

Franklin Courier

GEORGE S. BAKER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

All letters addressed to
GEO. S. BAKER,
FRIDAY, JUNE 11 1875.

FOR THE Convention, COL. W. F. GREEN, OUR CANDIDATE

Col William F. Green, the gentleman to whom the Convention in this place on Saturday last confided the duty of carrying our banner to victory in the Campaign this summer, needs no introduction to the people of the County of Franklin at our hands. He is known to them, well and favorably. In every contest that has been made by the friends of purity and honesty in the management of the government, and of the lovers of Constitutional liberty, against the opponents of these elements in our government, he has been heard advocating the claims of the cause so dear to our people, and carrying the war into the camps of the enemy with an ability that has always made him a favorite with the Citizens of the County of Franklin. Always on the side of his people, he needed but to know his duty to perform it with alacrity and zeal. When we say that he is one of the best informed men as well as one of the most effective speakers on the hustings in this part of the State we but utter what is in the minds of all who know him, and who have heard him so often, when pouring grape and cannon into the ranks of the enemies of honest government.

Our county should be proud of the honor of sending one to the illustrious body that the Convention bids fair to be, that will reflect so much credit upon his Constituency, and give the County character, as will be the case, when Wm. F. Green enrolls his name as a member of that body, and assumes the duties incumbent upon him as such.

It is the duty, now of every man who loves his country, and who has the local pride about him that every citizen of the County of Franklin should feel, to lay aside all other matters for a short while, and devote their time, their energies and their means to rescue our State from the thralldom that has borne it down so long, and to plant our gallant little county firmly on the side of the friends of Constitutional liberty. So that the fruits of the victory of last summer may soon be gathered. Let us all go to work and continue to do so until he shall be triumphantly elected. We raise his name at the head of our paper.

THE CONVENTION LAST SATURDAY.

The Democratic Conservative Convention which was held last Saturday, was largely attended, and it was indeed gratifying to see the perfect harmony and good feeling that prevailed. A. C. Perry was called to preside over the Convention, and it did really look like a start had been made to get back to the good old days of good government, to see this venerable old gentleman, who had filled the seat so often in other and better days, presiding. Every township in the County was largely represented, and the delegates after retiring for a few minutes, returned having unanimously agreed that Col. W. F. Green was the man to carry the Democratic banner through the campaign, Col. Green responded to the call of the Convention, and stated that he had not sought the nomination, but now that he had been nominated he did not shun the responsibility and work imposed upon him by the party, he spoke for about three quarters of an hour, touching the several points that would be brought to the consideration of the convention.

Messrs. Davis, Mitchell and Thomas were all called upon and responded in short speeches. The following resolution was offered by T. T. Mitchell, and was adopted without a dissenting voice. Resolved, that we recognize in the Franklin Courier a zealous and vigilant sentinel on the watch-tower of good honest and pure government, an ardent supporter of the principles of Constitutional liberty, and cordially recommend it to the support of the Democratic Conservative voters of Franklin County. The Convention adjourned, all well pleased with the nomination, and with a determination to work for the election of their nominee.

Action of the Commissioners on Monday.

The Board of County Commissioners at their session held on Monday last, very properly reconsidered their action taken at their May meeting, in refer-

ence to the account of the Superior Court Clerk, for expenses of his office. The following order was passed: "Ordered that the two orders issued to Dr. R. H. Timberlake, May 3rd 1875, one for \$93.54, and one for \$46.77, be rescinded, and that Dr. R. H. Timberlake be notified to appear before Board on the 1st Monday in July 1875.

FOR THE COURIER.
MR. EDITOR.—It is not my purpose to write you a long letter, but simply to congratulate you on the bold and able manner in which you have brought to light and exposed through the columns of your most excellent and valuable paper, some of the rascality and stealing that has been practiced upon our tax-burdened people, by those in authority. The people are with you, go on, don't stop, sift the whole matter, and let the citizens of the county know who the scoundrels are, that they may be brought to justice. But Mr. Editor, there is one matter, about which I would like to inquire, it is in regard to those County bonds which have been changed. Does not the Register of Deeds have charge of the books, that were tampered with? Are they not in his possession? Then is he not responsible for any and all fraudulent entries made in them? If he is innocent, then who but his deputy, (if he has one) could have done it? Who but the Register or his deputy had access to the books. Mr. Editor these are plain pointed questions, but pertinent and proper. I hope Mr. Editor, that you will not relax your efforts in trying to find out the guilty party or parties in this dirty business, but that you will soon be rewarded for your labors by seeing them brought to justice. As in wishing you and your valuable paper, (which should be in every household in the County) that success which your efforts in this matter deserve.

I subscribe myself
Yours very truly,
F. ANKLIN.

ADDRESS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ROOMS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL EX. COM.,
RALEIGH, June 1st '75.
To the people of North Carolina:
The General Assembly at its recent session called a Convention of the people to meet at Raleigh on the 6th day of September next, for the purpose of suggesting such alterations in our organic law as may be deemed wise and expedient.

NECESSITY FOR CHANGE.
The necessity for changing many of the provisions of the existing Constitution is generally admitted, and is too apparent to require extended argument. It is true that some of our prominent men at one time opposed the call for a convention; but their action was passed on prudential consideration, and not on an indisposition to have the Constitution thoroughly revised. They feared that our purpose in seeking to reform our Fundamental Law, might be misconstrued by the violent and ill-informed men then controlling Congress, and the prosperity of our people checked, and the peace of the State jeopardized by some rash and unconstitutional action on the part of the United States authorities. That fear no longer exists. We now have every assurance that the Constitution of the United States will be observed by the officers of the Government, and feel a satisfaction in announcing to you that the time has at last arrived when the officials at Washington City concede that the people of North Carolina have the same right to manage their local concerns which the citizens of other States enjoy. We can proceed without apprehension to perfect our Constitution and remodel it in the interests of our people.

THE CONSTITUTION, THE CREATURE OF MILITARY LAW.
This Constitution, the creature of Military dictation, was born in the throes of a Military reconstruction. Its authors were mainly Socialists and adventurers, who had lived among us without preference, or possessed of qualifications entitling them to it; others were our rascal slaves, who had known no law save the will of their masters, and others still were carpet-baggers, both black and white—alien in feeling and Radical in education—who sought positions here that were denied them where known to be despised and humiliated us. And when their work was submitted to the people at the polls, thousands of our best citizens were deprived of the right of voting upon it, and over eighty thousand ignorant negroes were given the ballot to secure its adoption. It is no exaggeration to say that not one person in ten who voted for it could read the instrument, and not one in fifty had read it or was even moderately familiar with its provisions, and many gave it their sup-

port believing it would be merely temporary, and to escape further agitation and revolution. It is natural therefore that a Constitution thus formed and adopted should be found unwise to our condition, and that we should embrace the earliest opportunity consistent with reason and prudence to secure such changes as time and experience have shown to be necessary. Our organic law should be expressed in language clear, simple and perspicuous, so that nothing may be left to inference or construction; our rights, so precisely defined as to be comprehended by all men of ordinary intelligence; and each department of the government should be so restricted, that while left free to discharge its appropriate duties, it cannot by unwarranted encroachments embarrass the proper action of others.

THE CONSTITUTION UNSUITED TO OUR CONDITION.
That the Constitution contains some good provisions no one denies, it would be singular if it did not, but its abominable characteristics were so manifest that not a single Conservative member of the Convention that passed it could be induced to affix his signature to it, as a fit instrument to be submitted to the people. Indeed its provisions are so loosely worded and so badly arranged as to constitute but a medley of inconsistencies that defile the successful construction of the courts; in fact, to reconcile the difficulties arising from its practical workings, the court has in some instances been driven to supply omissions, and in others to introduce a new principle, hitherto unknown in the judicial history of the State, distinguished as "judicial legislation," an innovation anti-republican in character and invasive of the rights and duties of a separate department. Its provisions are so obscure that within the brief space of its existence many more decisions on constitutional questions have been demanded than in the entire previous history of the State—and of late we have witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of two sets of judges in both the 2nd and 8th Judicial Districts, contending for the same position, one of which claiming to hold by an appointment from the Governor for a period of ten years, an office that the Constitution seems to say is to be filled by the people at the polls, and whose term is expressed to be only eight years.

In many counties, there is a practical denial of justice, the courts are inadequate to the public demands, and thus they are driven to resort to special terms, which are expensive and unsatisfactory, and persons accused of criminal offenses are often confined for months without trial. We need a speedier justice and a less expensive judiciary system. We should abolish every useless office, which is now filled by a mere consumer; for only by a rigid and prudent economy in our public as well as private affairs, can we hope to restore the State to prosperity. It is believed that the laws will be more impartially administered by a return to the old practice of a rotation of the Judges.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL LAW NECESSARY.
It is also hoped that a greater incentive to honesty and a purification of the ballot box might result from depriving those who are convicted of infamous crimes of the elective franchise. The matter of the Penitentiary which already contains more than six hundred able-bodied men, also demands careful and practical attention, to remove in some measure that burden from our shoulders. Most of our private legislation should be excluded from the General Assembly. However, our limited space does not permit us to catalogue the numerous defects and imperfections of the present constitution or to enumerate the remedies to be offered.

There should be some general ordinance adopted in relation to private enactments, thereby reducing the expenses of the Legislature, and in order to prevent hasty and inconsiderate legislation, that no new matters be brought forward within—days of their adjourning.
CAREFUL SELECTION OF DELEGATES.
As to the specific changes that ought to be made, these are to be considered by the citizens of the various counties, who should be careful to select as delegates those who will properly reflect their wishes. Men of enlarged and practical statesmanship, spotless integrity, representatives of all classes of society, and whose positions among them will entitle their labors to confidence and support—and in their hands they certainly can more safely confide their rights than in the Convention of 1868.

METHODS OF CHANGE.
Of the two methods prescribed for changing the Constitution, that by legislative enactment is expensive, uncertain and dangerous; the several amendments recently submitted to and ratified by the people encountered the greatest difficulties in their passage, and even after the will of the people was declared in their favor by over 40,000 majority, serious apprehensions were entertained as to whether they were properly adopted; again, legislators when possessed of qualifications for such duties, are encumbered with numerous matters, and cannot bring that attention to each provision presented for consideration, without meet-

ing such criticisms as may imperil their labors.
The Convention method is speedy and economical; the body is composed only of the same number of members as comprise the House of Representatives and their minds are directed alone to constitutional reforms and their work may be completed and ratified, if necessary, in six months. As to the expenses that will be incurred, it is believed they will be more than defrayed in a short time by the reforms that will be inaugurated.

The restrictions imposed by the Legislature, fully and amply secure the Homestead, Mechanics Lien, Rights of married women, and Personal Liberty and should quiet the fears of the most timid, for they are recognized as of binding efficacy and are fully enjoyed by the friends of constitutional reform. Indeed they were incorporated in the bill mainly to remove partisan clamor and anticipate unscrupulous agitation. They are not the property of a mere party, but had their origin in the necessities of civilized society and were found among the statutes of various States previous to the war.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DELEGATES.
It is useless, however, to seek to quiet the mere caviller; the keen optics of some persons defy all law.—The mere fact that the honor of the best men in the State is pledged to their preservation, should satisfy every reasonable voter. This Convention is called in pursuance of law, and each delegate before he shall be permitted to sit, to be entitled to a seat in said Convention or act as a delegate thereto, shall swear to observe these "restrictions" (see acts 1874-5). Should a part comply and part refuse to take this oath, only those who obey the law are members of the body, nor are we without precedents; similar oath was required of the members of the "restricted Convention" of 1835, the same question was raised, and after debate all the members took the oath and observed the restrictions of high party excitement. In that discussion the distinguished Judge Gaston used the following language: "The State Legislature had indeed no authority to impose an oath upon the members of the Convention, but the people had ratified the act of the Legislature by choosing delegates under it. If we transcend the limits or refuse obedience to the conditions therein prescribed, we are not the Convention called by the people, but a self constituted body;" these views were concurred in by Macon, Edwards, Morehead, and others. We will dismiss this subject, however by calling attention to the able work of Judge Jamieson on "Constitutional Conventions," where by argument and the cases cited by him in relation to this matter, he demonstrated that Conventions are bound to obey the restrictions imposed by the Legislature in the Act by calling the Convention.

AID FROM REPUBLICANS.
In our last election it was gratifying to see Republicans who had hitherto submitted to the control of unscrupulous leaders under mistaken belief that they were promoting the general welfare seeing their corruptness as demonstrated by the "Credit Mobilier revelations," "Sanborn Contracts" and other frauds and defalcations, and their vindictive and reckless policy, whereby they sought to degrade the superior race by this iniquitous "Civil Rights Bill," overcome their party prejudice and give us their cordial support. To them we extend an invitation to remain and continue the work so auspiciously begun. To those who opposed us under the delusion of their leaders who assured them this bill would never pass Congress and it did would be vetoed by the President, though it now has his signature; and who have witnessed the earnestness with which the dangerous "Force Bill" was urged upon Congress, we say no longer remain where there is neither safety nor honor to a North Carolinian. The battle for civil liberty is not yet over. "Civil Rights" is still a part of the secret carpet-bag programme for this State; though driven from the halls of Congress it will be renewed in the Southern States. We therefore invite their co-operation. The Convention owes its final success to the support of some of their ablest representatives in the General Assembly and they are doubtless aware that the wise provisions introduced into the Convention of 1868, by their ablest native representatives were sooted and defeated by that same elements that has brought ruin upon their party and confusion to our State.

NECESSITY OF ORGANIZATION.
The friends of Convention should at once perfect their organization and bring out their best men in every County in the State. The leaders of the Republican party know that by their reckless violations of the constitution and efforts to centralize all power in the hands of the Federal Government, they have justly forfeited the confidence and support of the people; they therefore trust not to their own strength but to our apathy, and will endeavor to secure our defeat by divisions and false leaders. We therefore respectfully invite their attention to the following resolution adopted and successfully followed in our last campaign:
Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to the members of the Democratic Conservative party to discourage independent candidates, and all other disorganizers, that all support be promptly withdrawn from every can-

diant for office who shall oppose the regular nominees of our Conventions. Let your primary county Conventions be duly advertised and see that the people have a full opportunity of attending and expressing their wishes. The contest is important not only in its immediate effects but in subsequent results. The Republican party, under the leadership of carpet-baggers still remaining among us, will advocate the election of delegates, who will agree to meet and adjourn without holding a Convention, and in this violation of the wishes of the people, expressed through a two thirds majority of their chosen Representatives, and after a considerable part of the expenses for mileage and per diem is incurred.—We believe, however the promise is but a delusion and snare, for should they accede they have a majority in the body, it will be an easy matter for them to evade their promise by the refusal of a few to concur; as they do not acknowledge the "restrictions" as binding, they will resort to the most revolutionary measures to sustain their desperate for us, and in the end will fall to submit their work to the people for ratification or rejection.
Let us, therefore, present a united front, and with a general advance along our lines Radicalism will not only be routed but overwhelmed, and a victory for Civil Liberty assured for 1876.

Wm. B. Cox, Chairman.
R. H. BATTLE, JR.
C. M. BURRER,
R. B. HAYWOOD,
J. J. DAVIS,
W. H. JONES,
W. N. H. SMITH,
R. A. ASH,
O. P. MEARES,
Executive Committee,
J. J. LITCHFORD, Secretary.

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A. T. FUGATEM, Editor,
Raleigh, N. C.

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NOTICE.

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Jan. 28th 1875.

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