

THE LINCOLN REPUBLICAN.

"The tendency of Democracy is toward the elevation of the industrial classes, the increase of their comfort, the assertion of their dignity, the establishment of their power."

BY ROBERT WILLIAMSON, JR.

LINCOLN, N. C., OCTOBER 14, 1840.

VOLUME IV, NO. XX.

NEW TERMS OF THE LINCOLN REPUBLICAN.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.
The LINCOLN REPUBLICAN is published every Wednesday at \$2 00, if paid in advance, or \$2 50 if payment be delayed three months.
No subscription received for a less term than twelve months.
No paper will be discontinued but at the option of the Editor, until all arrearages are paid.
A failure to order a discontinuance, will be considered a new engagement.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.
To insure prompt attention to Letters addressed to the Editor, the postage should in all cases be paid.

HARRISON'S FORGETFULNESS.

In the letter of Gen. HARRISON to Mr. LYONS of Richmond, Virginia, dated 1st June, 1840, is the following passage, viz: "In answer to the inquiry, why I used the word 'abolition,' in designating a society of which I was a member in Richmond, in the year 1791, instead of the word 'humane,' which is known to be the one by which the society was really distinguished, all that I can say upon the subject is, that if I did really term it an Abolition Society, a fact which I can still hardly believe, [for I have not been able to see the paper containing my address to the people of the district in 1822.] it must have been from forgetfulness, which might easily happen after the lapse of 31 years. At any rate, the word ABOLITION was not understood to mean in 1822 what it now means. There can be no doubt that the society of which Mr. Tarlton Pleasants was a member, and which, in his publication in the Richmond Whig, he calls the Humane Society of Richmond, [and by this title Judge Gatch, who gave me the certificate in 1822, also designated it,] was the same of which I was a member. Mr. Pleasants was a member in 1797, in 1791. Mr. Robert Pleasants was the president at the former period, as he was when I was admitted."

It appears that the constitution of this identical society was found, some time since, among the papers of the late THOMAS SHIPLEY, and has been furnished to the public, through an Abolition paper. It is as follows, viz:

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY.

For promoting the Abolition of slavery, and the relief of Free Negroes, or others, unlawfully held in bondage, and other Humane purposes.

From a full belief that "the Lord's mercy is over all his works," that he created mankind of every nation, language, and color, equally free, and that slavery in all its forms, in all its degrees, is an outrageous violation, and an odious degradation of human nature: That it is inconsistent with the precepts of the Gospel, of "doing to others as we would they should do unto us," and that it is not only a moral, but a political evil, which tends, wherever it prevails, to deprave the morals of the people, weaken the bands of society, discourage trades and manufactures, and rather promotes arbitrary power than secures the just rights and liberties of mankind: Believing, also, that the societies already established in other parts of the world, for promoting the abolition of slavery and the slave trade, have been of real advantage in manifesting the unrighteous policy of the one, and the inquiry of the other—WE THE SUBSCRIBERS, in humble hope of contributing our mite to the cause of humanity, and the promotion of righteousness in the earth, have associated ourselves, under the title of "THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY for promoting the abolition of slavery, and the relief of free negroes, or others unlawfully held in bondage, and other HUMANE PURPOSES."

For effecting these purposes, the following constitution is adopted:

Article I. The offices of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, nine acting committee men, and two corresponding members, in the limits of each district court, all of whom, except the acting committee, shall be annually chosen by ballot.

II. The President, or, in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside in all meetings, and subscribe all the public acts of the society, who, moreover, shall have the power to call a special meeting of the society, whenever he shall judge it necessary, or whenever six members of the acting committee shall concur in requiring it.

III. The Secretary shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society, and shall cause to be published, from time to time, such proceedings or resolutions as the society may order, or the President, with the acting committee, may direct.

IV. The Treasurer shall receive all donations, moneys, or securities, belonging to the society, and shall pay all orders sign-

ed by the President or Vice President, which orders shall be his vouchers for expenditures. He shall, before he enters on his office, give bond for the faithful discharge of his duty, for two hundred pounds, or such larger sum as the President and acting committee shall from time to time think right.

V. If the President and Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, be absent at any of the meetings, the society may elect others to act pro tempore, or should any of the officers above named resign or be displaced, the society shall fill the vacancy in the mode prescribed by the first article.

VI. The acting committee shall transact such business as shall occur in the recess of the society, and report the same at each half yearly meeting. They shall have a right, with the concurrence of the President and Vice President, to draw upon the Treasurer for such sums of money as shall be necessary to carry on the business of their appointment. They shall also act as an electing committee, and their approbation in writing shall be an admission to such persons as shall sign the constitution of the society; five of whom shall be a quorum. After their first election, at each succeeding yearly meeting, three of their number shall be relieved from duty, and three others shall be elected to succeed them.

VII. In all cases where persons legally entitled to freedom shall be held in bondage, it shall be the business of the corresponding members, appointed in the different districts, more particularly to inquire into, and give notice to the acting committee of all such cases, and to procure authenticated copies from records, or such other writings or testimonies as they may think necessary or proper for investigation, of the relief of the sufferers.

VIII. Every person, previous to his admission as a member, shall subscribe the constitution of the society, and contribute not less than one dollar on admittance, and half a dollar at each succeeding half yearly meeting, towards defraying the contingent expenses: If he neglects to pay the same for more than two years, he shall, upon due notice being given him of his delinquency, cease to be a member: But foreigners, or persons not residing in the State, may be elected corresponding members, without being subject to any payment, and shall be admitted to the meetings of the society, during their residence in this State.

IX. Two-thirds of the members present at a half yearly meeting shall have the power to expel any person whom they may deem unworthy of remaining a member—and no person shall be a member who holds a slave, or is concerned in the unrighteous traffic of buying or selling that unhappy race of human beings.

X. Twelve members, with the President or Vice President, constitutionally assembled, shall be a quorum of the Society for transacting business.

XI. The Society shall meet on the second day, called Monday, in the months called October and April, at such place or places as may be from time to time agreed on.

XII. No law or regulations of the society shall contradict any part of the constitution, nor shall any alteration in the constitution be made, without being proposed at a previous meeting. All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes; and in case of an equal division, the presiding officer to have the casting vote.

The present officers of the society are: ROBERT PLEASANTS, President. JOHN FINNY, Vice President. JAMES SMITH, Secretary. JAMES LADD, Treasurer. HENRY FEATHERTON, Acting Committee.

JOHN CREW, THOMAS PLEASANTS. JAMES HARRIS, GEORGE JONES. MICHAEL CREW, JOHN HONEYCUTT. RICHARD GRAVES, GRESSETT DAVIS.

* When the constitution was originally published.

It will be seen, that the "abolition of slavery," was the leading object of that society, and those very words constituted a part of its name. No fanatic of the present day could desire stronger language than the preamble contains. It comes up to the principle lately asserted by the most ultra Abolitionists in our own country, and by the "World's Convention" in London, who had resolved that "Christians ought not to hold fellowship with slave holders or their advocates."

Gen. HARRISON was right when he called this association an "Abolition Society," in 1822.

He was right when he called it an "Abolition Society" in his letter to the Hon. Geo. EVANS, in January, 1840.

But when it became important to satisfy the people of the South, in June, 1840, that he was not an Abolitionist, he not only FORGOT THE TRUTH, but REMEMBERED WHAT WAS NOT TRUE. He forgot that this was, or was called, an "Abolition Society," or that he had ever called it such, and he remembered that its title was a "Humane" Society, which it was not!

What reliance can be placed on such a man?

KING'S MOUNTAIN CELEBRATION.

Letters received and read to the Meeting, by the Committee of Invitation.

PORT HILL, 12th Sept. 1840.

Gentlemen,—With every possible disposition to comply with your wishes, it will be impossible for me to attend the proposed celebration of the anniversary of the battle of King's Mountain, on the 7th of next month, to which you have invited me so kindly in the name of a portion of the citizens of North and South Carolina.

I expect to be absent at the time from home on private business, to which I must give my attention.

You are not mistaken, in supposing, that the present aspect of our affairs threatens danger to the country, and that the only remedy is a speedy return to the principles, on which the Constitution is based, but from which the Government long since departed. Without such return, speedily and thoroughly, there is much danger, that the principles and policy of the old Federal consolidation party will gain a complete and permanent ascendancy, to be followed by the subversion of the constitution, and converting the Government into one of unlimited and absolute powers.

It ought never to be forgotten, that the strength of the Republican party lies in its strict adherence to principles. As long as it so adheres, it is invincible; but when it departs from them, it becomes relatively weaker, than its opposite; and this from the nature and constitution of the two parties and the principles on which they rest. If, then, the principles and policy of the Federal party are relatively far stronger in the community than at any period since the great victory, which brought the Republican party into power in 1801, the cause will be found in the fact that the latter has departed—yes, it is time to speak freely and boldly, greatly departed from those principles, which brought them into power. Fortunately we have a standard, which the whole party acknowledges, by which the truth of what I assert, may be tested with certainty; I refer to the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions on the Alien and Sedition laws of '98, and the Virginia report, on the same, in '99. Brought to this test, it will be found, that there is not a principle, or measure, which they condemn in such just and severe terms, except the Alien and Sedition laws themselves, which has not since been countenanced and acted on by the party, to a greater or less extent; such is the effect of power long possessed, on parties and individuals.

So great, in fact, did the departure become, that the line of distinction between the two parties was, in a great measure, confounded, when the Republican party came to rely less on principles, than the power and patronage of the Government, to retain their ascendancy. The effect of this state of things could not be other, than they have been. The public mind became confounded, the generations that had risen up, in the long interval, lost sight of the original principles and policy of the party, but retained its name, while they embraced those of the old Federal party, without losing their abhorrence to its name.

But, a reaction has commenced and is still in progress, before which the whole system of Federal policy is gradually giving way. The funded debt is paid; the National bank expired; the protective tariff at its last gasp; the system of lavish and unconstitutional expenditures in a great measure arrested; and finally the last and strongest link which bound the Government to the policy of the party has been broken, by the divorce between the Government and the banks. The advocates of that policy made their last and desperate stand on the question of the divorce.—They instinctively felt, that the root of their policy and principles is the connection of the Government and the banks; and hence the desperate effort to prevent the severance, and now, that it is made, to turn its authors out, and bring those in, who will put down the constitutional treasury, and renew the connection through another national bank. Shall this be done, or shall it be resisted, and the reaction be completed, is the real issue now on trial before the country. On its decision, depends the permanent ascendancy of one or the other party. If another bank be chartered, with sufficient capital and power to control the State institutions, (and nothing short will answer what is intended,) be assured the principles and policy of the old Federal consolidation party will be carried out, with a vigor and boldness, of which there is no part example; no, not in the days of the elder Adams. A new and dangerous ingredient has mingled with it; the fell spirit of abolition, originating in the spirit of fanaticism and consolidation views of our constitution, which makes the principles of the party more dangerous than ever. But if on the other hand the constitutional Treasury can be maintained, and the charter of another bank, or the renewal of the connection of the Government and banks, prevented; and if the Republican party shall in good faith carry

out the work of reform and restoration, and give to the Government the direction, which the framers of the Constitution intended it should take, its ascendancy will be permanent, and a prosperity will follow for duration and extent, unexampled in the history of our race.

Let me add in conclusion, that this great issue is brought to a point, when it must be speedily decided. The next three or four years must at farthest determine, and the action of the next few weeks, must have a great influence over the final decision. But let me add, if the result of the present contest should unfortunately be against us, it belongs not to Republicans to despair. Our cause is good, and, if supported, earnestly and faithfully, must prevail in the end. There are thousands now opposed that are with us in principle, a still more numerous body, who, though without any fixed principles, yet, must, in the end, be thrown into the Republican ranks.—The confusion of the last 12 or 15 years has done much to divide and distract parties, especially in the South, where if all knowledge of their true interest and sense of danger be not lost, it is impossible, that there can be any party found, permanently associated with a party whose principles and doctrines lead to the adoption of measures that must end in the overthrow of the constitution and the establishment of a Government of absolute and unlimited power, to be wielded to the subjection and ruin of South, where Providence has been pleased to cast our lot.

With great respect,
I am, &c., &c.
J. C. CALHOUN.

LARKIN STOWE, Esq., and others of the Committee.

RALIGH, Sept. 29, 1840.

Gentlemen,—I have delayed acknowledging your invitation to the Anniversary Celebration of the battle of King's Mountain, under the hope it might be in my power to join our friends in this tribute of remembrance to one of the brightest events in the history of the revolution. But I regret to say, it is not in my power to do so.

I rejoice to find, "the Democratic citizens of the two Carolinas," uniting at such a crisis in "a free interchange of sentiments"—ready to resist the "unwarrantable exertions" of those, who seek to overthrow an administration, pledged to every principle hitherto held sacred by the South—as well as to the defence of her domestic institutions, on which our peace and quiet so greatly depends. I am highly gratified, too, to see the Democrats of old Lincoln so hearty in the discharge of their duty—warned and animated by the same spirit, which fired the militia of the same region, in which was achieved the glorious victory you propose to commemorate. With their families behind them and the enemy before them; these gallant men did not hesitate to peril their lives in support of the rights and liberties, we are now called to defend.—To maintain the doctrines, and preserve the principles of the Jeffersons, Madisons and JACOBS of '98—to defend from violence the guaranties of the Constitution, and to resist unto death, the appropriation of the public revenue to the destruction of Southern rights—are the great purposes for which the Democrats of the present day, are invoked to battle. In such a contest, need I say "the Democratic citizens of the two Carolinas" will be found animated by the same spirit, which biography tells us "awakened the whigs of Waxaw and Mecklenburg to those efforts of daring and active hostility, which entitled them to receive from the British Commander, the distinguishing epithet of "The Harmer's Nest." Such I am proud to say, has old Lincoln proved herself to modern Whigery and to all who unite in its support. In the pending contest, let the old inspire the young, and the young cheer and animate the old. Such I assure you is the feeling which pervades the democratic ranks in our section of the State; and such, I doubt not, will be the feeling of those who shall assemble with you, in celebration of the battle which remains so proud a monument to the patriotic yeomanry of the two Carolinas. In such a contest and with such feelings, victory is certain. You should remember too, that it was in resistance to the same movement upon North Carolina by Lord Cornwallis, that was first elicited, that spark of military genius, which was destined on the plains of New Orleans, to shed so bright a lustre on the American arms; that it is the enemies of that man, the illustrious Jackson, and of his friend Martin Van Buren, we are now called to meet—enemies whose great spring to action is, to gain to themselves the power of controlling the government, which secures to all, the free enjoyment of "life, liberty and property." In such a contest "the Democratic citizens of the two Carolinas" should not, cannot, and will not falter.

With great respect,
I am, &c., &c.
R. M. SAUNDERS.

To Larkin Stowe, J. A. Ramsour, M. Hoke, and others, Committee of Invitation.

CHERRY HILL, Sep. 26, 1840.

Gentlemen,—I regret that it will be out of my power to unite with my fellow citizens of the two Carolinas in the celebration of the approaching anniversary of the battle of King's Mountain, on the ground consecrated by one of the most heroic achievements of American valor. That such an occasion should be selected for rallying the freemen of North and South Carolina in defence of the great principles of the Revolution, when those principles are placed in jeopardy by the most extraordinary combination of politicians and office-hunters ever known since our Government was formed, is singularly appropriate. No two States are more deeply interested in the preservation of those principles, or more inseparably united in their present fortunes and future destinies.

That any Southern State should be in favor of Gen. Harrison's election to the Presidency is to me utterly incomprehensible; and I cannot but believe, that it has resulted from a temporary delusion, produced by the most unexampled and disreputable means, and which will be promptly dispelled by the light of truth and reason. The Southern Whig orators and agitators, knowing that to bring into power Gen. Harrison, and the great Federal, Tariff, and Abolition parties of the North by which he is brought forward and sustained would involve the sacrifice of every political principle heretofore cherished by the South, have artfully diverted the public attention from principles, and instead of developing, have attempted to conceal those of Gen. Harrison and his party and confined themselves to false, and ridiculous charges against Mr. Van Buren. A short catalogue of these charges will demonstrate to the world how reckless of truth and decency men, even who occupy high places, will sometimes become.

1. That Mr. Van Buren uses gold spoons. This painful charge has been made by even such men as Mr. Rives; and thousands upon thousands of the disgusting speech of Mr. Ogle have been sent all over the union. It turns out, that these gold spoons were purchased in Mr. Monroe's administration; and Gov. Lincoln, a decided Whig, who is chairman of the Committee charged with furnishing the Presidents House, declares, that Mr. Van Buren has been so delicate, as to oppose the purchase of almost every article recommended by the Committee.

2. "That Mr. Van Buren voted to exclude slavery from the Territory of Florida." It turns out that he voted for a law preventing negroes from being carried to Florida, and sold by negro-traders—a law which almost every Southern State has, at some time, made for itself. The Committee which reported the law was composed of four Southern men and Mr. Van Buren.

3. That he sanctioned the use of free negro testimony in Hoove's case. Thousands of garbled statements of this case were circulated, and are believed to have turned some important elections. Yet every lawyer knows, if he deserves the name, that the common law of evidence is the law of all Federal Courts except where the state laws have expressly altered it, and that the common law recognizes no difference between free negroes and free white men. If Mr. Van Buren had assumed the power of altering the law, he would have deserved to be impeached.

4. That he voted to give free negroes in New York the privilege of voting. If this charge were true to the full extent, what right have we to judge of the institutions of other States any more than the Abolitionists have to judge of ours? All we ask is that they will let us alone; and Mr. Van Buren has given the most solemn assurances, that they shall never make the Federal Government the instrument of interfering with our institutions, in any shape or form, while he is President, if his veto can prevent it; while Gen. Harrison stands pledged not to veto any bill passed by Congress, and to recommend the application of the surplus revenue to the purchase and emancipation of slaves. I presume this charge will have little weight in North Carolina, which, though a slave state, gives to free negroes the right of voting.

5. That the requirement of statistical statements in the census law, is designed as the basis of some scheme of taxation by the administration. This most ridiculous charge has been used with great effect in many places. Yet it is known that the clause in question was inserted by Whig members of Congress, and that the Administration had no more to do with it than the Emperor of China.

6. That the President recommended a standing Army of 200,000 men. The fact is, that this plan of the Secretary of War was not prepared till some months after the President's message. It was submitted to a Committee of Congress and not to the President. The recommendation of the message referred to a report submitted to

* This was the case up to 1836, when the new Constitution went into operation. Now, only "free white men" are permitted to vote.

him, which contained none of the objectionable details of the plan submitted to the Committee.

I have enumerated these charges because, insignificant and false as they are, they constitute the staple of all the speeches delivered by strolling stump orators to induce the enlightened people of the South to surrender the Government to that party, which holds not a single doctrine or principle in common with them, and which marches under a banner waved by Daniel Webster, inscribed with the portentous motto—"we demand a protective tariff."

If General Harrison comes into power, and this curse comes again upon the South, woe unto those sentinels who shall have betrayed their constituents and surrendered the fortress to the enemy.

Your obedient servant,
GEO. McDUFFIE.

Messrs. LARKIN STOWE, and others of the Committee.

GEORGETOWN, (Ky.) }
Sept. 18th, 1840. }

Gentlemen.—On my way to this town and on my way to Michigan and other points, I found at the Post office, your communication inviting me to meet my fellow-citizens of the two Carolinas, who will meet on the 7th October at King's Mountain, to celebrate the glorious battle of the Revolution on that sacred ground.—I am now on my way to Ohio, Michigan, &c., by previous promises and I shall not be able to meet you.

But let us all remember that we are now endeavoring to sustain at the Ballot-boxes those sacred rights, that our gallant fellow-citizens of that day vindicated and sustained by the sword. It was a time that tried men's souls, when the Battle of King's Mountain was fought and won; the consequence of which was to inspire the bosom of every Southern patriot of that day and led them on to victory and to glory. "United we stand, divided we fall."

If we all do our duty, our Democratic principles will prevail. Let us not doubt in a cause so good, so just, so valuable to society. I regret that I have not more time to respond to your flattering invitation. Return my thanks to my friends and fellow-citizens whom you represent, and accept my wishes for your individual happiness and prosperity.

R. M. JOHNSON.
Messrs. L. STOWE, J. A. RAMSOUR, and others of the Committee.

MECKLENBURG CO., CEDAR GROVE, }
October 5th, 1840. }

Gentlemen,—I have had the honor to receive your kind invitation to be present at the Celebration of the approaching anniversary of the King's Mountain battle on the ground on which it was fought, on the 7th instant. It is well known to some of your Committee that I am one of the few surviving soldiers of the Revolution, and that my advanced age and feeble state of health and other circumstances beyond my control, prevents me from accepting your kind invitation. Had I health and physical ability to attend, nothing could be more agreeable to me than to visit you on that occasion, and mingle with my Democratic brethren of the two Carolinas. I can therefore, do no more than convey to you this feeble expression of my gratitude for the honor conferred. I concur fully with you that there are unwarrantable exertions now made and making to overthrow the present administration and establish a Bank aristocracy on its ruins. I am a steadfast friend to the re-election of Martin Van Buren—and an uncompromisingly hostile to the election of Gen. Harrison for many reasons of a very grave nature. I shall only mention one; he is an Abolitionist; he was nominated by them; he will be supported by them; there is no doubt but he will get every Abolition vote in the U. States. The Democrats ought all to be at their posts and be energetic in doing their duty; as the Whigs and Abolitionists are united and doing their best. You may expect my hearty co-operation with you in the struggle so far as I am able.

Gentlemen, I send you the following toast:

"The Hon. John C. Calhoun, a giant in intellect, a living Monument of Constitutional liberty, and fearless champion of Southern rights. Long may he live, to defend the rights of the South from the iron rage of Gen. Harrison and his Abolition associates."

I am with high respect,
Your obedient servant,
M. McLEARY.

To LARKIN STOWE, M. HOKE, Col. M. REINHARDT, THOMAS WILLIAMSON, and others of the Committee.