEN.

ASHEBORO' N. C.

FRIDAY, JUNE 31, 1839.

Much Editorial and other original matter, intended for insertion this week, is crowded out. These delinquents call loudly for an enlarged sheet. If our patronage should continue to increase as it has done for the last three weeks, our contemplated enlargement will be carried in to effect in a very short time—say, just as soon as the additional materials can be procured.

"Since the paper published at Asheboro', called the 'Southern Citizen,' has allowed itself to be made the prostituted vehicle of false and slanderous abuse, we shall not descend to a notice of it."—*Western Carolinian.*

So it seems you don't stand fire well, gentlemen. Keep cool then. If the truth plainly told amounts to "false and slanderous abuse," you shall have enough of it before you get your favorite candidate palmed off on the people of the Tenth District as an honest and consistent Whig—dodge as you will let it pinch whom it may.

MR. FISHER'S SPEECH.

We have been favored by some body, (don't know nor care who,) with this *mighty* production; which is too lengthy a copy entire. We intend however, shortly to "descend to a notice of it." And as we shall be under the necessity of treating the speech and its author too with that plainness and impartiality which they merit.—We must now begin in time to be pardon of the *Western Carolinian*, lest we may chance to offend the delicate sensibilities, or rather the squamish nerves of the gentlemen who conducts that print.

The following extract of a letter from Davidson county, was not intended by the writer for publication. But as it is from a gentleman of undoubted candor, whose vocation leads him to mix much among the people, we cannot withhold from our readers the information it contains.

"I write in much haste, or I would give you some knowledge of the state of politics in Davidson. Mr. Fisher will be but few men of his creed—but few Sub-Treasury Whigs in the ballot box in the Eastern part of the County.

"If the people are pleased with Dr. Henderson the Eastern part of Davidson (with the exception of a few ultra Van Buren men) will uniformly vote for him. The County may safely be put down for Henderson."

We know not the author of the following communication, but we publish it, (though contrary to our rule,) because it expresses some good thoughts, and contains nothing calculated to call forth personal resentment.

For the Southern Citizen.

Mr. Swain:—

I am a plain farmer, and don't know much about politics; yet I always make it a rule to vote; and the first thing I do is to enquire how the candidate was brought out. I see from your paper all about how Dr. Henderson was brought out by the Whig meeting, which some people call a Caucus. And I saw Dr. Henderson's letter, which pleased me and my neighbors very much. I don't know about the Caucus; but it seems to me that when the Whigs wanted a candidate, it was a very good way, if they would take the trouble to ride all the way to Asheborough together, and talk together and see what man they liked best; and select one who would come out with his sentiments open and above board. And if the people liked him, they could vote for him or not, just as they pleased. I asked some of my neighbors the other day how Mr. Fisher came out. One said, that Mr. Rencher was tired of the place, and as he knew Mr. Fisher was a smart man and a good Whig, he wrote to Mr. Fisher to come out and take his place; but, said another, that is not the way; for it would look too much like Gen. Jackson, who appointed Mr. Van Buren to be his successor; and Mr. Fisher and Mr. Rencher both said that was not right, and was against the Republican doctrine; and besides, said he, Mr. Fisher came out before Mr. Rencher backed off; and my notion is that Mr. Fisher came out in opposition to Mr. Rencher. I heard one of his friends say the other day, that he had run Mr. Rencher off of the track. Well, but says I, the Whigs were very well satisfied with Mr. Rencher, especially for the last 2 or 3 years. And I know they were all highly pleased with his last circular, that he sent almost every man in the district. And if Mr. Fisher is a Whig, who is it that brought him out against Mr. Rencher? I why say another, who is always mighty hot in these matters, I can tell all about it: The Van Buren men got in with Mr. Fisher, and brought him out to beat Mr. Rencher. And neighbor John said he had seen a "Standard," which come out particularly in favor of Mr. Fisher, says he was the man for them, and that he did not belong to the Whig ranks any longer; and that is the reason all the (V. B.) men are going to vote for him. And little Dr. Austin don't deny it. The Van Buren men and persons call Mr. Fisher a Van Buren man good enough for them. Well, but says I, why don't he come out in his speeches for Van Buren? And says he, he calculates the Van Buren men are not strong enough, and he must get a lift from both sides; and so he talks all around, and won't say who he is for, and publish his speeches as he promised to do—for fear it would look too barefaced. Well, says I, that is hard talk about a man; and I will write to Mr. Swain, and get him to tell us all about it. And if he don't know, he may put my letter in his paper; and the Watchman, or the Carolinian or Mr. Fisher himself, will tell us all about it. So I have done as I promised—and I hope you will tell us all about it; and if Mr. Rencher did write to Mr. Fisher, you must publish his letter; for, although I like Mr. Rencher, yet if he got to nominating his successor, like old Captain Jackson did, I want to know it.

I have only complained, &c.

A FARMER OF DAVIDSON COUNTY.

The speech is now published; but throws no light on the subject.—[*Ed. Cit.*]

We know nothing of any such letter having been written by Mr. Rencher. Nor do we suppose that Mr. R. or any other person places the least confidence in Mr. Fisher's Whig principles, even if he assumes them occasionally.