

# SOUTHERN CITIZEN.

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

VOLUME IV.

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**BENJAMIN SWAIN.**  
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### A VOICE OF SEVENTY SIX.

The Newburg (N. Y.) Gazette contains the following eloquent letter from Benjamin Eaton, one of the Life Guards of Gen. Washington.

### To the Descendants of Revolutionary Soldiers:

An old soldier of the Continental Army asks for the last time to speak to his countrymen. During the suffering service of the Revolution I was in sixteen engagements, and was one of the little band who volunteered under Sullivan to destroy the Six Nations Indians. I was one of that small company selected as the Life Guard of George Washington—but two of us are now living. I was at the tough siege of Yorktown, at Valley Forge, Mocomouth, and thirteen other hard battles, and saw Cornwallis surrender to our old General. My service ceased only with the war. After all this hardship and suffering, in the street when I go out in my old age to see the happiness I have helped to give you, I am pointed at as a British Tory—yes, a British Tory—I have said nothing when I have been told so, but have silently thought that my old General would never have picked out a Tory to form one of his Life Guard, nor would a Tory have suffered what I have suffered for you. This abuse has been shamefully heaped upon one of your old soldiers because he is what he was when the war broke out, and what Washington told us we must always be when he shook hands with us as we were all going home. I was a Whig in the Revolution, have been one ever since, and am one now. As a Whig I enlisted for the whole war, was in favor with the other Whigs of Thomas Jefferson, went with the party for James Madison, was in favor of the last war, and to be consistent in my last vote, must give it for General Harrison. He is a brave man, and was never known wherever he has been to take a penny from his neighbor or the Government that was not fairly his. We have trod over the same ground fighting for liberty. His father (he was one of the Revolution) signed our Independence toll, and then we all went out together to fight for it, and we proved it was true.

It really appears to me that this cannot be the same government that our old soldiers helped Washington to put up here. We fought to have a Government as different from any in Europe as we could make it. Well, we done it, and until lately things have all gone on smoothly, and Europe was beginning to get ashamed of the way she made slaves of her subjects by making them work and toil for seven poor cents a day with a Standing Army over them to force them to it. But our President now tells the people that things have gone wrong since the Old War, and that there are twenty-three miserable governments in Europe where the Kings wear crowns and rich purple, and the poor people

rage, that we mist fashion after them if we want to be happy and prosperous! We had English laws here once, and they were the best in Europe, but we couldn't stand them and we put them under our feet. We used to work for more money then, and we cannot do it again. Working for a few cents a day may do for slaves, but not for freemen whose liberty cost more blood than liberty ever cost before; why, the very first thing that started the old war was the Standing Army that the King kept quartered on us; we told him that we wanted no soldiers over us in time of peace, but he refused to mind us and I saw Lord Cornwallis surrender up a part of them to honest George Washington. Our President now proposes to have a standing force—what for?—Be ware!

Jefferson never asked for armed men to protect him or elevate his successor. Madison asked for them only in the time of the late war, and warned the people when he left his office to be careful about keeping soldiers in time of peace. Our streets are filled with idlers who were active laborers once when employment was to be had. The men of enterprise who once employed them have been ruined by the government. And now these honest but unemployed laborers are told by the government that when they go to work again they must do it for a few cents a day—the labor must be as cheap here as it is among the slaves of Cuba or the slaves of Europe. Ambition and ignorance on the part of our Government have shut up our shops and stores, scattered our ships, filled our streets with idleness and bankruptcy, and given no encouragement to the farmer as he looks at his grain. Are not these things so? You know they are, and I have no motive in saying what may be false—I am too far advanced for office or any thing else but death—it will soon be here. My little pension, and I thank you for it, will soon stop and I go home with the rest of the Life Guards. There is one remedy only for the safety of the country I have served. Put other men to stand at the tiller and round the cables, and you will soon go back on the old Constitutional track. Gen. Harrison is honest, he never deceived you and he never lost a battle, and the People won't let him loose this. Accept my advice and you all have my blessing—my advice is that all of you become the Life Guards of the country, and my blessing is that your old age may have less fears for liberty than mine.

BENJAMIN EATON,

One of the ten surviving Life Guards of George Washington.  
Newburg, N. Y. Aug. 23, 1840.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

#### FOR THE CITIZEN.

No. VII.

#### FISHER, AND HIS CIRCULAR.

Mr. Editor: You will permit me to resume my strictures on Mr. Fisher and his Circular. My last left him at the beginning of his chapter on the "Presidential Election." He cannot, he says, under any circumstances, go for Gen. Harrison. He is an "old man," "he is a Federalist; he is an Abolitionist." I suppose he would have added, "he is a Coward," and a dotard, shut up in a cage by a committee of his friends, but for the reason that his fellow laborers in this great work of slander and detraction have done such ample justice to the subject.

There are some minor objections rather impudently lodged into the Circular, of which I shall take no notice; and the author and his admirers will excuse my brevity as to the three above enumerated.

First, then, Gen. Harrison is an "old man," is he?—O yes, says Mr. Fisher; "if he ever was in the prime of life, or possessed the necessary mental or physical qualifications for President, it is impossible he should now possess them, having nearly lived on the time allotted to man, three score and ten years."

Now, what seems to give peculiar force to this objection, in Mr. Fisher's estimation, is, that "all Europe give signs of approaching convulsions." And in the event of troubles in that quarter, we want to have such a man as Martin Van Buren at the head of the nation, "who is now in the full vigor of body and intellect." Truly, I could wish the gentleman had been a little more explicit as to the nature of those signs in Europe, or at least told us in what kingdom or empire they are becoming most portentous. Is it the Autocrat of all the Russias threatening the infraction of some treaty with the United States? Or is it some Mal administration of his own government, foolishly experimenting on the currency, wasting his treasures with a profuse and profligate hand? Or encouraging the introduction of Negroes as witnesses into his courts of Judicature against white men,—which should justly bring that potentate into the care of his country? And for which he deserves to have Mr. Van Buren to set the dogs on him? Perhaps he thinks it will be necessary yet to tug the ears of John Bull before he will keep on his own side of the North-Eastern Boundary.—Or is his most catholic majesty, the King of the French, tolerating some *fashions* in Paris, not sanctioned by the *beau monde* of Kinderhook? If this is indeed the case, Louis Philippe would no doubt think it fully as *polite*, safe, and as honorable to contend in arms with the Hero of the Thames, old as he is, as to have Monsieur Van Buren with a pack of Cuba-Curs worrying his French men; so that this formidable objection of yours is, *Estimé* only justified by the fact that whatever we might have lost in point of national security would be made up in national honor.—In the event of foreign collisions by "preferring under any circumstances," Gen. Harrison to Mr. Van Buren, with all his sons of B—s, foreign and domestic, he could muster into the service.

Hoping your objection on "sober second thought," will be entirely removed as to the age of Gen. Harrison, I will pass to that founded on his principles. You say "he is a federalist," wore a black-cockade, supported the Alien and Sedition Laws, and the measures of the reign of terror." What is here wanting in proof you seem disposed to fill up by assertion. "John Randolph (some twenty years ago) called him a federalist, and he did not deny it." And this is one of your strongest proofs. You here show but little of the professional tact of your brethren of the Bar, to offer a witness whom you have yourself discredited; for you have denounced this same unprincipled John Randolph as a federalist scores of times. Indeed, sir, you have mouthed this term over and over, and applied it indiscriminately to all who have ever opposed your insidious schemes for self-aggrandizement, till it amounts to presumptive proof that it is done for the purpose of diverting suspicion from its true center—your own dear self. But it turns out we have on this occasion more than presumptive proof that this term in its most offensive sense, properly applies with its full force, to Charles Fisher, the writer of the Circular under notice. Let us see: so late as 1820 you solemnly, in a string of Resolutions drawn by your own hand, and of which you boasted the authors up to the time when you found yourself elected to Congress,—denounced Mr. Van Buren as a Federalist. In 1839 you went into Congress, received the fraternal embrace of this federalist, co-operated in some of the most daring federal

measures ever attempted to be fastened on these United Republics; you wrote for them; speeched in their favor; and finally came out with your Circular and tell us you go for this King of federalists for the next President! And all this without any explanation or apology for the malediction pronounced against him in your Salisbury Resolutions, and repeated a thousand times in your electioneering speeches.

But Gen. Harrison is an abolitionist. You do not, it is true, say this in so many direct words; you say "he is unsound on this subject; that he was nominated by the abolitionists, who mustered strong in the Harrisburg Convention, forced Clay off the track, and forced Harrison on." Your equivocation here, and your effort to preserve for yourself a cowardly retreat, is well expressed by some Poet in the following couplets: His oath, if he were called upon by law, To swear to some enormity he saw, For want of prominence and just relief, Would hang an honest man and save a thief.

Why were you so squeamish? You might as well have asserted that Harrison is an abolitionist, for you assert quite as palpable a falsehood, and what you knew quite as well at the time to be false—namely, "that the abolitionists mustered strong in the Harrisburg Convention, forced Clay off the track, and forced Harrison on." Now if you did not know that this statement of yours was false; you are to be pitied for your ignorance; and if you did, you are to be despised for your dishonesty. So you may take which horn of the dilemma you please.

I am now done with Mr. Fisher and his Circular. The task has been any thing but a pleasant one. To be compelled so to speak of a man occupying the station he does, demands an apology to the reader; and I hope a sufficient one will be found in the fool-hardy manner with which he persists in reiterating those foul slanders manufactured by the basest men in the country, on the character of Gen. Harrison, and mouthed over by such men as Kendall, Blair and Loring, until all honest and intelligent men of their own party recoil from them with disgust. A further apology may be necessary to such as have said that it is giving him an undue consequence now to notice his circular; that silent contempt is all he deserves in a district where his political hypocrisy has defrauded so many of their votes. Such I hope will excuse me for merely holding him up by the nap of the neck until I would give him such brief castigation as his p—yism deserved. I shall now drop him to sink again into his native insignificance, from which alone his political duplicity once raised him.

CLITUS.

#### FOR THE CITIZEN.

#### WHIG MEETING IN FRANKLINVILLE.

Public notice having been previously given, a respectable number of citizens of Franklinville and the neighborhood, in Randolph County N. C., assembled on the 24th. September, 1840. Elisha Coffin Esq. was called to the chair, and Alexander S. Horney appointed Secretary. The object of the meeting being explained from the Chair, George Makepeace Esq. delivered an able and eloquent address, showing the corruption of the Administration of the general Government ever since Gen. Jackson came into office up to the present time.

A. S. Horney then introduced the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

(The Preamble, though excellent, is necessarily omitted in these proceedings for want of room.)

Ed. Crr.

*Resolved*, That we approve the nomination of William Henry Harrison and John Tyler for President and Vice President of the United States; and that we will use all fair and honorable means to promote their Election in November next.

2nd. That there may be a great deal done for Harrison, Tyler and Reform, by the formation of Harrison Associations in every part of the country.

3rd. That we will form an Association at this place to be called the Franklinville Tippecanoe Club.

4th. That we highly approve of the State Convention to take place at Raleigh on the 5th of October; and that we will send 17 delegates to said Convention.

On motion of Dr. John G. Hanner the Meeting proceeded to appoint delegates to the Raleigh Convention, as follows:

Henry B. Elliott, George Makepeace, Dr. J. G. Hanner, A. S. Horney, J. M. Coffin, Jas. Anthony, Thos. Marley, Elisha Coffin, George Perry, Clarkson Coffin, Jas. Marsh, Jos. Swallow, John R. Brown, John B. Troy, Wm. J. Long, John Long, Philip Horney.

On motion of A. S. Horney, it was ordered that a copy of these proceedings be furnished to the Editor of the Southern Citizen for publication.

On motion the Meeting adjourned.

A. S. HORNEY, Sec'y.

#### FOR THE CITIZEN.

#### THE OLD MEN OF RANDOLPH MOVING!

The following letter was recently addressed to Gen. Gray, of this County:

SEPTEMBER 1st, 1840.

GEN. ALEXANDER GRAY.

Dear Sir: We the elderly men of the South-West corner of Randolph county, who, from age, have for some time been exempt from Military duty, wish you and all the elderly men of the County, who are friendly to the election of William Henry Harrison, to fill the highest office within the gift of the people of the United States to meet us at Asheboro' on the 26th of this instant to form a Political Association of old men. We know we have heretofore discharged our military duty; yet we believe we have other duties now to perform.—Hence it is that we propose to meet you as above suggested. We, the Whigs of this corner of the County, believe that the Whigs of these days are moved by the same spirit that the Whigs of '76 were; and we are willing to show it to the World by coming together in open professions of our devotion to the common cause of our beloved country; when we shall have an opportunity of fearlessly interchanging our views of the present administration. We deem it unnecessary here, further to explain the causes of the proposed movement among the Whigs of this corner of the County, than merely to add—we are ALL going for Old Tip.

You have, in times long past and gone, called on us to meet you in the field; you have called on us too to support you at the Ballot Box to fill high and dignified stations. In all these calls we have, as we trust and believe, discharged our duties promptly and faithfully. And our expectations have been fairly met by you; and our confidence never yet been misplaced in you.

Please answer this proposition as you may think best; and let us hear from you soon as convenient.

MICAJAH LASSITER, Sen.,  
ROBERT FAX,  
HILL LASSITER,  
HARDY C. WINSLOW,  
JOSEPH TADLOCK,  
WILLIAM LEWIS,  
DAVIS HICKS, Sen.,  
LINGRUM BIRKHEAD.

ASHEBOROUGH, Sept. 26th, 1840.

According to the proposition contained in the foregoing letter, a large number of old men from various parts of Randolph county assembled together at this place, and gave a general invitation for all persons not engaged in Military duty (it being General Muster) to assemble with them and participate in the proceedings of their meeting.

Col. Zebedee Rush was called to the Chair, and Hugh McCain appointed