

SOUTHERN CITIZEN.

WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR, BUT TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND BE USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER?

VOLUME III.

ASHEBORO, (N. C.) FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1889.

NUMBER 45.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY
BENJAMIN SWAIM.

TERMS.

Two Dollars per annum, in advance or Three Dollars, if not paid within three months from the date of the first number received.

No subscription to be discontinued till all arrearages be paid; unless at the discretion of the Editor.

A failure to order a discontinuance before the expiration of the subscription year, is equivalent to a new engagement.

All Letters, Communications, &c. come post-paid.

Prices for Advertising.

Advertisements will be conspicuously and handsomely inserted at \$1 00 per square of 16 lines; and 25 cents for every subsequent insertion.—No advertisement, however short, will be charged less than for a square.

Court Orders and judicial advertisements will be charged 25 percent higher; (we sometimes have to wait so long for the pay.)

Those who advertise by the year will be entitled to a deduction of 33 1/3 per cent. provided they pay in advance.

WHIG STATE CONVENTION.

(Concluded.)

On motion of Mr Spruill, Resolved, That, the Whig papers of the State be requested to give publicity through their columns, to the proceedings of the Convention.

No other business remaining to be transacted, Gen. Patterson rose and said, that as the labors of the Convention had drawn to a close, he would read a Resolution which had been laid on the table by a member of the body, (Mr. Hughes.) It was as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due and hereby tendered to the Hon. John Owen for the able, dignified and impartial manner in which he has discharged the duties of the Chair.

The question having been put on its adoption, it was unanimously decided in the affirmative.

A motion having been made that this Convention adjourn sine die, the President, Gen. Owen, rose, and remarked as follows:

I am, gentlemen, so sincerely impressed with a sense of my incapacity for the duties of the Chair, that I readily attribute the Resolution, just adopted, to the motive by which I am confident it was prompted. It is due to no merit of mine, but is dictated by a spirit of kindness and forbearance, on your part, have been very often honored by the people of this State, with flattering testimonials of approbation, but I have never enjoyed in any situation greater happiness and satisfaction, than I have experienced in my association in this body.

I have made it a rule through life, whenever called to act in a public capacity, to contribute to the extent of my ability my full quota of service.—Under the influence of such feeling and determination, I have resolved to accept the appointment of a State Delegate to the National Convention. Though my presence, like that of the head of every family, is indispensable at home, I must forego every other consideration but the success of the glorious cause in which we are embarked.

Perfect unanimity, gentlemen, is unattainable in any deliberative body, where its members have intelligence to understand, and independence to give expression to their opinions. A sufficiency of it was obtained here for all useful and practical purposes. I part from you all, gentlemen, with unfeigned pleasure and regret, and if permitted to express myself, with this injunction—LET EVERY WHIG DO HIS DUTY.—Not only let him be active at the Polls, but in his neighborhood, let him constitute himself, a nucleus, around which he may rally friends to his country's cause, and thus lay broad and deep the foundations of its prosperity and happiness. I will detain you no longer, gentlemen.—This Convention stands adjourned without day.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

MR. McQUEEN, from the General Committee, made the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

We have approached the performance of the duty assigned us with a just degree of sensibility to the eventful nature of the crisis which hangs with the most frightful symptoms of fatality over the destinies of our country. We have yielded the most patient and profound deliberation to the present posture of our political interest, which a brief compass of time would permit; and we have reached the firm, but painful conviction, that a more sudden transition from glory to gloom, from strength to imbecility, from moral sublimity to mournful degradation, and from a blissful fruition of all the choicest elements of national felicity to a season of painful destitution, was never recorded on the page of faithful and impartial history, than that which the American patriot is now doomed to mourn with the most affecting sadness. Since the present administration ascended to power, our Government which was instituted to serve as a sanctuary of refuge and of security, to the natives of every clime, has been converted into an armory in which the most fatal instruments which can be wielded against the political rights of the citizen are forged in perilous profusion. Glaring incapacity, deep corruption, gross perfidy to the most sacred pledges, vindictive malice, and an insatiable lust for gain, have gotten possession of the lofty empyrean which were once adorned by matchless wisdom, untainted purity, inviolate fidelity, ennobling magnanimity, and by perfect disinterestedness of heart. And when the American citizen, with anxious solicitude, now searches for a spring of health for the political maladies which infest our country, instead of recognizing it in the constitutional ark which has been consecrated by the blood and wisdom of the patriarchs of the Revolution, he is driven to that guarantee for the safety of popular freedom which has been hitherto recognized as valid only in despotic Governments—"the vigilance of the people."

In Great Britain it is a maxim of conduct among the people which has been sanctioned by the usage of centuries, to hold the most prominent ministers responsible for any disastrous results which may flow from the measures which are commended and consummated during his ascendancy in the councils of state. If this maxim should be enforced with even a partial degree of rigor in this country in reference to Mr. Van Buren where and at what point would the popular maledictions terminate? For 20 years previous to his entering upon his duties, the American confederacy was blessed with a harvest of social and political blessings which never has been surpassed, either in purity or plenitude in the history of civilized man. We beheld maritime enterprise spreading its broad folds on the surface of every sea, and earning the precious reward of its aspirations and labors unmix'd with the startling apprehension that its fairest and most substantial achievements were shortly to be reduced to dust and ashes by the ever changing measures of the Government. We beheld the farmer sowing his ground with the joyous anticipation that a rich harvest was to spring from the bosom of the earth to requite his toils. We beheld the merchant accumulating within the circle of his energies the rich fabrics of every shore, with the firm persuasion that his industry and prudence would soon rear a safe asylum for himself and his children. We beheld the mechanic providing himself with all the component elements of matter which pertain to his vocation in life, and cherishing the fond assurance that he was to become the participant of fresh comforts, when these ingredients should be wrought into articles of human consumption and use.—We beheld in truth all the professions prospering in peace and in vigor beneath the benign influence of Government, and contentment and happiness spreading in a broad and reviving wave from one extremity of the Union to the other. But we are doomed at the present cheerless period to dwell upon a national picture the dark shades of which

are not softened by a single cheering ray but that which bursts from the latent virtues, energies and resolution of a free and enlightened people. And if these redeeming qualities in the character of our people were exerted in the period of our revolution for the attainment of prospective blessings, with what unrivalled perseverance should they now be applied when the noblest possessions which ever descended upon the path of man are all put in eminent hazard; when all the elements of human prosperity have been thrown into a state of deplorable confusion and when all the different pursuits of man have been brought into a destructive state of collision by the mad experiments of Government.

At what period in the history of our Government did we ever witness such frequent fluctuations in the price of agricultural commodities, as we are now constrained week after week to deplore? When have we ever heard of such frequent and extensive failures among the merchants in every part of the confederacy? When have we, at any former period, been summoned to record such frequent crashes and explosions among our Banking institutions? When have we before seen the honest traders of the country so unreservedly delivered over to the mercy of relentless usurers?—When have we ever before seen the Government of the country openly and unblushingly taking the field and prosecuting a war of exterminating hostility against the use of credit in the commercial transactions of the land?—When have we before seen a President of this country determined in his views of currency and commerce by the result of the elections in some particular State? When have we before seen a Chief Magistrate exerting all his energies to blot a paper currency from the American system of currency, whilst at the same moment he was earnestly imploring the Congress of the United States to issue thousands of the same sort of paper to rescue the Government from its embarrassment? When have we been presented with an opportunity of observing such deep and confirmed callousness to the interests of the humbler classes of our population on the part of an American President, as that which aimed to strip the honest traders of this confederacy of the privilege of borrowing capital with which to prosecute the usual transactions of trade? And where amongst the recorded deeds of the rulers of mankind, will we be adequate to the task of tracing the lines of such flagrant turpitude as that which Mr. Van Buren has evinced in striving to annihilate banking institutions, in the creation of which he himself was an active and influential participant? It is a well established fact, that with an eternal profession of hatred to the United States Bank playing upon his lips, and with the sword of destruction continually waving in his hand, against that institution, Mr. Van Buren himself once petitioned for the location of a branch of it in the politicalemporium of New York. It is an equally authentic portion of his history, that he is now exerting the whole scope of his power against all the banking institutions of the country, when the influence of that party to which he belongs has, within the brief space of his authority, brought more banking institutions into existence and a larger share of banking capital into circulation, than ever sprang into being within ten times the same space at any former period.—In New Hampshire and Maine, which are each devoted to Mr. Van Buren, banks have been multiplied and banking capital increased, since the Van Buren party became entrusted with the reins of power, to an almost incredible extent. Within the same limits of time, the State Bank of Alabama has been established with a capital of more than ten millions of dollars. In Mississippi, a Legislature devoted to the late and present Administrations of the Government, raised the amount of banking capital from 8 to nearly seventy-five millions of dollars. In the great state of New York, a hundred banks, exclusive of innumerable loan and trust companies, have been warmed into life by the influence of Mr. Van Buren and his party. In Louisiana, whilst the party now in power was invested with the control of the State Legislature, the banking

capital was extended from six to fifty-four millions of dollars. And in Pennsylvania, also a Jackson and Van Buren State, the amount of banking capital has been changed from fifteen to sixty millions of dollars. And yet with all these broad and stubborn facts to impress upon the mind of the American people, a vivid and enduring conviction of the extensive agency which Mr. Van Buren has had in the erection of banks—he is held up with rapturous applause by his friends as the implacable enemy of banks, whilst he himself has no hesitation in placing himself in the absurd and unnatural position of aiming at the destruction of these ill-fated creations of his own power and influence.

Whilst we are scanning the most prominent facts in Mr. Van Buren's political history, we cannot refrain from submitting to the consideration of the Convention the utter fallacy and hollowness of all his professions of devotion to the creed of Democratic faith.—Was it Democratic to vote for the Tariff in its most odious and repulsive forms—a measure which was universally allowed to be founded upon a strained construction of the Federal charter? Was it democratic to vote for the erection of toll gates upon the Cumberland Road—a measure which is admitted on all hands, to embrace the essence of Federal doctrines? Was it Democratic to support De Witt Clinton, the Federal Candidate for the Presidency, and Rufus King, the Federal Candidate for the National Senate, during the late war with Great Britain? Was it Democratic to sustain General Jackson's proclamation, issued during the troubles produced by the Nullification era? Was it Democratic to sanction the expunging resolution which aimed a vital blow at the liberty of the Senate, the principal ark of safety, which has been provided by the constitution for the rights and freedom of the people? Was it Democratic to sanction the force bill, a measure which was not only regarded as doubtful, but as a glaring infraction of the provisions of the Constitution, by many of the most enlightened politicians in this country? Is it a course which presents a democratic complexion to exclude more than two thirds of the qualified and virtuous men in this country from those offices, for which their ancestors shared the bitterness of every sacrifice and braved the perils of every conflict, merely because they disagree with him in political sentiment? Is it democratic to overlook the farmers of the country in the distribution of the offices of Government? Is it Democratic to prosecute an unceasing war upon the use of that credit in trade which constitutes the vital blood of the prosperity of the people? Is it democratic to bring the patronage of the Government openly, constantly and irresistibly to bear upon the freedom of the press and of the elective franchise? Is it democratic—is it consistent with democratic principles—that he should increase the expenses of the Government to more than 39 millions of dollars per year, when the fact has been irreversibly established, that fifteen millions of dollars will conduct its operations with vigor and facility? Is it in accordance with his own professions of democracy, to resort to every possible expedient in order to fix the Sub-Treasury upon the people of this country after they have twice declared themselves explicitly and unequivocally against it? Is it consistent with a due degree of respect for the popular will to withhold from the people a direct choice of their chief magistrate, when they are universally known to be anxious to acquire that privilege, and when too he has had it in his power at any period since his elevation to power to consummate the measure? Is it not a flagrant violation of the cardinal principles of democracy not only to refuse to lend his aid to a measure of such obvious propriety and justice but, also to bend his full energies against the distribution of the public lands amongst the States of the Union—after the purposes for which these lands were ceded to the Government have been accomplished, and when, too, the most powerful States of the Union have been addressing the most convincing and fervid appeals to Congress in favor of the measure? Can he be a sterling democrat who is applauded by the public Journals of Great

Britain for his open demonstrations of attachment to the usages of a monarchical Government; and for having afforded striking proofs of a desire to pave the way to the erection of such a Government on the ruins of the American Republic the fairest specimen of political architecture which has ever yet engaged the admiration of the world? And can it be possible in the nature of things that he should be a pure and accepted republican, who ascended to the supreme point of power in this confederacy by continually burning incense at the shrine of his predecessor, in contempt of the majesty of the people, who, in this country, constitute the only legitimate fountains of political power? If Mr. Van Buren can be an accepted republican, with all these glaring errors and omissions hanging upon his skirts, it will prove an exceedingly difficult matter for any person not to be a democrat, let him pursue any and every course agreeable to the random directions of his will.

But let us devote a brief interval to the inquiry whether Mr. Van Buren has been faithful to the delicate and responsible trust which has been committed to his charge? Since he has been clothed with the highest attributes of power, there have been largely more than one million of dollars lost to the people by the dishonesty of collectors of the revenue, whom Mr. Van Buren failed to bring to account as he should have done; whereas, it has been established, to the satisfaction of every inquiring and unprejudiced mind, that during all the administrations of the Government previous to those of himself and of General Jackson, there was lost to the Government the comparatively trifling sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Does such a gross and criminal act of negligence, such a shameful degree of indulgence to base and greedy speculators as this is, present an aspect of faithfulness to his high functions? Under the supervision of himself and of his immediate predecessor in office, the prosecution of the Florida war, which has been as barrea of good and glory to the country as it has been prolific in the expenditures of noble blood and of precious treasure, has cost the country forty millions of dollars. But the late war with Great Britain only cost the Government 90 millions of dollars, when it was in progress during the protracted space of three years—humbled the towering pride of Great Britain, and encircled the American brow with laurels of imperishable verdure. Does such a prodigal expenditure of the funds of the people merely in the occasional butchery of a few handfuls of untutored and misguided savages indicate high souled sensibility to the solemn nature of his duties? Does it argue fidelity to his high trust, to desert his post, during the long space of four months, for the purpose of indulging himself in virulent political and party harangues, whilst he is receiving \$2083 per month, for his services?

Was he actuated by a spirit of faithfulness to his important duties, when he failed to discard from office one of the members of his cabinet who openly contemned, defied, and disobeyed the imperative mandate of a high judicial functionary? Or has he been faithful in retaining in office, to the great detriment of the public interest, his present Secretary of the Treasury, who has acquired as much notoriety by his financial blunders and acts of mismanagement, as he has by his venal subservency to the will of his master? Or has he evinced a due regard to the public interest in filling the highest judicial forum in this country with rabid and mercenary partisans of his own, who, at the bar, were the more distinguished the less they had to do, and who, on the bench, are so rank and meagre in their legal proportions, as scarcely to afford a respectable judicial shadow?

As we next inspect the peculiar charms which Mr. Van Buren has presented to the American public on the ground of qualifications. If he has performed one act which entitles him to the reputation of possessing ability of a high order or to the character of being a patriot, jealous for his country's honor he has been such a faithful observer of the commands of the holy scriptures, as to have performed it in secret, that his