TO THE PEOPLE

## NORTH CAROLINA.

FELLOW-CITIZENS :- The Whig Central

nittee feel it their duty to call your atention to a very remarkable document, which appeared in the semi-weekly Globe of stember 2d. It bears the form of a Reort or Address to the " Democratic State entral Committee of North Carolina," and s ushered to the notice of the public by that body, in a prefatory statement, containing a brief account of the birth and services of J. K. Polk, and a lofty eulogy upon the distintinguished reputation and talents of the Hon. Wm. Il. Haywool, the nuther of the Report, with special reference to his qualities as a 4 truthful, patient, and accurate investigator of facts and evidence." This gentleman, whilst he seems to concur in the applause bestawed upon Mr. Polk, interposes a modest disclaimer of the particular merits imputed to himself, and addresses himself to the performance of what hecalls his "pious task," with an ingenuity and special pleading so characteristic of one who has a professional retainer, as proves that hedid not consider himself employed by the Committee so much to ascertain the truth, as to support a cause to which none probably is more aware, than himself, that truth is not always

the best friend. Both he and the Committee affect to moved with horror and indignation at what they consider a charge of Toryism, wantonly brought forward by the Whigs against Ezekiel Polk, the grandfather of the Demoeratic candidate for the Presidency. Now these gentlemen surely know, and certainly could not have forgotten, that the Whigs did 1778. (See statement of John Smith and by renouncing the character of Whigs-by the same with those of Captain Ezekiel Polk. which Ezekiel Polk pursued. If it was right called upon you to say whether his descend not first move in this matter. They knew, Thomas Gribble published and referred to in submitting to the British Commander in so to act, it could not be wrong to say when ant has any claims upon his country, in conlusions made to the political character of Eze. lieved that any Captain's Company in Meck. giance to the King; and so the protection Polk, or Charles, or Thomas Polk, his brothkiel Polk, came from themselves. That Gen. lenburg, would have chosen a man who resid. was given to those only, who having been in ers, or old Thomas Polk, their father, could a qualification upon an oath of allegiance, forward Certificates, not upon oath, which Saunders represented James K. Polk as the ed in another Colony to represent and bind arms for their country, or avowed Whigs aban. either of them have been compelled to take would be dangerous to the country and disdescendant of a signer of the Mecklenburg them. In 1830, the General Assembly of doned her cause, laid down their arms, and protection as a British subject? Could any graceful to the zitizen it could only be because Tory, admit the fact the he took a British Declaration of Independence, and that by this state appointed a Committee to examine declared them to such a degra. the conduct of Ezekiel Polk was discredita- protection under the circumstances we have him and by the Democratic Press, support and arrange for publication all documents re. This is abundantly proved by the history dation? Not the fear of instant death prob. ble and traincrous. But what is toryism but stated, and then complain, that we have aswas claimed for him on account of the Rev. lating to the Mecklenburg Declaration. They and documents of the revo. sailed the character of the dead. Is the comolutionary services of his ancestors. It was made a Report, submitting among other fore, when Lord Cornwallis, having grantin reply to these statements and in refutation things, a copy, preceded by a list of "the ed pretection to some militia-men, afterof these claims, that the Whigs felt them names of the Delegates present," consisting wards captured them at Camden, they were selves both justified and bound to bring the of thirty-six, and the name of Ezekiel Polk executed as traitors taken in arms: and truth, in relation to this matter, before the is not among them. (See pamphlet publish- not treated as prisoners of war. By his Pronublic. And we ask you, fellow-citizens, if ed by the Governor under authority of the clamation, he directed the Estate, both real in this they were not right? If a descent General Assembly, page 11.) This Com- and personal, to be sequestered, of all the infrom a signer of the Mecklenburg Declara- mittee consisted of Thomas G. Polk, Chair- habitants "who were actually in arms or tion, constitutes a claim upon the American man, John Bragg, Evan Alexander, Louis who had abandoned their plantations to join public, then the want of such descent nullifies D. Henry, and Alex. McNeill. Now, it was or support the army, and of all those who by that claim; and if Mr. Polk may justly de- the duty of these gentlemen to discover and an open avowal of what he termed rebellious mand consideration and confidence, because record the name of every person who took principles should manifest their perseverance his ancestor faithfully served his country du. part in those glorious proceedings, and espe- in opposing the re-establishing of Royal auring the war of the Revolution, then, to shew bially to preserve the names of the Delegates. thority." (See Marshall's Life of Washing. that his ancestor took part with the enemies Do you doubt that that duty was faithfully ton, Vol. 4. chap. 7.) And the historian inof his country, or in a question between his performed? Mr. Henry, the Chairman of forms us, that these measures were taken "to property and that country, preferred the for- the present Democratic Central Committee, break the spirit of Independence." (See also mer to the latter-that he was either a Tory was a member of that Committee and signed 7th Vol. of Washington's writings p.556 et ern Whigs, but the certificates published by or an indifferent supporter of the Revolution, the Report. Thos. G. Polk, the Chairman, seq.) while he bore a commission in the army embo was a grand nephew of Ezckiel Polk, and In order, therefore, to obtain and preserve Press, shew that the same opinions of his died for its support-surely, to shew these, or his father, William Polk, was then living - the benefit of his " protection," it was nesither of these, is not only a fair, but a just Now, if Ezekiel Polk was a Delegate, it was cessary for Ezekiel Polk to submit to the authe Whigs have undertaken to do. They did and report it, and one of them must have British subject"-to remain at home on his not erantonly bring forward the subject of Eze. been desirous, from his connection by blood plantation, to abstain from joining or supportkiel Polk's character. That character was with Ezekiel Polk, to insert his name if it ing the armies of his country, and not to exfirst made an issue before the American pub. could be done with truth; and William Polk, press opinions adverse to the restoration of tie by the supporters of James K. Polk, and then living, could have given information of the Royal authority. All this he did-he an tion." now when they find their pretensions dispra. the fact, if by any mistake or oversight his officer, holding a commission in the service, ved, and feel that they have put forward a tonic before the people which recoils upon themselves, it is with a very poor grace they Ezekiel Polk was not an inhabitant of Meck- effect, as far as his presence and example attempt to escape the just consequences of their own mistake, by canting about a " calmpious charge, the offspring of the demon spirit of party." It is with a very poor now set up for him. He was then neither a And what was the motive which urged him grace indeed, when we remember that these very men, four years ago, racked their inventions for every " false and calumnious charge" by which they hoped to destroy the peace and blast the character of the virtuous and natrictic Harrison; and when now, the "demon spirit of their party" rests not day nor ight, in malignant efforts to blacken the ght and glorious reputation of the great ader of the Whig party, and who, if their ower were equal to their venom, would for ever blot the name of Clay from the bright roll of American worthies, in which it shines assertion then, it appears that he was neither to the service of his country at the first op. already ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British, this noble Wing manually a leady ravaged by the British and the was a nonwith a lustre second only to that of Washing. a Delegate nor a Signer—that he was a non- portunity he has. But no less reason will a these, they maintained themselves in it, ed) he "took a lead."

d on these alone, do they now rely in the We now come to the second assertion made

from her excellence. Even the sun, himself, battle, and another bearing to his grave more than one glorious scar, the evidence at once of his devotion and his valor-these names shed a glory upon the family which cannot be obscured by the misdeeds of their collate. ral relative, Ezckiel Polk. Bear in mind then, fellow-citizens, that

the matter in question involves the character neither of North Carolina, nor of the Polk family. It is merely an inquiry into the Rev. olutionary conduct of Ezekiel Polk, and that inquiry instituted, not at the instance of the Whig party, but rendered necessary by two assertions put forward by the Democratic party, viz: that James K. Polk was a descendant of a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration; secondly, that his grandfather was a distinguished Whig of the Revolution. The first assertion was denied by the Whigs. Has it been supported? So far from it, it is now admitted in the very address which we are Leonclusive answer to this demand. This the duty of these two gentlemen to ascertain thority of Cornwallis, professing himself "a name had been omitted in the written docu- and having taken an oath of allegiance to his ments. These two considerations, viz: that his native country-and, in so doing, he gave lenburg, and that his name was not reported would go, to every measure adopted by the to the General Assembly, must by every fair British commander "to break the spirit," as mind be deemed conclusive against the claim the historian says, " of independence."

> signer nor a Delegate. Well what is meant by this! He could not death to dissemble and seem to be a traitor? have voted in choosing Delegates, nor in ac. Not so-had that been the case he would cepting the Declaration, for he was not a cit- have been entitled to other and more favoraizen of the county. If he was present, what ble judgment than we are disposed now to pretence could a citizen of South Carolina pass upon him. The law of the country in have had to interfere in the Mecklenburg pro- accordance with common sense holds that if ceedings? Such interference would have a citizen all under the power of treitors and been the height of presumption, and would to save his life from immediate and imment no doubt have been resented as such by the danger takes part with them, he is not guilty members of the meeting. As to their first of Treason, if he makes his escape or return

these alone, do they now rely in the second description made by the Democratic party, that James K. Polk wrested from them in 1840. Depri- has claims on the score of the faithful servi-

the character of North Carolina, or of the Polk family, should be identified with Ezekiel nial by a number of certificates. We do not sion, merely to save propose to enter into a particular investiga.

George Oliver says of the character of North Carolina during the Revolution had, like other tion of the character denies that charge, considers but voluntarily went quarters, at Chariotte propose to enter into a particular investiga. olina during the Revolution had, like other tion of those certificates, to point out by an states, amongst a glorious hand of Whigs examination of their language the evident some unworthy sons. But this detracts not marks of their having been prepared for the signers, and made to assume the character of to save his property to take prohas spots, but they dim not his brightness .- arguments, rather than the statements of wit-The "Polk family" was a noble band of patriotic Whigs, and the names of Thomas Polk, and is deemed to be useless. The question the elder, the master spirit of the Mecklenbetween our adversaries and ourselves may It is manifest then, that he voluntarily took Polk came into the camp with Jack Paraett, burg movement, and of his sons, Thomas, be disposed of upon admitted facts. It is conand William, and Charles, all of whom fought ceded then, that Ezekiel Polk had a commisgallantly for their country-one falling in sion as second Captain in the South Carolina Revolutionary force, and that in 1780, when Cornwallis overran the southern country " he took a British protection in order to save his property." This will appear by the state. iver, Reuben Hood, George Alexander, Daniel Alexander, John Smith and Thomas Gribble. Now what was necessarily involved in taking a British protection?" As to this the address gives the people no information. On the contrary, 'taking a British protection' is treated as if it was merely receiving a paper from the British Commander directing British soldiers not to molest the Whig who had it ; for the address says-" Tories did not require protection, but Whigs." " None needed the British Commander's protection, after they had been vanquished, except the Whigs he had conquered." Now this was intended to conceal the true character of the noticing, that there were no signers of that transaction, and to make the public believe that Declaration. Was he one of the Delegates protection were given to Revolutionary Whigs cans? What would have been the opinion property; but that when that was in danger, nature of those services, and have produced a by whom the Declaration was made? It is as Whigs. Yet the writer of this address is and conduct of Washington under like cir. he must go over to the enemy and take a Brit. body of evidence, given under oath, showing evident that he was not. In the spring of too well informed not to know the contrary, 1775, Thomas Polk, the elder, then Colonel and indeed, Lord Cornwallis would have been Revolution furnishes a full reply. When his as a British subject. Would such an oath Ezekiel Polk was regarded as in heart a Toof Mecklenburg county, " issued an order to the veriest of simpletons, if he had granted overseer wrote him, that the British required have been received? Would not the exceptly, by those who had the best opportunity of each Captain's Company in the county to elect protections to the avowed enemies of the from his estate a supply of provisions, under tion be considered a timely provise to author knowing the truth-that he voluntarily went two persons" as delegates. At that time King. Is it true, as the address says, that a threat of burning his house and property, rize future treason? Would not a brave and in to Cornwallis under no personal restraint. Ezekiel Polk was not a citizen of North Car. none needed protections except Whigs. But the reply of the noble Patriot was-" Let honorable man have felt insulted, if such an when in no danger of life-and took a proolina. He then resided in South Carolina, how were they obtained? The writer of the them burn ? Yet though his station was alternative had been offered to him? Yet, toction from him, merely to save his property from which he removed to Mecklenburg in address well knows, that they were obtained more exalted, his obligations of duty were this exception describes the very conduct from loss or sequestration. And they have Mr. Haywood's address ) It is not to be be. ish subjects, and by taking a test oath of alle.

to take this course? Was he overpowered But we are told that he " took a lead." by force-compelled by the fear of instant

and in the present ces of his Grand-father as a soldier of the Haywood's Address, has published a declaration that and even ask in the Revolution. In answer to this assertion, the saks never gave that Certificate.

AND COMPANY

Alexander states, that "some Whigs were so exceedingly zealous as to co protection as a British subject, in order to and it was said Barnett had taken him nellow. save his property. It is true Daniel Alexan. ev, but Mr. Alexander considered it a jokeder says, " he had many slaves with a good a very singular juke by the way—and he also wallis, and taken a British protection, he wa deal of other property"-but that makes no difference. The poor man might do to pre- were made to his being sheriff on account of line a Colonel in their service, and therefore serve his little, what the rich man might do to his having taken British protection." It he could not have been then suspected of to keep his wealth. Neither could loose more seems, then, that so far from the Whigs of ryism. It is unnecessary to consider the force ments of six of the witnesses produced by than his all, and the rich officer when he took the present day being singular in deeming of the conclusion, until the fact is established.

Mr. Haywood in his defence: viz. Geo. Ol. arms for his country, had agreed to surrender Ezekiel Polk's conduct equivalent to taryism, from which it is drawn. Mr. Haywood fur

> fact remains, that Ezekiel Polk preferred his cy might forgive justice must pronounce a proof, that after Ezekiel Polk took a British the path of duty, when it demanded the sur- the subject. It may be brought to a very Assembly, a Culonel in the service. Until

To consider this conduct as Torvism, Mr. Haywood thinks the judgment merely of modhim, as well as those published by the Whig conduct was formed by Revolutionary Whigs.

as rank Torvism as if he had been fighting against the country.

Dan Alexander swears, that "he has repeatedly heard his father relate to himself and

their property in comparison for a moment with the good of their country. When Gen, Marion hesitamembers of the meeting. As to their first of Treason, if he make size each only to the bright of American worthles, in which it shines a lustro second only to that of Washing, For such a party to complain of false.

For such a party to complain of false, and calcumy, is an insult to the public dispense. By false professions and calcumy, is an insult to the public dispense, they first obtained powers to the meeting, and all that meeting, and all that he did results in the identified claim that, in some way or other (how totally unexplainted a heart of her social accuracy and devotion, on his country a tit stake. No, sit, if it were a palace, it should go." (Soo Horty's Like of these, they maintained the meeting and of the in the party in the second assertion made on the source what he indignation of the party, that James K. Polk are more to recover what he indignation of the party, that James K. Polk are more to recover what he indignation of the party, that James K. Polk are more particularly should be stored to first devoted, and accurate the first option then, it appears that he was neither as a pole of the service of his country at the first option then, it appears that he was neither as a pole of the service of his country and the first option to the service of his country and the first option to the service of the descried his country to save his property.

year that Fzekiel Polk took protection) he

And even Mr. Haywood's witness, Daniel

all, if needful, for his country's good. that opinion harmonizes remarkably with their nishes no evidence of this fact. He says it is Let the matter be sifted as it may; let the brother Whigs of the revolution. Indeed admitted. Where, and by whom admitt Democratic Committee spread, over it what what other opinion could be formed? What We do not admit it-we know of no eviden mantle of charity their 'piety' may furnish, but party could deem such an act otherwise to establish it, and it is easily enpable of proof. and after their task is fully done the simple than highly discreditable, which though mer- if true. Let Mr. Haywood produce the money to his country, and could not fullow orime? It is useless to prolong discussion on prolection, he was appointed by the General render, or even the hazzard of all he had. simple test. It depends upon the nature of this is proved, it is idle to enquire what infer-Was this the conduct of a true friend-a that allegiance which a citizen owes to his ence should be drawn from it. bold friend-a steadfast friend of his country's country and a soldier to his standard. Sup. In conclusion Fellow Cilizens, we submit heart but feels the supposition to involve an ful to her, and serve faithfully under her stan. which they claim support for his grand-son

freedom? What would have been said, had pose that when Ezekiel Polk was called on to that the Revolutionary character and services Gen. Washington taken protection, to save take the oath of allegiance to his country, he of Ezeklel Polk were first brought forward his estate on the Potomac? What American had proposed to swear that he would be faith- by the Democratic Party as grounds upon insult, on that greatest and best of Ameri. dard at all hazards, except the loss of his that the Whigs instituted an inquiry into the cumstances? A fact during the War of the ish protection, and act while the danger lasted beyond reasonable controversy, that in 1780. ty.\* No! When these men embarked in lution? Hence, the difference in the judg. plaint well founded? What they asserted in the cause of their country, in the times which ment passed upon his conduct by the Whigs favor of Ezekiel Polk was either to the purtried men's souls, they first sat down and and Democrats, depends on the difference be- pose in this canvass, or it was not. If it was counted the cost. They went into the con. tween those parties respectively, in their no- to the purpose, were we to permit the people flict resolved on death or victory, and on the tions of allegiance. The latter hold (if Mr. to be imposed upon by unfounded assertions miscrable pittance of property which might H. correctly expounds their doctrine) a tacit of merits which did not exist? Were we be at stake, cast not a thought away. O! exception in that obligation, by which a citi. bound to submit in silence, when an attempt how different the conduct and feelings of zen is allowed to leave his country, and a sol. was made to adorn a Tory of the Revolution Ezekiel Polk. While his property was se- dier his standard, when this is necessary to with the honors due only to a consistent Pate cure, and Cornwallis at a distance, none more save his property. We hold the obligation riot and Soldier, and to invoke for his dedevoted to the cause than he, but when Corn. to be universal in its requirements, and that scendant that support for the first office in wallis came, when his estate was to be se- the citizen and soldier is bound to adhere to the Nation, which he cannot claim for any questered, he bent the knee, he took protec. his country, though he should thereby louse merits of his own? On the contrary were tion, and was, or seemed to be, a tribed sub. all he has. Hence they justify, and we con. we not bound to place the truth before you demn Ezekiel Polk. Let the Freemen and so far as we were able to ascertain it, and Patriots of North Carolina determine which leave James K. Polk to stand before you is right. To them we cheerfully submit the without the glory of a Revulutionary ancestry question. which he did not possess, and to succeed ou To discredit the charge of toryism alleged fuil, according to his own character and seragainst Ezekiel Polk, Mr. Haywood offers vices? But if this matter was not material two arguments, which may be shortly dispos. - if it is a matter of no consequence whether Andrew Elliott swears that the one opinion of ed of .- The first is this : he publishes Ezekiel James K. Polk claims his descent from a that day was that " Ezekiel Polk was a Tory Polk's commission as second captain in the Patriot or Tory of the Revolution, why was and was in heart and deed an enemy to his Regiment of Rangers, dated 18th June, 1775, it brought forward at all? Why did Gon. Country." William McCoard and Nathan and states that his company formed a part of Saunders sound the praises of his ancestors. Orr swear that they always "heard him bran. Col. Thompson's Regiment which received and why did the Democratic Press echo these ded with being a Tory during the Revolu- the thanks of Congress in July, 1776; and praises to the nation? But we do not admit urges the commission and the vote of thanks this matter to be immaterial. Certainly, James John Brown swears that he learnt from the as full evidence, that Ezekiel Polk was not a K. Polk ought to be visited with no punish. Old Soldiers that Ezekiel Polk was a Tory, tory? Whether his company indeed formed ment for the misdeeds of his ancestors, but and that he took British protection and that a part of Col. Thompson's Regiment we surely when he stands before the Country. all the people considered his taking protection know not, but it required the talents of such claiming the first office in her gift, it is an "a truthful, patient, and accurate investiga- important inquiry, how did his ancestor betor of facts and evidence," as Mr. Haywood have in that Revolution which established our is published to be to discover how a certificate Independence ! And what American, who and vote of 1775 and 1776 can prove that truly loves the reputation of his country, others, that he was one of the men that took | Ezekiel Polk was not a tory in 1780. We, would not feel degraded at seeing its Chief Ezekiel Polk to Guilford as a Tory prisoner, in common with ordinary mortals, had sup. Magistracy filled by one, in whose veins and that when his brother Col. Thomas Polk, posed that evidence could only inform us flows the blood of a Tory-of a Tory not knew that he was there, he said-' damn him, of what was either past or present, and upon principle-not because he thought the I do not want to see him, put him with the that to determine the future, belonged to mother country right, and the colonies other Tories." And Thomas Alexander prophecy. Perhaps the Democratic Commit- wrong, but a Tory upon calculation-who. swears, that he was one of Ezekiel Polk's tee may understand the argument, which is holding a Commission of trust in the service this: Ezekiel Polk had a commission in 75, of his country, and having sworn devotion to \*Even the ladies of the Revolution scorned to put and a vote of thanks in 76—therefore he her cause voluntarily took a protection from could not have been a tory afterwards. Should her enemy as a British subject, in order to good of their country. When Gen, Marion heatta-ted to fire the house of a widow lady, in order to dislodge the enemy, because the property had been remove the stain of treason from the memory between his wealth and his country, forgut ble Wing ma- of his ancestors let him apply to this "accu- the honor of a sol lier, and the duty of a citi-