

Franklin Courier

GEORGE S. BAKER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

All letters addressed to

GEORGE S. BAKER,

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1875.

NOTICE

A Convention of the Democratic-Conservative Party of the County of Franklin, is hereby called to meet in the Court House, in the town of Louisburg, on Saturday, the 5th day of June, 1875, for the purpose of nominating a Candidate to represent the County of Franklin in the approaching Constitutional Convention.

Let there be a full turnout.
W. H. YARBOROUGH,
Chairman Executive Committee.
The above notice has been handed us since the article on this subject, in this week's paper was in type.

John C. Breckinridge.

It is said that death loves a shining mark. Barely does it lay its cold clammy fingers upon a more sparkling and brilliant man than when on the 27th day of this month John C. Breckinridge was called to the reward awaiting the end of a comparatively short life, though short as it was, he had attained an eminence that few men reach in a life of three decades longer than he spent upon earth. He was born on the 16th day of January 1821, making him just entering in his 55th year.

Few men enter the national legislative halls, as early in life as John C. Breckinridge was when he was elevated to the second office in the nation, and was the Candidate of a great party for the first office known in the polity of our national government. On arriving at the age of manhood, he chose the law as his profession, and soon after entering upon its practice his country called for volunteers to fight her battles and redress her wrongs upon the torrid plains of Mexico. To this the chivalric young Kentuckian responded and was a Major in the infantry service in that war, where he achieved for himself a national reputation for gallantry on the field, and sagacity in council.

Returning crowned with his richly earned laurels, he was by a partial, grateful, admiring and loving public elevated successively to the Legislature of his State, the National House of Representatives, the Vice Presidency of the United States, and then Senator from Kentucky, the last of which duties he assumed simultaneously with the accession of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency and the inauguration of the war upon the South by the North. Senator Breckinridge qualified as a representative of his State in the United States Senate. He endeavored by all the means within his power to stay the bloody crusade that seemed so inevitable at that time, but after using his utmost endeavors to avert the calamity, and when nothing would satisfy the North but war, he at once resigned his seat in that body and, in an address to the people of Kentucky, (whose idiom he was) said in substance, "I relinquish a seat in the Senate of the United States for the musket of a Southern soldier." Patriotic words! fitly spoken by one who loved the South and its people, and who manifested that levelly a four years struggle for them, on many of the battle fields of the South. He was soon after his arrival in the Southern Confederacy, appointed a Brigadier General, and was during the war successively raised to be a Major General and Secretary of War, which latter place he held when the war ended. He has been living in retirement since the close of the war and all of his counsel since that time have been for peace and conciliation. No man has lived in this country who achieved the eminence reached by Breckinridge at so young an age as he was made Vice President of the United States. And in our opinion few men of any age or clime, more richly deserved the positions which thus elevated him than did John C. Breckinridge, Patriotic, Statesman, Soldier, Citizen, and above all a Christian. His work is done. The day of thy labors and toils has ended. Thy star though has not gone down behind the dark and blackened hills of the West, but has been absorbed, in and made a part of that eternal, and never ending light in the pure and Spiritual world whether all lovers of purity, truth and goodness are continually gathering.

County Officers Speculating in County Orders.

In answer to numerous inquiries, as to the legality of County Officers speculating in County orders, we this week publish the law on the subject. *Battles Review* page 319, chapter 32, section 188, reads as follows: "If any Clerk, Sheriff, Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, or other County or

State officer shall engage in the purchasing of any County or State claim at a less price than its full and true value, or at any rate of discount thereon, or be interested in any speculation in such claims, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to indictment in the Superior Court of the county in which the offence is committed; and, on conviction thereof, shall be liable to removal from office at the discretion of the Court."

The law on this subject is very plain and severe. It says that, not only the officer shall not speculate in these orders himself, but that he shall not be interested in any speculations. In other words, he is equally as guilty if he has an agent, as if he engaged in the speculation himself. We don't know of anything more damaging to the County credit, than for the officers of the county, or their agents to buy up the county paper at a discount, and it is the duty of every good citizen in the county, if they know any official guilty of this offence, to report him to the Solicitor, and let his case be reported to the Grand Jury.

Important to Sheriffs.

Below we publish a notice from our State Treasurer to the Sheriffs of the various counties of the State.

Raleigh, April 27th, 1875.

To the Sheriffs of the several counties in North Carolina.

I receive information from time to time that many persons are traveling in this State doing business as soliciting agents in the interest of houses in and out of the State without obtaining license from this Department as required in

Sec. 28, Schedule B. of "An act to raise revenue."
The attention of Sheriffs and Tax Collectors is called to the provisions of said section. It will be seen by reference to it that a material change has been made in the former law. The only exemptions which it now authorizes are agricultural implements and fruit trees which are the growth or manufacture of the house selling them and seed of all kind intended for the improvement of agriculture. This section is entirely consistent with the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States and this State. It applies to residents as well non residents. I call upon all county officers indicated in the section to see, as far as practicable, that it is not evaded in their respective counties.

D. A. Jenkins,
State Treasurer.

Our Centennial.

We awoke Centennial morn with our senses overpowered by the stupendous thought that, though not one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, we were at least fortunate enough to take part in its celebration. Impressed with the obligation we wanted to overhaul the wardrobe of our forefathers, and deck ourselves in Continental style. It was however with a feeling of importance, we gathered around our Mahogany as representatives of that age, and with great satisfaction partook our breakfast from 'china even more than a hundred years old', a unique relic of the past, one of more strength than the old Constitution—for it has stood the shock of two Wars "unbroken," is not even pieced up. One comparison suggests another. During the Wars it was buried hatchet-like, with a view to resurrection. Those of us who did not attend the Charlotte Centennial felt an irresistible desire to do something out of the regular line, for such events are like lottery prizes, few and far between. There is another similarity too, "anticipation is often cooled when the realization takes place." So with our chin in our hand we meditated upon the greatness of the occasion, until we lost our chance for a Picnic excursion up the river. However we determined to proclaim our independence by taking the land route for the Picnic woods. Several of us got into a vehicle, a regular accommodation car, one that expanded hospitably to every new comer, with plenty of room and the gayest spirits, we moved off. It was a jolly independent party, even the horse seemed possessed with the spirit of the occasion, and was so very independent, that no persuasion or enthusiastic exhortations from our party made any impression upon him, his course was evidently marked out, his time set, and from it he never swerved!

Two o'clock found us five or six miles from town near the river banks, ten-rail fences were ciphers when they crossed our path that day! When we struck the swamp, we gave old Centennial a lean on the fence for his dinner, while we went on foot in search of ours. Our party separated and from different points, halloved vociferously, with the imaginary sympathy ringing in our ears.

Tell me ye winged winds,
As o'er the river ye play,
If there's a chance to find
A dinner here to-day,
Oh! tell me through the trees,
Whisper it e'er so low,
We'll haste before it leaves
And give thanks as we go.
But mocking echoes only answered,
You're down too low,
Its no—go!

So seating ourselves upon an old log

we pondered over the high living of our gentry ancestors, and our fortunate contemporaries, who were feasting about a mile higher up the river. Once we thought we had found the Picnic crowd, as a couple of friends came upon us with much delight, thinking they had found the much desired party, when lo! we both found to our dismay (to use Pats phraseology,) that it was neither one of us. So after comparing the length of our ruse, muddy boots &c. We retraced our horse and concluded to retrace our steps if we could find our way out of the swamp.

Our friends and tied their horses some where in the swamp while they reconnoitered. We understand that the unexpected pleasure of finding him, over-balance their other disappointment. Well there was a novelty in our trip highly enjoyed by us, and if we fail to celebrate the next Independent Centennial, it just won't be our fault: It won't!

WHAT HAS THE GRANGE DONE?—From a speech published in one of our exchanges we make the following extract:

"It has caused business to be conducted on a more economical basis, and consequently has cheapened all goods bought for cash. It has brought producer and consumer nearer together. It has inaugurated in public sentiment a revolution in favor of cash system. It will take years to complete it, but that revolution has commenced, and millions have already been saved to the people. It has already begun to elevate farming as a profession, and has drawn farmers nearer each other socially and for business purposes. It has given an impetus to intelligent farming everywhere. It has sown seed that will ripen into a rich harvest of prosperity for the farmer, and consequently for all classes. It has inaugurated a reform that will not cease until virtue and honesty once more prevail where ignorance and corruption hold high carnival. It has put three millions of farmers to thinking. Are not those achievements enough for so short a time?"

AN ACT TO CALL A CONVENTION OF THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, The Present Constitution of North Carolina is, in many important particulars, unsuited to the wants and condition of our people; and whereas, in the judgment of this General Assembly, a convention of the people is the only sure, and besides the most economical mode of altering or amending it, and believing the end in view utterly impracticable by legislative enactment on account of the great number of discordant and conflicting provisions of the Constitution as it now is, now therefore.

SECTION 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact, (two-thirds of all the members of each House concurring,) That a Convention of the people of North Carolina be, and the same is hereby called, to meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives in the city of Raleigh, on Monday, 6th day of September, A. D. 1875, for the purpose of considering and adopting such amendments to the Constitution as they may deem necessary and expedient subject only to the restriction hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. The said Convention shall consist of one hundred and twenty delegates, and each county shall be entitled to the same number of delegates that it has members of the House of Representatives under the present apportionment, and the said delegates shall have the qualifications required of members of the House of Representatives, of which qualifications the Convention shall be the judge.

SECTION 3. On the 1st Thursday of August 1875, the sheriffs of the State shall open polls for the election of delegates to the said Convention from their respective counties, and the election aforesaid, and the registration for the same, shall be held and conducted; the officers thereof including registers and judges of election, appointed; the votes counted and compared; the result proclaimed, and certificates issued in the same manner as is provided by law for the election of members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

SECTION 4. The said delegates shall be called to order at 12 o'clock on the day fixed therefor, by the Chief Justice or one of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court or Secretary of State, who, if there be not a quorum, shall adjourn them to the same place, and from day-to-day, until a quorum shall appear; and on the appearance of a quorum, he shall administer to each of them the following oath:

"You, A. B. do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the delegate elect shall choose), that you will faithfully maintain and support the Constitution of the United States and the several amendments thereto, including the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments; and that you will neither directly nor indirectly evade or disregard the duties enjoined nor the restrictions imposed upon the Convention by the act of the General Assembly authorizing your election. So help you God."

And no delegates shall be permitted to sit or be entitled to a seat in said Convention, or act as a delegate thereon, until he shall have subscribed the above oath or affirmation; and as soon as a majority of the delegates elect shall have thus appeared and been sworn in, they shall then proceed to

elect their own presiding officer, and such other officers and servants as they, from time to time, shall find necessary; and if a vacancy shall occur, they shall be filled in the same manner as they like vacancies are filled by law in case of vacancies in the General Assembly. Said Convention shall have no power to consider, debate, adopt or propose any amendment to the existing Constitution or ordinance upon the following subjects:

The Homestead and Personal Property Exemptions, the mechanic's and laborer's lien, and the rights of married women, as now secured by law, nor, to alter or amend section 3 or 5, article V., of said Constitution, nor change the ratio between the poll and property tax as therein established, nor shall the said Convention have power to propose or adopt any amendment or ordinance vacating any office or term of office now existing and filled or held by virtue of any election or appointment under the existing Constitution and laws until the same shall be vacated or expired under existing laws; but the said Convention may recommend the abolition of any office when the present term therein shall expire or vacancies occur, and they may provide for filling such vacancies, otherwise than as now, and limiting the terms thereof. Nor shall said Convention adopt or propose any plan or amendment or scheme of compensation to the owners of emancipated slaves, nor for the payment of any liability or debt incurred wholly or in part in aid of the late war between the States, nor for the restoration of imprisonment for debt; nor shall they require or propose any educational or property qualification for office or voting, nor shall said Convention pass any ordinance legislative in their character, except such as are necessary to submit the amended Constitution to the people for their ratification or rejection, or to convene the General Assembly.

SECTION 5. The Constitution, as amended shall be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection, and shall not be binding until the same shall have been ratified by voters of the State, and the Convention shall preserve the mode whereby the sense of the people thereon shall be taken and recorded.

SECTION 6. There shall be printed immediately ten copies of this act for each member of the General Assembly, and hundred copies within thirty days after its ratification for each board of county commissioners, and the use of the registers and judges of election in their respective counties; and this act shall be in force and take effect from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 19th day of March, A. D. 1875.

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