The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

VOLUME 9. CHARLOTTE, N. C., SEPTEMBER 11, 1860. NUMBER 25.

THOMAS J. HOLTON,
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:

The North Carolina Whig will be afforded to subscribers at TWO DOLLARS in advance; TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS if payment be delayed for three months; and THREE DOLLARS at the end of the year. No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, except at the option of the Editor.

Advertisements inserted at One Dollar per square (16 lines or less, this size type) for the first insertion, and 25 cents for each continuance. Court advertisements and Sheriff's Sales charged 25 per cent higher; and a deduction of 33⅓ per cent. will be made from the regular prices, for advertisers by the year. Advertisements inserted monthly or quarterly, at $1 per square for each time. Semi-monthly 75 cents per square for each time.

Persons sending in their advertisements must mark the number of insertions desired, or they will be inserted until forbid and charged accordingly.

☞ Postmasters are authorized to act as agents.

J. G. WILKINSON & CO.,
DEALERS IN
WATCHES, JEWELRY,
SILVER and PLATED WARE,
AND
FANCY GOODS, &c.
No. 3, Granite Range, opposite the Mansion House,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.
Attention given to Repairing Watches & Jewelry.
June 7, 1859. 13tf

R. W. BECKWITH
HAS CONSTANTLY ON HAND
WATCHES, JEWELRY,
PLATED WARE, &c.
OF THE BEST ENGLISH AND AMERICAN MANUFACTURE.
Call and examine his stock before purchasing elsewhere.

Meckenburg Hotel.
Next to the Post Office

THE subscriber informs the public that having purchased the building known as Mecklenburg Hotel, he has refurnished it and is now prepared to accommodate transient and regular Boarders.

He has good Stables and efficient Ostlers—Horses will be kept by the month or day, or furnished with a single horse, on moderate terms.

JOHN DORAN.
Nov 7, 1859. 33tf

MANSION HOTEL,
IN
SALISBURY.

THE subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to his friends, and the public generally, that he has taken this long established and well known Hotel, and has made every possible preparation to accommodate the business, travelling and visiting portion of the public, in the most satisfactory manner.

Particular attention is paid to his

TABLE,

at every comfort is provided in his

ROOMS.

The STABLES are abundantly supplied and attended by careful ostlers; and to all departments the proprietor gives his personal attention.

A comfortable OMNIBUS runs regularly to the depot on the arrival of the cars.

With these efforts to please, a liberal share of the public patronage is confidently solicited.

WM. ROWZEE.
November 15, 1859. 36tf

"THE UNION,"
ARCH STREET ABOVE THIRD,
PHILADELPHIA.
UPTON S. NEWCOMER, *Proprietor.*

THE undersigned having purchased the interest of his former partner, Evan Evans, in the above Hotel, would call the attention of the public to its convenience for those visiting Philadelphia, either on business or pleasure.

Its situation being but a few steps from the principal avenues of trade, offers inducements to those on business; while to those in search of pleasure, the constantly passing and repassing to way cars and those in close proximity, offer a pleasant ride for the mere nominal sum of half a dime to all places of interest in or about the city.

The Proprietor gives assurance that "The Union" shall be kept with such character as will meet public reputation, and would respectfully solicit North Carolina patronage.

Terms $1.50 per day.

UPTON S. NEWCOMER,
August 16, 1859. 23-1y Proprietor.

Cure for Tetter & Scald Head.

THE subscriber is manufacturing and keeps constantly on hand, Soap for Tetter, Scald Head or Ringworm, and good to wash with for any other skin disease. It will also take stains out of any kind of Clothing. If any person desires to have it to sell again, it can be had at a reasonable price. The Soap has been tried by responsible persons and is said to be a certain cure. The Soap can be had at Dr. E. N. Hutchison & Co.'s Drug Store and from the subscriber.

CHAS. T. EBERHARD.
May 31, 1859. 11tf

J. S. PHILLIPS
MERCHANT TAILOR,

HAVING located in Charlotte, respectfully solicits a share of public patronage.

A complete assortment of Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings always on hand, which will be made to order at the shortest notice, after the latest fashion.

Shop three doors South of the Mansion House.

September 27, 1859. 29tf

WHEAT WANTED.

THE planting community will take notice that their Wheat Crop will be purchased at the Charlotte Steam Flouring Mill, at market prices. Those having Wheat for sale may find it to their advantage to call at the Mill before closing a sale.

JOHN WILKES & CO.
July 2, 1859. 20tf

A LARGE SUPPLY OF
Constable Warrants
JUST PRINTED.

Charlotte Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

THIS COMPANY continues to take risks against loss by fire, on Houses, Goods, Produce, &c., at usual rates.

☞ Office at the Drug Store of E. Nye Hutchison & Co.

OFFICERS.

A. C. STEELE, *President.*
C. OVERMAN, *Vice President.*
E. NYE HUTCHISON, *Sec'y. & Treas'r.*

DIRECTORS.

A. C. STEELE, J. L. BROWN,
M. B. TAYLOR, S. T. WRISTON,
C. OVERMAN, F. SCARR,
WM. JOHNSTON.

JOHN L. BROWN, F. SCARR and S. T. WRISTON, *Executive Committee.*
April 26, 1859. 7tf

MRS. WINSLOW
An experienced Nurse and Female Physician presents to the attention of mothers, her

SOOTHING SYRUP,
FOR CHILDREN TEETHING,

which greatly facilitates the process of teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation—will allay ALL PAIN and spasmodic action, and is

SURE TO REGULATE THE BOWELS.

Depend upon it, mothers, it will give rest to yourselves, and

Relief and Health to your Infants.

We have put up and sold this article for over ten years, and CAN SAY, IN CONFIDENCE AND TRUTH of it, what we have never been able to say of any other medicine—NEVER DAS IT FAILED IN A SINGLE INSTANCE TO EFFECT A CURE when timely used. Never did we know an instance of dissatisfaction by any one who used it. On the contrary, all are delighted with its operations, and speak in terms of commendation of its magical effects and seasonal virtues. We speak in this matter "WHAT WE DO KNOW," after ten years' experience, AND PLEDGE OUR REPUTATION FOR THE FULFILMENT OF WHAT WE HERE DECLARE. In almost every instance where the child is suffering from pain and exhaustion, relief will be found in fifteen or twenty minutes after the syrup is administered.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP.

This valuable preparation is the prescription of one of the most EXPERIENCED and SKILFUL NURSES in New England, and has been used with NEVER FAILING SUCCESS in

THOUSANDS OF CASES.

It not only relieves the child from pain, but invigorates the stomach and bowels, corrects acidity, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It will almost instantly relieve

Griping in the Bowels, and Wind Colic

and overcome convulsions, which, if not relieved, death is the result. We believe this the BEST AND SUREST REMEDY IN THE WORLD, in all cases of DYSENTERY AND DIARRHŒA IN CHILDREN, whether it arises from teething, or from any other cause. We would say to every mother who has a child suffering from any of the foregoing complaints—DO NOT LET YOUR PREJUDICES, NOR THE PREJUDICES OF OTHERS, stand between you and your suffering child, and the relief that will be SURE—yes, ABSOLUTELY SURE—to follow the use of this medicine, if timely used. Full directions for using will accompany each bottle. None genuine unless the fac simile of CURTIS & PERKINS, N York, is on the outside wrapper.

FOR CHILDREN TEETHING.

Sold by Druggists throughout the world.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, 13 CEDAR STREET, N. Y.

Price only 25 cents per Bottle.

For sale in Charlotte, by E. Nye Hutchison & Co. and F. Scarr. March 13—1y

Notice.

THE Tax Lists for 1859 are now in my hands ready for inspection, and I request all persons to inform me of any Taxables which may not be listed. Come now and pay your Taxes.

E. C. GRIER, *Sheriff.*
April 3, 1860. 21tf

Dr. H. M. Pritchard

YIELDING to the solicitations of many friends, respectfully announces his determination to resume the

Practice of Medicine.

He may be consulted at his office.

☞ The price prescribed for without charge.

August 31, 1859. 25tf

SANFORD'S
LIVER INVIGORATOR,
OVER DEBILITATES.

It is compounded entirely from Gums, and contains no mineral substance whatever, and is recommended by all that have used it, and pronounced by all who are acquainted with its ingredients to be a perfect medicine.

It has cured thousands who had given up all hopes, and who had consulted numbers in vain.

The most good is achieved by its timely use. It is as pleasant to take as a cordial, and as easy on any stomach.

Let the dreams of your youth be blessed with the use of the LIVER INVIGORATOR, which will cure Liver Complaints, Dyspepsia, Sour Stomach, Costiveness, Dropsy, Sour Eructations, Chronic Nausea, Chronic Diarrhœa, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Flatulence, Jaundice, Fever and Ague, Female Weakness, Pain in the Side, Back and Limbs, Sick Headache, Colic, Cholera, Cholera Infantum, Flatulence, Female Weakness generally, as an Outlinator, it is the best SICK STOMACH ever used; in two or three Teaspoonfuls are taken at a time.

All who use it are giving their testimony in favor.

MIX WATER IN THE MOUTH WITH THE INVIGORATOR, AND SWALLOW BOTH TOGETHER.

Price One Dollar per Bottle.

— ALSO, —

SANFORD'S
FAMILY
CATHARTIC PILLS,
COMPOUNDED FROM
LIVER INVIGORATOR.

Pure Vegetable Extracts, and put up in GLASS CASES, Air Tight, and will keep in any climate.

The Family Cathartic Pills have been before the public for more than twenty years. The wonderfully increasing demand for the PILLS shows for itself the estimation in which they are held. The Proprietors will know no different Cathartic will be used in the FAMILY CATHARTIC PILLS, with due reference to their superior Vegetable Extracts, which are alternative, mild and active, where a Cathartic is necessary. Derangements of the Liver, Pains in the Costiveness, Pain of the Stomach, Sick Headache, Loss of Appetite, Jaundice, Dysentery, Diarrhœa, Costiveness, Piles, Fever and Ague, Fever and Ague in the Side, Back and Limbs, Rheumatism, Gravel and many other diseases to which it is needless to allude in this advertisement. Dose, one Pill.

Children or Adults, Purifier of the Blood from whatever cause it may arise. Dose, one Pill.

PRICE THREE DIMES.

The Liver Invigorator and Family Cathartic Pills are offered to Druggists generally, and will wholesale by the Trade in all the large towns.

S. T. W. SANFORD, M. D.,
Manufacturer and Proprietor,
335 Broadway, New York.

F. SCARR & CO.,
Charlotte, N. C.

Compliment to Commander Maury—Another Prince Coming.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—It has already been stated in the newspapers that the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian contemplates a visit to this country. Commander Maury has just received a letter from his Imperial Highness, of which the following is a copy:

TRIESTE, June 11, 1860.

"DEAR SIR: I read with the greatest pleasure your treatise on 'The Winds at Sea,' and now return my grateful thanks for this interesting publication, as well as for the most valuable sailing directions, of which you very kindly made me and the Austrian navy a present.

"I avail myself of this opportunity for sending you the meteorological diary, kept within the last months during my trip to South America, on board H. I. M.'s steamer 'Elizabeth.' Be pleased to accept it as a small contribution to the observations you suggested, and in which all sea faring nations are now sedulously engaged. May it serve you as a proof that our small navy, appreciating also the full weight and extent of your eminent results, strives to add something to a work which all enlightened seamen praise as the highest improvement in the nautical science. I deeply regret not having been able to pay a visit to the Northern part of the trans-Atlantic continent, for I thus lost the opportunity of making your personal acquaintance, and of expressing to you in words my highest esteem. As I soon intend to undertake a voyage to the United States, I trust I shall then have the pleasure of seeing you. Must sincerely, yours,

"FERDINAND MAXIMILIAN,
"Archduke of Austria.

"To Capt. M. F. MAURY, Superintendent of the United States Observatory, Washington."

The Commissioner of Patents has given his hearty concurrence in a proposition for the erection of statues to the memory of great American inventors, the expenses to be defrayed by private subscription. Niches will probably be prepared in the Patent Office building for the reception of such statues.

MOCK NAVAL BATTLE.—One of the most interesting features of the 10th of September celebration at Cleveland will be the mock naval engagement by which the battle of Lake Erie will be represented. The display is intended to take place on the lake, just off the city. The Cleveland *Herald* says:

"The sloping banks are admirably calculated for the convenience of spectators, as a hundred thousand people, or double that number, can seat themselves or stand upon the bank without the view of a single person being obstructed. That will be a magnificent display, to which the mock naval battles of the ancient Roman coliseum will be but as child's play. Our amphitheatre will have the whole of Lake Erie as an arena, a fleet of first-class vessels as performers, miles of sloping banks for seats, and tens of thousands of people from all parts of the Union for spectators. It will be a sight once seen never to be forgotten."

THE DROUGHT IN MISSOURI.—A correspondent of the New York *Times* writes from St. Louis, August 12:

"During a recent extensive tour in the interior of the State, I was distressed to witness the blighting effects of the drought.—No rain of any consequence had occurred for near six months, and four-fifths of all the crops had been literally parched to death. Farmers had no grain, oats, corn or potatoes; the latter, though selling in St. Louis for 40 cents per bushel, commanded $1.50 and $2 in the interior. Cattle were driven many miles for water, and everything looked desolate and woe-begone.—Perhaps the teams of the Overland Mail Company, which traverse the State from the Arkansas line to Syracuse, the present terminus of the Pacific Railroad, a distance of several hundred miles, and are obliged to dash on through heat and dust, are the greatest sufferers."

A PIOUS SCOUNDREL.—A pious scoundrel out in Valparaiso, Ind., who taught school week days, and preached as occasion offered on Sundays, is found to have added to his employments that of night burglar.—Almost everybody lost something, from wholesale robberies of the village store to the carrying off heavy freight from the depot and the cleaning of the clothes lines.—His house, when entered and searched, was filled with booty, skeleton keys, &c. The man had "gone for the cows" when the officer came, and although his wife sent their little boy to call him, he has not yet appeared. The editor says he used to hear the man pray while sitting in his own sanctum, and adds: "The whole affair is strange, it is passing strange, it is wonderful."

SPURIOUS BANK NOTE.—We have been shown a $5 note, purporting to be the issue of the "Commercial Bank of Wilmington." The plate bears no similarity to any note issued by this Bank, but the lettering at the top being of the same type as on some of the genuine bills, and the signatures being pretty well executed, persons should be on their guard. The centre vignette of the spurious note represents a whale with a boat alongside, and a ship in the distance. The Commercial Bank has never issued any note with similar vignette.—*Wilmington Herald.*

ALLEGED ABOLITION CONSPIRACY IN TENNESSEE.—Several negroes were arrested near Memphis, Tenn., last Wednesday, charged with having in their possession a large quantity of poison, which they confessed was given them by white men, for the purpose of destroying the lives of the white people of the neighborhood.

A TELLING FACT—AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONCLUSION.—The gallant and gifted Jere Clemens is in the field in Alabama, meeting the Yanceyites in their stronghold, and combating, with all the powers of his rare eloquence, the fell purposes of the Disunionists. In a discussion, the other day, in Huntsville, he fixed the responsibility for the present unhappy condition of affairs on the proper shoulders, in a manner as irresistible and overwhelming as it was simple. We quote from the Huntsville Independent:

"Col. Clemens stated one fact in his masterly speech here on Monday last, that should open the eyes of the people; a fact that should be pondered by every man who loves his country. Slaveholders particularly should think of it.

In 1840, the Abolition vote was but a little over 7,000.

In four years, under Tyler's administration, who was elected as a Whig, but turned Democrat, it increased to more than 62,000!

In four years, under Polk, it increased to more than 286,000!!

In four years, under Fillmore, it *fell off to less than* 158,000!!!

In four years, under Pierce, it *increased* to more than 1,341,000!!!!

Such facts as these need no comment. Sensible men can read and understand.—It is a fact plain as daylight that the tendency of Democratic administrations is to increase the slavery agitation and to endanger our institutions. Democrats deny it.—Figures show it, and every body knows it. We were told by the fire-eaters and secessionists in 1856 that Millard Fillmore was an abolitionist, and yet the records of the country show that he did more to quell abolitionism than any other President.—*Richmond Whig.*

OUR TICKET IN ALABAMA.

It appears that the nomination of Bell and Everett has been received with the greatest enthusiasm in Alabama. The last Mobile *Advertiser* says:

"Never, since the days of Harrison, in 1840, and Taylor, in 1848, have nominations been made which fell so favorably upon the public ear—or which awakened so much honest enthusiasm and pleasure. In this section, we have seen nothing like it since 1848, and we are daily gratified with fresh evidences of the strength and popularity of our candidates."

As another evidence of the feeling in Alabama in behalf of Bell and Everett, we cite the fact that at an impromptu ratification meeting at Selma, in that State, on the night the news of the nomination reached there, two prominent Democrats, the Hon. Alexander White and Col. J. W. Lapsley, addressed the meeting in an eloquent manner, speaking in the highest terms of our noble candidates and the impregnable platform of the Constitution and the Union, upon which they stand. The fact here stated is a striking evidence of another fact, to wit: that the people of the South are tired and disgusted with the humbuggery of Democracy, and intend to rally with unparalleled unanimity to the support of the only Constitutional Union candidates that will be in the field—Bell and Everett.

Not only in Alabama, but throughout all the other Southern States, the nomination of Bell and Everett is awakening an enthusiasm, in the highest degree gratifying to every friend and lover of his country. Let the ball roll on—and let it gather as it rolls, and let the country once more find peace, dignity and honor in the elevation to power of a safe, pure, Constitutional, Union-loving Administration!

OUR PLATFORM.

Some may object to our Constitutional Party Platform, because it is not *long enough* or perhaps *sourly enough*. The country needs nothing of that sort at this time. The people are sick of platforms; they have resolved them to be *nothing* so far as binding force, *resolutions* are looked upon as trash, and *political principles* a myth, to be talked about, but never carried out when party interests demand silence.

The Constitutional party has given to the country a platform upon which all honest, conservative, patriotic and equality-loving men from every section of our broad Union can stand. It is the "*Constitution of the Country*," as our fathers intended and understood it. "*The Union of the States*," upon the principles of strict equality, "*And the enforcement of the Laws*" that make us one people and one nation. We want nothing better, we ask nothing more. We have the principles of our party in the principles of our men. And in the language of Mr. Calhoun, we say:—"The South asks for justice, simple justice, and less she ought not to take—she has no compromise to offer but the CONSTITUTION.'—*Millledgeville Recorder.*

Washington on Sectional Parties.

We commend to the attention of our readers the following extract from Washington's Farewell Address:

In contemplating the cause which may disturb our union, it occurs as matters of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterising parties, by geographical discriminations—*Northern* and *Southern*; *Atlantic* and *Western*; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. *One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts.* You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

Of a bad paymaster get what you can, though it be but a straw.

From the Nashville National Union.

JOHN BELL'S RECORD.

MR. BELL IN 1835.

EXTRACTS FROM A SPEECH DELIVERED AT VAUXHALL, NASHVILLE, ON THE 23RD OF MAY, 1835.

EXCESSES OF PARTY.

"It will be a circumstance in my course, to which, as long as I live, I can revert with conscious satisfaction, that I have ever opposed what appeared to me to be the excesses in the party with which I have acted, with all the influence I could employ, and in the only way in which I could do so without injury to its principles. While I have studied to make myself useful, I have never set myself up as a leader of *the* party or of a party."

MODERATION AND A SPIRIT OF CONCILIATION INDISPENSABLY NECESSARY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

"I have said that there was nothing in the questions which have arisen within the last eight or ten years, in this country, necessarily productive of the extremes to which they have been carried. I reaffirm the proposition. Nor is there, from my observation, in the federative feature of our system, or in the extent of territory over which it operates, or even in the institution of slavery itself, as established in some of the States, taken together or separately considered, which essentially impairs the prospects of harmony, duration, and a prosperous action of our system. If we except the danger to the local society into which slavery is admitted, there is no peculiarity in our condition from which we have anything to fear, except in connexion with the designs of bad men, who have or may acquire an ascendancy in one or the other of the two parties, which must ever have a decided influence upon the action of the Government. Even, then, some of these peculiarities are useful, rather than injurious. They present formidable obstacles to the consolidation of power in any set of men, or any party, founded upon unworthy or bad motives and principles. *As long as moderation and a spirit of conciliation* shall preside over the administration of the federal government, any faction which shall seek to divide the Union, either by rousing a sense of injustice and inequality in the action of the government in one section, or by seizing upon the delicate and inflammable question of slavery in the other, can always be shorn of its strength and defeated in its object, without the slightest convulsive sensation in our system."

THE REAL DANGER TO OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

"The real danger to our system, as in every other system of free Government, is *a violent party action of the government itself.* A proscribed and disregarded minority, respectable for its numbers, its talents, and even for the virtues of many of its members, for virtue is never the exclusive attribute of any one party, such a minority is always tempted, in resentment for its real or imaginary wrongs, in redress for its violated privileges as American citizens, in being deprived of all actual participation in the government of the country—compelled to obey laws and be the subjects of a policy prescribed and directed exclusively by their opponents; such a minority, I repeat, is constantly tempted to seize upon every vexed and irritating question to make common cause with the spirit of fanaticism itself, in an effort to right, or at all events, to avenge their injuries. This is the danger of our system."

MR BELL AND THE SLAVERY QUESTION—1840.

ABOLITION PETITIONS.

The reader will note the difference between rejecting the *prayer* of a petition, and rejecting, or refusing to receive, the petition itself. When, in 1790, three years after the adoption of the Constitution, the Society of Friends, of Pennsylvania, forwarded a petition to Congress praying its interference with the African slave trade, the *petition* was *received*, although it contained an unconstitutional request—Congress being expressly prohibited by the Constitution, for twenty years to come, from meddling with the slave trade. No question as to the *reception* of this petition was made, although its reference or commitment to a committee, with a view to its being reported upon, was vehemently opposed by some of the Southern members, on the ground that it asked Congress to do that which was unconstitutional. Mr. Madison advocated its *reference*.

"Gentlemen," he said, "might vote for the *commitment* [or reference] of the petition without any intention of *supporting the prayer* of it."

On a subsequent day, the debate still *continuing*, Mr. Madison said:

"The debate has taken a serious turn, and it will be owing to this alone, if an alarm is created; for, had the memorial been treated in the usual way, it would have been considered as a matter of course, and a report might have been made so as to have given general satisfaction. * * * The petition prayed, in general terms, for the interference of Congress so far as they were constitutionally authorized; but even if its prayer was in some degree unconstitutional, it might be committed, as was done in the case of Mr Churchman's petition, one part of which was supposed to apply for an unconstitutional interference by the General Government."

From 1790 down to 1835, when the question of *reception* of abolition petitions was *first* made in the House of Representatives, all petitions, couched in decorous or respectful terms, were *received* by Congress, whatever their subject matter might be. This fact was stated by the late Felix Grundy, in a speech made by him, in the Senate of the United States, on the 24 of March, 1839, from which the following is an extract:

MR. GRUNDY ON ABOLITION PETITIONS.

"Therefore, if there were no constitutional doubts existing [as to the right of Congress to refuse to receive the petitions] we would, as a matter of expediency, vote to receive the petition, to be followed up with a vote to reject their prayer. But he confessed that the constitutional right to refuse to receive a petition was very far from being clear. The right of petition existed before the formation of the Constitution. It was well understood by the framers of that instrument; and although it only declares that Congress shall pass no laws to prevent citizens from peaceably assembling and petitioning for a redress of grievances, it never could have entered into their minds that those to whom the petitions were to be addressed would refuse to receive them. Of what value is the right of petition, if those to whom petitions are addressed *will not receive them, and act upon them?* The framers of the Constitution remembered that the Parliament of Great Britain had passed laws prohibiting citizens from assembling, consulting, and petitioning for a redress of grievances. They recollected the acts, commonly called the riot acts, and, therefore, they inserted the provision contained in the Constitution. But it never entered into their minds that petitions, when signed, would not be received by those to whom they were addressed. It was a matter of very little consequence to citizens that they are permitted to assemble and petition for a redress of grievances, if, after they have done so, their petitions are to be received or considered by those who have the power to act upon the subject matter of the petition. To his mind these arguments were too strong to be disregarded; and he was unwilling to give the Abolitionists the benefit of them. At present, they have no foundation on which to stand. They are giving way to the pressure of the public intelligence in the non-slaveholding States.—But if we shall enable them to blend the right of petition with their abolition schemes, they may raise a storm which will shake the very foundation of this Government. From the year 1790 down to the present day, all petitions have been received by this body which were respectful and decorous, whatever the subject matter of the petition might be; and at every session, the petition of the Society of Friends, clothed in similar language with the present one, has been received. Mr. G. would not depart now from the present usage. He considered the *reception of the* PETITION and the *rejection of the prayer* as the *strongest course against* abolition that could be adopted."

To the same conclusion with Mr Grundy—namely, that the petitions ought to be *received* and *acted upon*, came Mr. Bell; as will be seen by the following extract of a letter written by him to the late Hon. Geo. R. Gilmer, of Georgia, in 1840, and published in a number of the newspapers of the day:

MR. BELL IN 1840—ABOLITION PETITIONS.

"When the abolition movement at the North had reached a point of excitement which began to be felt in Congress, I was actively engaged in the canvass between Judge White and Mr. Van Buren. The question was of such a nature as to render it almost impossible, in an assembly composed of so many ardent and impulsive spirits as the Congress of the United States, that it should not become, in some shape or degree, connected with the party conflicts of the day. Some of my most valued and cherished friends thought Mr. Van Buren fairly and justly assailable in the South, on the ground of his vote to instruct the Senators of New York on the admission of Missouri. The favor which his friends and supporters at that time showed to abolition petitions, by voting for their reception, and also for their reference under Pinckney's resolution, appeared to them to afford a proper ground of attack before the people. I remonstrated earnestly with my friends against the policy of such a course, and against any proceeding whatever which might tend to bring about a division of parties to any extent upon such a delicate, not to say dangerous, issue. * * * *

"At the period to which I refer, (1835) the opposition to Mr. Van Buren in the South and Southwest, with few exceptions, took the position that the right of petition did not exist in this case. This opinion was maintained upon the ground that Congress had no right to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia; and it was contended that a petition to do an unconstitutional act was not entitled to notice, and ought not to be received. The argument was carried still further. It was strenuously urged that the admission of the power to abolish slavery in the District would be fatal to the South.

"My opinion was, that whether petitioners had strict right on their side or not, sound policy dictated the reception and reference of their petitions. I believed that any unusual course in regard to them would give undue importance to the movements of the abolitionists, furnish new ground for agitation, and rather increase the existing excitement than allay it."

Under these convictions, Mr. Bell only, of all the Southern representatives in Congress, (save Mr. Bouldin, of Virginia,) voted against the second clause of the fifth of

THE ATHERTON RESOLUTIONS,

which provided, that all petitions "relating in any way, or to any extent whatever, to slavery, as aforesaid, or the abolition thereof, should, on the presentation thereof, without any further action, be laid on the table, without being debated, printed or referred."

The origin of these Atherton resolutions was as follows: On the night of the 8th of December, 1838—Martin Van Buren being President—there was a meeting in Washington of a few administration members of the House of Representatives from the South and a few from the North. The meeting was called at the instance of the Hon R. B. Rhett, of South Carolina, who since the days of nullification, has had the strongest proclivities towards disunion, and is now an open disunionist, to consider certain resolutions which he had prepared on the subject of slavery. The resolutions were considered and adopted, and as it was deemed expedient that they should be offered by a northern man, Mr. Atherton, of New Hampshire, was selected for that purpose. Accordingly, he presented them to the House three days afterwards, made a speech explanatory of his reasons for offering them, and concluded by calling the previous question, so as to cut off all debate and amendments. Gov. Wise was at that time a Whig representative from Virginia. He denounced the whole proceeding in the most indignant terms on the floor of the House; and on a subsequent occasion, in a public address to a portion of his constituents, he stated that these resolutions were prepared in *secret*, so far as the Whig representatives from the South and North were concerned, and agreed upon by some few or more Van Buren men of the South, with others from the North, without permitting the Whig slaveholding members of the South to know anything of the matter, until it was sprung upon the House, with a call for the previous question. He said these resolutions, thus prepared and brought forward, were "the first of a strict party proceeding," known to our national history.

This was the first original effort at slavery agitation for strictly party purposes.—The concoctors and authors of the proceeding were southern Democrats, who contrived to secure the co operation of a portion of the northern Democrats of the House.—Mr. Atherton, who prepared the resolutions, is a confessed disunionist. Mr. Atherton, who was indeed to offer them, voted in 1847 for the Wilmot Proviso. And Mr Van Buren, of whose administration the parties to the movement were all supporters, became, in 1848, the Freesoil candidate for the Presidency, on the Buffalo platform—receiving the support of the majority of the Democracy of New York over Gen Cass.

The same patriotic considerations which moved Mr. Bell to vote against the clause in the Atherton resolutions impelled him to vote against the famous

TWENTY FIRST RULE

of the House of Representatives, which was as follows:

"That no petition, memorial or resolution, or other papers, praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, or in any State or Territory, or the slave trade between the States or Territories of the United States, in which it now exists, shall be received by this House, or entertained in any way whatever."

The rule was adopted, in a House where parties were nearly balanced, by 114 yeas to 108 nays—Messrs Bell and Sentry, of Tennessee, and Anderson, Calhoun and Underwood, of Kentucky, being the only southern representatives who voted in the negative.

At the next Congress, (27th) the House being Whig, the rule was again adopted.

At the next Congress, (the 28th) on the 3d of December, 1844, on motion of John Quincy Adams, the rule was *rescinded* by a vote of 102 yeas to 80 nays.

In the House by which the rule was rescinded by this very decided majority, the *Democrats* had a *majority of two current!*

The grounds upon which the rule was rescinded by this overwhelming Democratic House had been very fully discussed by leading Democrats from the free States at the preceding session of the same Congress. Among these was a distinguished Democratic representative from New York, the late Samuel Beardsley, who, in a speech delivered on the 5th of January, 1844, said:

"What has the refusal to receive these petitions done, but to create perpetual strife and denunciation? * * * * The remedy of driving petitioners out of doors is a wrong course; is affronting to them, and in my view a violation of the Constitution. It never will end agitation, either here or elsewhere. I therefore would beseech and entreat the South to change the question. I pray them to consider and respect the right of petition."

The rescinding rule was strongly advocated by another distinguished Democrat, the Hon. J. A. Wright, of Indiana, now United States Minister at Berlin, who was at that time a member of the House of Representatives, and who used the following language:

"You now see, since the adoption of this rule in 1840, these miserable fanatics and enthusiasts going through the country, setting up their notices and *placards*, large as life, and in all these announcements, they are for lectures to be given on *the right of petition—the right of petition.* Thus we have an issue made wholly different from that of abolition. And I now ask gentlemen to say whether they insist on this false issue? Will they press the question in this shape? I ask them to change it, and to meet the question in some other way—either, as Mr. Grundy says, by rejecting the prayer of the petition, *after the reception*, or by some direct vote putting the matter to rest. For one, I am determined to vote so as to give the question its true appearance. I have a sovereign contempt for these wild, deluded, enthusiastic abolitionists, yet I cannot vote for this rule. *I want to take this weapon out of their hands*, and let them stand forth on their own principles; and if they had not this rule, or question of the right of petition, [connected as it is with their movements] they would not be worth in a short time a passing notice. * * * * * * *

"I hope that gentlemen see this question as understood by the people; that it is not regarded as one of abolitionism but one of petition. And it becomes the duty of this House to change the issue. It is now regarded by the great mass of the people of the free States as a blow struck at what they consider as the right of every citizen in this country—the RIGHT *to be heard.*"

Upon these grounds, thus earnestly urged by the Democratic leaders of the free States, the famous Twenty first Rule, after a four years trial, was rescinded by a House of Representatives numbering two Democrats for every Whig! And it was in this way, by *actual results*, and the votes of an overwhelming Democratic House, that the course of Mr Bell on the subject of abolition petitions was most signally vindicated!

SLAVERY AGITATION—STRIKING ILLUSTRATION OF MR. BELL'S ARGUMENT.

The letter from Mr. Bell to Gov. Gilmer, above referred to, was written and published just twenty years ago. In it there occur the following passages:

"The determined and persevering obstinacy with which the supporters of the Administration (Martin Van Buren's) in the slave States persist in making abolition one of the issues between the two great parties which now divide the country, I consider *wrong and mischievous in the highest degree.* * * What ought to be the measure of indignation and punishment which should be dealt out to those *willing and calculating spoilsmen of*