

Southern Citizen.

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

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[From the Newbernian.]

A LOST CHILD.

Bachelor's Creek, Craven Co.,
June 3d, 1844.

Mr. Editor: On Wednesday evening the 29th of May, James Riley, son of Mr. Erasmus Wetherington, a very intelligent boy about 7 years of age, was returning home from the public school in district no. 7, and had arrived near to his father's house, when hearing his father's cow bell, he turned aside in order to drive her home, but unfortunately missing his way in the rear of a large pond, and it coming on dark, was lost in the woods. Hearing some one hallowing, and supposing it to be his father calling him, he followed in the direction of the sound; it proved to be a neighbor calling his hogs. This led him in an entirely opposite direction from his home. Taking the first path he came to, he was led off four or five miles from home. He was heard about 9 o'clock at night by a free person of colour, but he supposing nothing wrong, did not go to his assistance. From the fact that his father and mother had told him to go to a neighbor's and stay all night in case of rain, they had no idea of his being lost, until the next morning about sun rise, when they were told by a neighbor that he had seen him the night before near his father's house.— This was the first information he had of his child's being lost. The news was spread immediately, and search made. His tracks were found and followed.— He was tracked backward and forward for some time, but at length all traces of him were lost. About 25 or 30 persons on horseback and on foot were in search of him all that day, but without success. The next day as the news was spread the company increased, and the woods were thoroughly searched, but still to no purpose. The company broke up at night to meet at 6 o'clock the next morning. Some 60 or 70 persons, about 30 of them on horseback, assembled—all feeling the deepest interest, as well on account of the almost distracted state of the mother's mind, as for the safety of the child. The company as before separated and went in different directions, all anxiously bent on finding the child if possible. Nothing was heard or seen of the lost boy, until about one o'clock as two of the gentlemen in search of the child were sitting down to rest about a mile within a pocoson,—(we can't make out the name of the pocoson)—they fancied they heard a noise at some distance. On calling they could distinguish a human voice answering them.— They kept on in the direction of the sound and at length saw the lost boy coming towards them. As may be supposed, they were overjoyed at being able at last to save the little fellow from so sad a fate as threatened him, and restore him again to his distressed parents. They immediately fired their guns as a signal of their good fortune to the rest of the company. Nearly all that were out on the search soon assembled, the father of the child among the rest, and to the number of 60 or more went in a body to restore the little fellow to his almost heart broken mother. The joy of the parents may be more easily imagined than described. To the honor of

the company be it said, that there was scarcely one that did not shed tears of joy at the happy event. The child had been lost two days and three nights.— He had been that time entirely without food; and it is a little remarkable, he retained his senses and recollection perfectly. As soon as he came in sight of the gentlemen who found him, he recognized one of them (Mr. Taylor) immediately, and said to him, "I am lost, please carry me home." He recollected and could tell nearly every thing that took place in regard to himself, from the time he was lost. He had his school bag and book with him when found, and during the morning had set down in the sun to dry his book, which had been wet in the rain the night before. He was shockingly scratched and wounded by the briars. It is surprising that he stood his wandering and abstinence as well as he did. He is now doing very well. He had a narrow escape in several respects. Mr. Taylor and Glover, the two gentlemen who found him, noticed the tracks of a very large bear that had gone into the pocoson since the rain that fell the night before he was found. Too much praise cannot be given to the free persons of colour in the neighborhood for the prompt and efficient aid they rendered in searching for the lost child. M. C. BOGGS.

[From the Raleigh Register.]

MR. CLAY'S SPEECH, DELIVERED IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, APRIL 13th, 1844.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF NORTH CAROLINA:

A long cherished object of my heart is accomplished. I am at your Capital and in the midst of you. I have looked forward to this my first visit to North Carolina, with anxious wishes, and with high expectations of great gratification; and I am happy to say that my fondest anticipations have been more than realized. Wherever I have passed on my way to your city, wherever I have stopped, at the depots of rail roads, in country, town or village, it has been my good fortune to receive the warmest demonstrations of respect and kindness, from all parties, from both sexes, and from every age; but no where have I met, no where had I expected such a distinguished reception, and such enthusiastic greetings as those with which my arrival here has been attended. I am rejoiced to be with you this day, to stand surrounded by you in the shade of this magnificent Capitol, a noble monument of your public liberality and taste; and while my grateful heart has been warmed, by the thrilling grasp of each out stretched hand, and my eye cheered by the smiles and beauty of the fair daughters of North Carolina, who have honored this occasion by their presence, I cannot but rejoice, and I do rejoice, that I am an American citizen; and feel that, though far removed from my immediate home and friends, yet, yet I tread here the soil of my own country, am in the midst of my friends and countrymen, and can exclaim in the language of the Scottish bard, that this "is indeed my own, my native land." I own that I have been truly and greatly, but agreeably surprised. I had expected to find some hundreds, perhaps a few thousands assembled here to meet and greet me. I did not expect to witness such an outpouring. I did not expect to see the whole State congregated together; but here it is! From the mountains and from the sea board—from the extremities and from the centre, I see around me the sons and the daughters of the good old North State! A State which has earned this estimable title by the purity, simplicity, and efficiency of its institutions—by its uniform patriotism and inflexible virtue; by its quiet, unobtrusive, and unambitious demeanor, and by its steady and firm attachment to the Union, of which it is one of the truest props and pillars—a noble title, of which although it is not proud, its sister States may well envy and emulate her. For these hearty manifestations of your respect and esteem, I thank you all. I thank my fair countrywomen for gracing this meeting by their countenance and presence. I thank your worthy Chief Magistrate for the generous man-

ner in which he has represented your hospitality. I thank the various Committees for the kindness and attention which I have received at their hands, and particularly the Committee who did me the honor to meet me on the borders of your State and escort me to this City. I am here, fellow-citizens, in compliance with your own summons. Warm and repeated invitations to visit this State and my own ardent desire to see it, to form the acquaintance and to share the hospitalities of its citizens, have brought me in your presence. I have come with objects, exclusively social and friendly. I have come upon no political errand. I seek to change no man's opinion, to shake no man's allegiance to his party. Satisfied and contented with the opinions which I have formed upon public affairs, after thorough investigation and full deliberation, I am willing to leave every other man in the undisturbed possession of his opinions. It is one of our great privileges, in a free country, to form our own opinions upon all matters of public concern. Claiming the exercise of it for myself I am ever ready to accord to others equal freedom in exercising it for themselves. But, inasmuch as the manner in which we may exercise the rights, appertaining to us, may exert, reciprocally, an influence upon each other for good or for evil, we owe the mutual duty of considering fairly, fully, and disinterestedly, all measures of public policy which may be proposed for adoption.

Although, fellow-citizens, I have truly said that I have not come to your State with any political aims or expectations, I am aware of the general expectation, entertained here, that I should embrace the occasion to make some exposition of my sentiments and views in respect to public affairs. I do not feel at liberty to disappoint this expectation. And yet I must declare, with perfect truth, that I have not and never had any taste for these public addresses. I have always found them irksome and unpleasant. I have not disliked public speaking, in legislative halls, on public measures affecting the welfare of my country, or before the tribunals of justice.— It has been public speaking, in which there was a precise and well defined object to be pursued, by a train of thought and argument, adapted to its attainment.

Without presuming to prescribe to anybody else the course which he ought to pursue in forming his judgment upon political parties, public measures, and the principles which ought to guide us, I will state my own. In respect to political parties, of which I have seen many, in this country, during a life which is now considerably protracted, I believe in the main, most of them think, or have persuaded themselves to believe that they are aiming at the happiness of their country. Their duties and their interests, well understood, must necessarily urge them to promote its welfare. They are, it is true, often deceived, deceived by their own passions and prejudices, and still more by interested demagogues, who cloak and conceal their sinister designs. Political parties, according to my humble opinion of their legitimate sphere of action, ought to be regarded as nothing more than instruments, or means, subordinate, but important instruments or means, in effecting the great purposes of a wise administration of government; highly useful when not factious and controlled by public virtue and patriotism; but, when country is lost sight of, and the interests of the party become paramount to the interests of the country, when the government is seized by a party and is not administered for the benefit of the people, and the whole people, but to advance the purposes, and selfish aims of itself, or rather of its leaders, then is such a party, whatever may be the popular name it may assume, highly detrimental and dangerous. I am a Whig, warmly attached to the party, which bears that respected name, from a thorough persuasion that its principles and policy are best calculated to secure the happiness and prosperity of our common country; but, if I believed otherwise, if I were convinced that it sought party or individual aggrandizement, and not the public good, I would instantly and forever abandon it, whatever might be the consequences to myself, or whatever the

regrets which I might feel in separating from veteran friends. My opinions upon great and leading measures of public policy have become settled convictions, and I am a Whig because that party seeks the establishment of those measures. In determining with which of the two great parties of the country, I ought to be connected, I have been governed by a full consideration, and fair comparison, of the tendency of their respective principles, measures, conduct and views. There is one prominent and characteristic difference between the two parties, which eminently distinguishes them, and which, if there were no other, would be sufficient to decide my judgment.— and that is, the respect and deference uniformly displayed by the one, and the disregard and contempt exhibited by the other to the constitution, to the laws and to public authority. In a country where a free and self-government is established, it should be the pleasure, as it is the bounden duty, of every citizen to stand by and uphold the constitution and laws, and support the public authority; because they are his constitution—his laws, and the public authority emanates from his will. Having concurred by the exercise of his privileges, in the adoption of the constitution, and in the passage of the laws, any outrage or violation attempted of either ought to be regarded as an offence against himself, an offence against the majesty of the people. In an arbitrary and absolute government, the subject may have some excuse for evading the edicts and ukases of the monarch, because they are not only promulgated, without consulting his will, but sometimes against the wishes and the interests of the people. In that species of government, the power of the bayonet enforces a reluctant obedience to the law. With a free people, the fact that the laws are their laws, ought to supply, in a prompt and voluntary rally to the support of the public authority, a force more peaceful, more powerful, and more reasonable than any derivable from a mercenary soldiery.

It is far from my intention or desire to do the least injustice to the party to which I am opposed; but I think that in asserting the characteristic difference between the two parties which I have done, I am fully borne out by facts, to some of which, only, on this occasion, can I refer, and these shall all be of a recent nature.

The first, to which I shall call your attention, has occurred during the present session of Congress. The variety in the mode of electing members to the House of Representatives of the United States, some being chosen by whole States, and others by separate districts, was long a subject of deep and general complaint. It gave to the States unequal power in the councils of the nation. Mississippi or New Hampshire, for example, by a general ticket, securing the election of its members to the House of Representatives, all of one political party, might acquire more power, in that House, than the State of New York, which, electing its members by districts, might return an equal or nearly an equal number of members of both parties.—

According to the general ticket system, it is impossible that the elective franchise can be exercised with the same discretion and judgment as under the district system. The elector cannot possess the same opportunity, under the one system as under the other, of becoming acquainted with and ascertaining the capacity and fidelity of the candidate for his suffrage. An elector, residing in one extreme of the State, cannot be presumed to know a candidate living at a distance from him, perhaps at the other extreme. By the general ticket, the minority in a State is completely smothered. From these, and other views of the subject, it has been long a patriotic wish entertained that there should be some uniform mode, both of electing members to the House of Representatives and choosing electors of President and Vice President. I recollect well, some twenty years ago, when public opinion appeared to be almost unanimous upon this subject. Well, the last Whig Congress, in order to prevent the abuses, and to correct the inequality, arising out of the diverse modes of electing members of the House of Representatives, passed an act requiring that it

should be uniform and by districts.— This act was in conformity with an express grant of power contained in the constitution of the United States, which declares that "the times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators, and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but, the Congress may, at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators." With that reasonable, equal, and just act of Congress, every Whig State, whose Legislature assembled in time after its passage, strictly complied, and laid off their respective States into districts accordingly. But the four States, with Democratic Legislatures, of Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, and New Hampshire refused to conform to the law, treated it with contemptuous neglect, and suffered the elections for members of the House of Representatives to proceed, in total disregard of its provisions. This was a new species of nullification, not less reprehensible than that which was attempted formerly in another State, though admitting of a more easy and peaceful remedy. That remedy was to refuse to allow the members, returned from the four States, to take their seats in the House of Representatives, which they had no constitutional or legal right to occupy. That question the present House of Representatives had to decide. But it was predicted, long before they assembled, confidently predicted, that the members from the four refractory States, would be allowed to take their seats, the constitution and the law notwithstanding. Why was it so predicted? Was it not because it was known, from the general character and conduct of the dominant party, in the House, that it would not hesitate to trample under foot both law and constitution, if necessary to the accomplishment of a party object? Accordingly, the question recently came up in the House, and the members from the four States were admitted to their seats. And what, fellow citizens, do you suppose was the process of reasoning by which this most extraordinary result was brought about? Congress you have seen is invested with unlimited power to make regulations as to the times, places, and manner of holding elections for representatives, or to alter those which might have been previously made by the State Legislatures. There is nothing in the grant of the power, which enjoins upon Congress to exercise the whole of it, or none. Considerations of obvious convenience concur in leaving to the several States themselves, the fixation of the times and places of holding those elections. In that, each State may be governed by its sense of its own convenience, without injuriously affecting other States. But it is different with the manner of holding elections, that is whether it be by general ticket or by the district system. If some States elect by a general ticket, it gives to them an undue advantage over those States which elect by the district system. The manner, therefore, of holding elections was a fit subject, and the only fit subject contained in the grant of power, for Congressional legislation. If Congress had legislated beyond that, it would have overreached the convenience and necessity of the case. But the dominant party, in the present House of Representatives, have strangely assumed, that Congress could not execute a part of the granted power, without the major. According to their logic the major does not include the minor. In their view Government cannot execute a part of a power with which it is entrusted without it executes the whole of a power vested in it. If this principle be true, when applied to a part of the Constitution, it would be equally true in its application to the whole constitution; but there are many parts of the constitution that never have been and probably never will be executed. And, if the doctrine of the dominant party, in the House of Representatives be sound, all the laws enacted by Congress since the commencement of the Government are null and void, because Congress has not executed all the powers of Government with which it is entrusted. The doctrine, applied to the enjoyment of private property, would restrain a man from using any part of his property, unless he used the whole of a