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THE SENTINEL

THE "WESTERN ADDRESS."

An Address to the People of North Carolina, on the Subject of Constitutional Reform.

RALEIGH, Jan. 1, 1851.

A meeting composed principally of western members of the legislature was held in the capitol, on the evening of 1st January inst., to take into consideration the various propositions to amend the constitution.

On motion of Mr. Bynum, of Rutherford, Geo. F. Davidson, Esq., of Iredell, was called to the chair, and A. H. Caldwell, of Rowan, and A. G. Foster, of Davidson, appointed secretaries.

On motion, it was resolved that *the only proper republican mode of amending or altering the constitution, is by the people themselves in convention assembled.*

On motion of Mr. Erwin, of Buncombe, it was resolved that a committee of ten be appointed to prepare an ADDRESS to the people of North Carolina; and that said committee submit it to an adjourned meeting to be called by the chairman.

ADDRESS.

A meeting composed principally of Western members of the legislature, without distinction of party, was held in the capitol on the evening of the 1st of January inst., to consider what measures were necessary to be adopted to secure to the PEOPLE of North Carolina the right to amend their state constitution so as fully to answer the great ends for which it was originally established, and to [illegible] "purity of rights" which lie at the foundation of all free and popular governments.

It is a remarkable feature in the history [illegible] of that instrument by which alone [illegible] equal liberty is projected. The first constitution was formed at Halifax, 18th December 1776, immediately after we had thrown off the British yoke, when our states were not fully alive to the interests of the people, but still retained a reverence for British usages, where property was always more respected and had more political weight than the rights of the people. The delegates to that convention, in consequence of that natural deference to our ancient customs, were elected only by freeholders and householders; and that convention made the constitution so formed the organic law of the state. The people who formed neither of these classes, and who constituted a much larger mass of the population of the state, had no voice in the election of delegates and the constitution was not submitted to them for their approval or rejection.

At the time this constitution was formed all the counties in the state except eight, lay east of Raleigh, which has been regarded as the dividing line between the eastern and western portions of the state. By its provisions, each county, without regard to its wealth or population, was entitled to send one senator and two members to the house of commons; and the towns of Wilmington, Newbern and Halifax, to which was added, in 1788, Fayetteville in the east, and Hillsboro' and Salisbury in the west, one member in the house of commons. Under this constitution we lived suffering grievances the memory of which is not yet left us, constantly struggling to amend it until 1835, when the legislature, in the plenitude of its mercy, granted to the people of the state the privilege to say whether they should amend the constitution in some few points. The delegates to that convention were required to be sworn not to transcend the limits prescribed to them by the Legislature, itself but the servant of the people.

The result of their labors was the constitution under which we now live. By it, the number of members in the senate is fixed at fifty, and in the house of commons at one hundred and twenty. Each county is entitled to elect one member at least, and the remainder are elected by the counties in proportion to their federal population: that is, to all whites are added three out of every five slaves, and the sum total constitutes the federal population. In the senate, the counties elect senators in proportion to the taxes paid into the public treasury without regard to the sources whence those taxes originated, whether from the permanent wealth of the country, or from those taxes imposed to restrain the vices of the community.

The clause prohibiting any one from voting for senator unless he was the owner in fee of fifty acres of land, contained in the constitution of 1776, was still retained. To this clause in our constitution public attention has been directed for the last two years; and its anti-republican and aristocratic character severely denounced as a remnant of the feudal times, when the people were mere serfs or servants of the landholders.

In consequence of the denunciation of one particular feature in the constitution, public attention has been directed to its other provisions. Our people, in 1835, when called upon to decide upon the amendments submitted them, only had to decide between the old and new, and they naturally preferred the latter, as it gave to one branch, more political weight to the mass of the people of the state. It was the first instance when they were regarded at all by their own state constitution. Being naturally lovers of peace and order, and always obedient to the laws of the land, they raised no clamors against them, until they were called upon to look into the charter of liberty, and see that it contained one feature wholly repugnant to republican equality. In this opinion we all occur.

* * * * * * * *

The science of government is progressive as every other science. The people improve, their means and knowledge increase, their circumstances change; their relations towards one another, and towards citizens of their sister states alter. Our sister states everywhere around us are taking advantage of this age of improvement to improve their forms of government adopted when the rights of the people were comparatively little known. Is our constitution alone to receive no improvement from the spirit that is abroad? Is North Carolina alone to stand still? Is she alone to continue bound in those shackles which have kept her limbs so long fettered in the hands of steel? Or shall she arise like a strong man in his might, and demand that she be free?

To you this appeal is made. What will you do?

We disclaim all desire to dictate to you, or even to suggest the alterations which should be made in the constitution. It is not a part of our legislative duty. We have merely directed your attention to those defects which exist in it. It is your province, when in convention assembled, to correct these defects, and in the manner which you may conceive will best subserve the great purposes for which governments were instituted. The position which we assume, and which has governed our course of action upon the various propositions to amend the constitution, which have been before the legislature, is—

THAT THE ONLY PROPER REPUBLICAN MODE OF AMENDING OR ALTERING THE CONSTITUTION IS BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED.

Upon that PLATFORM we will stand; and, if we fail, it will be advocating THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

If you sanction the principle that the legislature is to amend the constitution—that it is to be the FOOT BALL of every demagogue who desires to win popular favor—if it is to be mingled with the corrupting influences of party—if it is to be mixed up with the business of legislation, and to be influenced by the bartering process so freely resorted to now-a-days, determining the fate of a measure here or a measure there—its fate is sealed. It is prostrate in the dust, to be trampled upon by those who understand [illegible] and used not for its protection. It becomes the toy, the sport—THE PREY of those wholly INCAPABLE of the task assumed to themselves. This has been fully proved by the progress of "free suffrage" through the present general assembly.

Early in the session a bill was introduced into the house of commons to amend the constitution so as to allow non freeholders to vote for members of the senate. It was discussed at great length in that body, and a vote was taken and it was REJECTED, three fifths of the members of the house not voting for it.

* * * * * * * *

The question then has been fairly presented, FREE SUFFRAGE, OR A FREE CONVENTION.

We have chosen to support a FREE CONVENTION. We opposed free suffrage; not because we thought the people ought not to have it, but because we did not [illegible] *mention the propriety of amendments to the* [illegible] *the convention* [illegible] *that is not the mode of amending the constitution,* [illegible] Let us see how it is to be carried into effect. A bill is to be introduced into one house proposing an alteration of the constitution. It is to [illegible] the legislature, it is to be published in such manner as the legislature may prescribe, for the information of the people. They have to pass it again through both bodies by a vote of two thirds of both houses; and it is then submitted to the people who may ratify or reject it, by voting directly upon it at the ballot box.

Now, is it not perfectly obvious that, by this mode, the will of a majority—nay, of two thirds of the people, may be defeated? We have already shown that, after 1852, thirteen senators will represent a majority of the people of North Carolina. The minority is represented by thirty seven senators—any seventeen of whom may defeat the will of the whole senate. Is there any principle more thoroughly settled than that a majority of the people have a right to form or reform their constitution—their fundamental law? All constitutions, it is true, are designed to protect the rights of minorities: it is the shield which guards their rights against all encroachments. But these shields, those guards must come, in the first instance, from a MAJORITY. In no other way can "power be derived from the people only." * * * This right, which you are told is an inalienable personal right, and which you are degraded by not being permitted to exercise, is not yet obtained, and we venture to predict you never will obtain it by legislative action. It is deceptive, and intended to be deceptive.

* * * * * * * *

But if you do get it it will be after four more years of agitation. And every other amendment is to be made with the same difficulty. A generation may pass away, before even ONE amendment may be made to the constitution, though demanded by two thirds of the voters of your state, and of the most vital importance to their best interests.

Suppose there are not two thirds of both houses of the next general assembly in favor of free suffrage, in what situation will you be? The whole battle is to be fought over again. You will not be as near the attainment of your wishes as you are now. Is this an illustration of that principle contained in the first section of our bill of rights. "That all political power is vested in and derived from the people only?" *The legislature is only the creature of the people; and that mode of amending the constitution recognizes the right of that creature to dole out to them such amendments as may suit their pleasure.* It puts it in the power of seventeen senators, representing one fifth of the population of the state, to hold down, under the most grinding tyranny and oppression, the other four fifths, and to taunt them with the insulting cry of [illegible]. They say we have the power to govern you, we will exercise that power, and you have no means of redress except by rebellion. Every principle of free government is outraged by such a course; every principle of our nature revolts at it.

The mode of reforming the constitution which we advocate avoids all these objections. There is no possibility of mixing it up with the political intrigues of the day. Demagogues have no opportunity of seizing upon some one principle, and riding upon it as a hobby into power. There is no improper and unnatural agitation of the popular mind. When a convention is authorized by law the people are sensible of the importance of the task they have to perform, and fully alive to the responsibility which rests upon them. They select as their delegates, not hot brained politicians trained in the polluted atmosphere of party corruption; but men distinguished for purity, for wisdom, for integrity, for prudence, for moderation—men who have passed the age when they are misled by the allurements of ambition; and who may desire to secure for their descendants a free, stable and conservative government. Their deliberations are conducted with coolness and dignity.

Let such a body assemble in North Carolina, and take into consideration the whole constitution. Let their wisdom determine whether any alterations should be made, and if any, what they are. Let these alterations then be submitted to the people, and let them declare, at the ballot box, whether they prefer the old constitution or the new. There need be no turmoil—no excitement. Everything will be conducted with that calmness and dignity becoming so important a subject. Within twelve months everything may be done, and if a change is made, the government will be moving on in its new sphere of action—every grievance remedied—every cause of complaint taken away—and that which has been the bane of North Carolina, crippling all her efforts to better her condition—retarding all her improvements—eastern and western jealously, buried forever.

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Then why persist in charging that our objection in seeking to obtain a convention is an attempt to deprive the east of any one of her just rights? We solemnly avow it to be our belief that every cause of complaint that either has against the other, can be easily, readily removed by a convention, that all differences will be adjusted fairly and wisely; and that we will then form one brotherhood, united in feeling, and interest, and speedily assume that proud stand amongst our sister states to which our resources and the character of our people so eminently entitle our noble old state.

If this ONE object can be obtained, we shall have done more for North Carolina than a quarter of a century of legislation under our present system can accomplish.

The mode of altering the constitution by convention is much the most economical. The time already consumed by the legislature in the agitation and discussion of this one proposed amendment, has cost the state more than the whole expenses of the convention will have to discuss it, and, even if we then fail, THE WHOLE COST will have been incurred. Another amendment may be proposed, and the expense incurred. So that the mere discussion of each proposed amendment, WOULD COST MORE THAN A CONVENTION which would settle the whole at once and forever.

Entertaining these views, we have opposed, in the present legislature, the attempt to take initiatory steps to incorporate free suffrage in our constitution by legislative action. We believe the mode is anti-republican, and contrary to the free spirit of our institutions. We believe you cannot obtain free suffrage in the manner proposed; and, if we are mistaken in that, we are sure you cannot obtain it without years of agitation and turmoil. We believe that one amendment in this mode *will cost the state more than a convention* which would redress every grievance. We believe that a convention can [illegible] with the wisdom prudence and moderation [illegible] all those matters about which the public mind is beginning to be agitated, to the entire satisfaction of all parties of the State, so as to secure every one in the enjoyment of all his rights of person and of property. This is the object of all free governments. We desire nothing more, and are sure the people do not.

Studious efforts have been made by a portion of the public press to misrepresent our views, and to attribute to us motives which we never entertained. This is a stratagem frequently resorted to, to ward off the force of truth. We are charged with having party designs; and this is charged as a party movement. The charge is not true. It is above party. Our object is to keep our constitution out of the baneful influences of party politics; to elevate it above all other questions; and to induce action upon it by the wise men of the land. We are the advocates of the rights of the people to form their own organic law.

We have an abiding confidence in the honesty and integrity of the people of North Carolina. We have stood up as the advocates of their rights. Their good alone has governed us in our actions. We appeal then TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, to free themselves from the shackles of party; to look at this as a question which may affect them and their prosperity for all time to come; and to decide it as becomes NORTH CAROLINIANS—as becomes FREEMEN.

JOHN GRAY BYNUM,	Rutherford,
CALVIN J. WEBB,	"
JESSE B. SLOAN,	"
N. W. WOODFIN,	Buncombe
MARCUS ERWIN,	"
W. W. LANE,	Randolph
J. M. A. DRAKE,	"
JESSE THORNBURGH,	"
JNO. A. LILLINGTON,	Rowan & Davie
A. H. CALDWELL,	"
O. G. FOARD,	"
STEPHEN DOUTHIT,	"
G. F. DAVIDSON,	Iredell,
G. G. MCKOY,	"
E. M. CAMPBELL,	"
JOS. M. BOGLE,	"
FRANCIS LEAKE,	Stanly
A. M. FOSTER,	Wilkes
JOHN A. GILMER,	Guilford
D. F. CALDWELL,	"
CALVIN H. WILEY,	"
PETER ADAMS,	"
RUFUS BARRINGER,	Cabarrus
J. W. SCOTT,	"
JOHN SAMPSON,	"
ALFRED K. FOSTER,	Davidson,
JAS. M. LEACH,	"
HENRY WALSER,	"
A. B. MCMILLAN,	Ashe
DAVID W. SILER,	Macon,
JOHN HAYES,	Caldwell
J. H. HAUGHTON,	Chatham
ANGUS R. KELLY, & Z. RUSSELL,	Moore & Montgomery
SAMUEL FLEMMING,	Yancey
H. T. FARMER,	Henderson
TOD R. CALDWELL,	Burke
T. W. WALTON,	"

RALEIGH FEMALE SEMINARY. Mr. James H. Horner, of Oxford, thus tells the public who the principal of Raleigh female seminary is:

Mr. F. P. Hobgood was prepared for college at my school, and it affords me pleasure to say that while under my charge, he was a faithful and diligent student, exhibited a high order of talents and at every examination merited and received the highest distinction in scholarship. He subsequently graduated at Wake Forest College with distinguished honors.

He has been for several years successfully engaged in teaching and has already gained a high reputation as an efficient and able instructor.

As a gentleman of unimpeachable moral character, as a scholar, and as a teacher, he is entitled to the highest consideration. He is now conducting a female school in Raleigh, and if he meets with that success which his merits deserve, he cannot fail, with his remarkable energy and perseverance, to build up a large and prosperous first class female school. I know no one to whom parents may with more confidence entrust their daughters.

J. H. HORNER.

Oxford High School, June 17th 1871.

We the undersigned personally knowing Mr. Hobgood heartily concur in the above.

W. M. WINGATE,	W. R. GAULTNEY,
W. G. SIMMONS,	J. D. HUFHAM,
L. R. MILLS,	W. T. BROOKS,
WM. B. ROYALL,	W. T. WALTERS,
T. H. PRITCHARD,	R. H. MARSH.

CANDIDATES FOR CONVENTION.—Dr. Jesse Wallin has been nominated by the conservatives for convention in Madison; R. L. Gilkey, Esq., in Rutherford, Col. Cathey in Haywood. Camden has nominated Charles Williams, and Currituck Nathan L. Walker. Well done. Send on your best men from every county.

For the Sentinel.

PROPOSED SALE OF RALEIGH & GASTON RAILROAD STOCK.

Messrs. Editors: For the information of your readers, many of whom are stockholders in the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company, I ask the publication of the following circular, prepared, it is said, by Kemp P. Battle, and designed to circumvent the schemes of the Pennsylvania Central, or any other monopoly aiming at the possession of the highways of North Carolina. The fight is an interesting one not only to the stockholders of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company, but to the people of North Carolina in general.

It seems that Dr. Hawkins proposes, in behalf of an unknown party, to the stockholders who elected him in 1870, to sell 7,500 shares of their stock for $5 to $10 less than the market price. He professes not to recommend or to advise against the proposal; but as [illegible] Dr. Hawkins, as president, "by order of the directors," and as he kindly directs the stockholders how they may dispose of their stock at $15, by sending their certificates, duly signed, to the treasurer of the company, it must be taken, in all fairness to the railroad doctor, that he approves the scheme. Especially is this plain, when we know that a majority of the directors are his near relatives.

There are several curious things about this proposal.

1. Why is the price offered less than the market price?

2. Why was the time for accepting the proposal limited to July 6th?

3. Is it possible that the meeting of the stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad on the [illegible] of July had anything to do with the fixing of the date?

4. Dr. Hawkins [illegible] the plan of asking his stockholders to sell their stock to an unknown party for $5 to $8 [illegible] after declaring a six per cent. dividend, does not look like the wisdom of Solomon. [illegible]

5. Hence, those people who see clearly that nobody will accept this proposal [illegible] and other men in the ring [illegible] their brains to see what Dr. Hawkins is aiming at.

6. Does he aim to sell the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad to the Pennsylvania Central and thus stop up the North Carolina Railroad from all means of going northward, except by permission of that powerful corporation?

7. Does he aim to sell to the Seaboard & Roanoke R. R. Co., and thus procure a line to Norfolk?

8. And in order to accomplish one or the other of these schemes does Dr. Hawkins and his unknown offerer intend to frighten our people, cause general distrust of R. & G. R. R. stock, *and induce a general disposition on the part of stockholders to sell at some price?*

9. Is it a Wall street speculation, imported into North Carolina—is it a "bull and bear" fight?

We don't know. We are neophytes in this business. I own no stock in the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad company. But as a friend of many who do, as a citizen of North Carolina, I beg each of your subscribers who own that stock, to be careful how they dispose of their property—to be careful how they give the control of our highways to monopolists. If they shall take a part in enslaving our people to unfeeling capitalists, north or south, *they may make a little money but they will be held to a strict account by an outraged community.*

N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., June 26, 1871.

To the Stockholders of the Raleigh & Gaston R. R. Co.

The undersigned have received a proposal addressed to the stockholders of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad company, for the purchase of 7,500 shares of their stock at $15 per share.

The name of the would be purchaser is left blank, but it is said here that the proposition was submitted by Major Seth [illegible] of Danville, and that he is in the interest of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad company.

Notwithstanding a general meeting of stockholders is to be held within thirty days, we are only allowed until the 6th of July for consideration. Why this haste? What reason can be given? The effect is to take our judgment by storm, to force a panic, and to cause a surrender by timidity and surprise rather than by well considered reason.

Under these circumstances as many of you have honored us with your proxies, and as in our judgment the acceptance of the proposition would be a pecuniary loss to you and injurious to our people, we think it our duty to give you our views.

PRICE GREATLY INADEQUATE.

The Raleigh & Gaston Railroad is, including sidings, 100 miles long. The capital stock is $1,500,000. It is nearly free of debt, in fine order, with superior work shops, engines, cars, &c. The company owns a controlling interest in the Chatham Railroad, now nearly completed 45 miles to the Fayetteville railroad.

The cost of railroads in the United States is $44,000 per mile, (see Poor's Manual.) The cost in the southern states $30,000 per mile. It is certain that the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, as it stands, would cost at least $2,500,000. Its mere franchise has been assessed for taxation at $800,000 which tax, however, we contend to be unconstitutional.

The capital stock of our road is only three fifths of the cost. It is gravely proposed to sell this magnificent property at $15 per share, or $675,000 in the total.

Worse than that. The great monopoly only wants enough stock to control the road i. e. 7,500 shares. We are then to give them the control of a work worth $2,500,000 for $337,500.

Look at it a moment. We have one hundred miles of iron, worth nearly $500,000, twelve engines worth $100,000, besides coaches, cars, flats, &c. We have 200,000 cross ties. We have a large real estate, a new engine house just finished at $18,000. We have a first class work shop, with all the latest improvements. We have a road bed, which could not at present prices be made for less than $1,000,000. The property dividends and shares of the company are exempt from state and county taxation. We could stop our road, tear up our iron, sell all our property for more than $15 per share, and then have our franchise and road bed extra.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

We believe it is impossible to deprive us of a large portion of the freight and travel from the North Carolina Railroad. But even if we should lose all profit from that road, we could still with economy support ours and earn a dividend.

The Chatham Railroad will soon give us a part of the trade of Fayetteville, and most of that of the Chatham and the Coal Fields region. The state authorizes it to issue 1st mortgage bonds for $2,000,000. It will soon be extended to Cheraw and Columbia. It will cross the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad. By that road our line will be as short from Charlotte as the North Carolina Railroad. When we get to Columbia we will be able to command a large portion of the travel and trade of the southwest. Before seeing the effect of the extension of the Chatham Railroad, we are called on to give away a share of stock which represents $150 of railroad for $15.

MARKET PRICE.

When we consider that the market price of the Raleigh & Gaston stock has been of late 55 with dividend thrown in, when we know from past experience, that it will bring after the payment of the dividend, 50 to 52, and that, when money is worth from one to one-half per cent per month, the proposition to sell for $5 less than the market price is incomprehensible.

We are left in the dark as to real parties desiring the control, but it is charged that the Pennsylvania Central, or the parties controlling that road, who already own the Richmond & Danville and Piedmont roads in one direction and the Wilmington & Weldon and Richmond & Petersburg roads in another direction, is at the bottom of this movement. That great monopoly made strenuous efforts to [illegible] the North Carolina Railroad through the last Legislature they failed. This may be a repetition of the effort on a more subtle but still more dangerous plan. Give them the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad and they can throttle the North Carolina Railroad. They hedge it in at Greensboro', at Raleigh and at Goldsboro'. This great road will then be helpless as well as the Petersburg and the Seaboard & Roanoke railroads. The great monopoly will then control all the railroad lines leading through the state, North Carolina and [illegible] Pennsylvania Central.

INTERESTS OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE RALEIGH & GASTON RAILROAD COMPANY.

To North Carolina stockholders we say: Beware how you aid in surrendering the highways of your people to foreign monopolists. There is a pecuniary and a moral question involved. Recent returns show a charge of $5 per bale for cotton from Rocky Mount to Baltimore. We are reliably informed that $7 per bale has been charged from the same point to New York. Rocky Mount is on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, and that road is owned by the Pennsylvania Central. It is a mistake to suppose that Northern capitalists will be more liberal to us than our own people. The reason why freights at the North are so cheap, is *competition between rival lines.* Here there will be no rival lines and no competition. We cannot even bring public opinion to bear on them, because they being non residents, will not care for our public opinion. They will have us in a vice, and they will assuredly squeeze us.

We are not so quixotic as to advise you to sacrifice your stock to prevent this result. You are not called on to submit to greater losses than other North Carolinians, who do not own stock in the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company. But we think it right to suggest that you are not required to give out of the little property the war has left you, ten or fifteen dollars in the hundred of your stock, in order to purchase for yourselves and for your neighbors this dependency on foreigners. Disguise it as you will, the owners of the highways of a country are owners of the labor and profits of its people. Whether the unknown party who longs for the possession of our road, be the Pennsylvania Central or not, as business men you should set your faces against the scheme.

To Stockholders, who will view the subject merely from a pecuniary standpoint, in addition to the foregoing reasons for not acceding to the proposal, we suggest the following questions:

Why haste to go into this arrangement when no sufficient reason is given for it?

Is it likely that such a proposal would be made, unless the parties desiring to purchase, in order to accomplish their ends, will be willing to offer a much larger price if you stand firm?

Is it not possible that the proposal is made in the interest of speculators in our stock?

The price offered is entirely inadequate, and we feel sure that you will not sacrifice your stock at a panic.

To one and all we say that we do not intend to accept the offer, and we earnestly advise you not accept it, certainly not to do so until you understand the reasons of your action.

It has been deemed proper, after consultation with leading stockholders, to request an informal meeting of our stockholders in Raleigh, on the 4th of July next, at 8 o'clock, p. m., for consultation upon this subject. This will give abundant time for the acceptance of the proposal by any stockholder, if deemed desirable. We will endeavor to secure free passes on the railroads.

Very Respectfully, &c.,

B. F. Moore,	E. H. Plummer,
W. R. Cox,	R. S. Pullen,
R. H. Battle, Jr.,	Kemp P. Battle,
S. P. Arrington,	C. Dewey,
D. G. Fowle,	W. M. Boylan, Gua'n,
W. S. Mason,	T. H. Selby,
T. D. Martin, Agent.	

For the Sentinel.

RANDOLPH COUNTY.

Editors of the Sentinel:

It is understood that Finley Tomlinson, Esq., the superintendent of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, will resign his seat as member of the house of commons at no distant day, and as a conservative and native of Randolph, I respectfully suggest the name of ALLEN TOMLINSON, JR., (a brother of our representative) as the most suitable man, under all the circumstances, to fill this place. Allen Tomlinson is a gentleman of much intelligence and information, having had the advantage of a collegiate education, of unexceptional moral character and of great and deserved popularity in his section of the county, and in passing through a considerable portion of the county recently, I often heard his name suggested for the place his brother filled so creditably to himself and his constituents. In a word he would make an able, energetic and faithful member, and add to the strength of the conservative party.

UWHARIE.

SUICIDE.—Mrs. Mary T. Jones, wife of Wm. Jones, who resides 18 miles east of thisity, committed suicide on Wednesday by hanging herself in the stable. She went out of the house about 11 o'clock a. m. and was found suspended in the stable about 3 p. m. No cause is assigned for he deed.

For the Sentinel.

CONVENTION IN DAVIDSON.

In accordance with previous notice, the people of Davidson county assembled in the court house, in Lexington, on the 24th inst. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the convention.

The convention was organized by electing Eli G. Burton Esq., chairman, and William Thompson and J. R. Pinnix, secretaries.

On motion of Capt. F. C. Robbins, two delegates from each township in the county retired to a room, and, after consultation reported, through their chairman, William Harris, Esq., the names of Alfred Hargrave and C. F. Lowe, as the unanimous choice of the delegates for the nominees.

While the delegates were out our representative to Congress, Hon. Jas. M. Leach, after loud calls, addressed the [illegible] in one of his able, eloquent, and convincing speeches. He showed to the satisfaction of all unprejudiced minds, that the people of North Carolina cannot live under our present constitution, and that it will be the duty of every voter in the state, without regard to party, color or previous condition, to march up to the polls in August next, and vote for convention.

At the close of Gen. Leach's speech, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1. That, as the people are the source of all power in our form of government, and as the government itself is emphatically theirs, it was commendable and wise in the legislature to leave the question of calling a convention to the people, instead of ordering one themselves.

2. That we approve the restrictions contained in the convention bill, believing that the laborer's lien law is just and [illegible] should not be interfered with, if they [illegible] and that the homestead question should remain undisturbed.

3. That the question of changing our organic law [illegible] all mere party questions, affecting, as it does, the interests of the whole people of all portions, and the movement for a convention should, therefore, enlist in its favor the earnest and united efforts of men of all parties, and without respect to party.

4. That our present state constitution is defective in many important particulars; and a convention is the best and cheapest, if not the only practicable mode of effecting the necessary changes. We need a state convention to strike out those clauses of the constitution by which men hold over beyond the time for which the people elected them, and by which others threaten to do so; to abolish numerous useless offices with their high pay; to remove that great nuisance, the township system; to reform our judiciary, which was once our pride, but has become expensive and inefficient, and disgraceful to our state; to give us a simpler and cheaper and better county government; to relieve us from intolerable burdens of taxation which threaten to impoverish us, sweep away our homesteads and crush us to the dust; in short, to restore to us once more a North Carolina constitution and system of government, simple, cheap and sound, of which we may be proud, and under which we may all live in peace and happiness.

The meeting was then very agreeably entertained, for a short time, with good music from a string band, composed of some of the noble colored men of Davidson county. Henry Pinnix is the leader of the band, and they are all strong for the convention.

On motion, the chairman appointed Dr. W. R. Mears, William Harris and Wiley Crouse, as a committee to wait upon the nominees and inform them of their nomination. After a short interval, Mr. Crouse, in behalf of the committee, presented to the convention Alfred Hargrave, Esq., one of the nominees, who was received with great applause and enthusiasm. He made a few appropriate remarks in accepting the nomination. C. F. Lowe, Esq., was so situated that he could not be present, but his nomination was received with equal applause and enthusiasm, and he will accept the nomination.

This was one of the largest and most respectable conventions ever held in Davidson, and its nominees will carry the county by a handsome majority.

ELI G. BURTON, Ch'm.

WM. THOMPSON, J. R. PINNIX, Secretaries.

For the Sentinel.

MOORE COUNTY CONVENTION.

The convention of the conservative party of Moore county called for the purpose of nominating a delegate to the state convention, should there be one called, was organized by calling Dr. John Shaw to the chair, who explained, briefly, the object of the convention. The different townships were all represented except two. A committee, formed by the selection of two delegates from each township was appointed to nominate a delegate and draft resolutions expressive of the views of the convention. The committee retired to perform its duty, and, during its absence, Messrs. Alex. Kelly and Dr. Shaw addressed the convention, showing some of the most important defects and imperfections of the present constitution and the intolerable taxation under which the people will, from necessity, have to labor, unless a convention is called to relieve the legislature from the *constitutional necessity* of imposing burdensome taxes. John C. Campbell, Esq., being called on, spoke at length on the constitutionality of the convention question.

The committee on resolutions having returned, reported the following which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the conservatives of Moore county appreciate the necessity of calling a convention of the people to change the constitution of the state, the present being unsuited to our wants and [illegible] the people.

Resolved, That we heartily approve the act of the present legislature, enabling the people of the state to decide whether or not they will have a convention.

Resolved, That we urge upon the people the necessity of upholding the peaceful and law abiding character which they have always maintained by a willing submission to the laws of the country, and by a prompt co-operation with the lawful authorities in bringing all offenders to justice.

Resolved, That we recommend Gen. W. D. Dowd as our first choice to represent us in the proposed convention.

Gen. Dowd, in a few remarks accepted the nomination tendered him, and discoursed more at large on the convention question.

Convention adjourned.

DR. JOHN SHAW, Ch'm.

HENRY B. ADAMS, WM. B. CLEGG, Secretaries.

For the Sentinel.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA AS A TOBACCO GROWING REGION.

Messrs. Editors: Allow me to call the attention of your readers to western North Carolina as a tobacco growing region; and especially the counties of McDowell and Buncombe. A few days ago I visited the large tobacco plantation of Samuel C. Shelton & Co., of Buncombe. You will remember that Mr. Shelton took the premium on tobacco at the last annual fair at Raleigh, and also read before the agricultural society an "essay" of great interest in regard to the culture of tobacco. Mr. Shelton is a Virginian, and has a long experience in the raising of tobacco, who came to North Carolina about two years ago, and started the raising of tobacco in Buncombe county, on a large scale. He now has in cultivation about 650,000 [illegible] He tells me that tobacco farmers estimate their crops by the number of plants, rather than by the number of acres. But I will say that he has in cultivation about 150 acres, and I have never seen a crop equal to it. He estimates that he can "top" almost the entire crop by the 10th of July at from 10 to 12 leaves. His farm is situated on the French Broad River, seven miles west of Asheville. He planted a portion of the crop as early as the 4th day of May, and Mr. Shelton, who came from one of the best tobacco regions in Virginia, says that large portions of this county is the best tobacco region he ever saw. The example of Mr. Shelton has inspired many others with the determination to raise tobacco. Gen. R. B. Vance has in cultivation about forty acres of tobacco, with the most flattering prospects of a magnificent crop, and it is estimated that 500 acres have been planted this year in the county of Buncombe.

And McDowell county is considered superior, on account of the season being a little longer, and the crop less subject, to [illegible] McDowell had made a profitable business in the cultivation of tobacco, and Col. Neil had a manufactory for tobacco in Marion. The attention of the people, of this county, is again being aroused to this *paying business of raising tobacco.* Mr. Samuel H. Flemming and Mr. Orlando E. Malone, both, have beautiful crops of tobacco in McDowell county, and they and others are making arrangements to engage largely in the business next year. And it is contemplated very soon to start a tobacco manufactory in Marion.

I should not omit to mention that Shelton & Hunt have started a tobacco factory in Asheville,—that they are now working about fifteen hands, under the control of Capt. H. C. France.

It seems to me that in no better way can our people relieve themselves of pecuniary difficulties, than by raising tobacco. The tobacco crop of North Carolina for the year 1870, was 33,500,000 pounds, which at the low figure of ten cents per pound, yields $3,350,000, and it might safely be stated, that the average price was twice this amount.

North Carolina stands forth in the amount raised in 1870, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee being all larger tobacco producing states, but if the western portion of the state should go largely into the business within a few years, our state will stand only second to Virginia in this respect. In order to see the results, now, Buncombe will raise from the 500 acres in cultivation 250,000 pounds of tobacco, estimating 500 pounds to the acre. This quantity of tobacco, at 20 cents per pound, will bring $50,000 into the county of Buncombe. And I may state that *most of the tobacco raised in that county last year brought 25 cents per pound in the leaf.*

And suppose McDowell county does the same thing, here is $100,000 brought into two counties, all this, too, when probably not more than 40 men are engaged in the business. Let 100 or 500 men engage in the business and we can see the results.

Our people must do something. We have too many idle men. The people must "*dig something from the ground*" before we can discover any accessions to our wealth as a people. We have in western North Carolina the finest country in the world: its climate, its soil, its salubrious air, purified by magnificent mountains, its cold gushing streams all invite the industry and attachment of its native citizens, and afford inducements to the emigrant and capitalist. But if we would have *others* appreciate our magnificent country, we should first show *our own appreciation* of it by attempting its development. When we have demonstrated the advantages ourselves, then no farther argument is needed to convince the "outside world."

If the thousands of our people now *loitering in idleness were to actively undertake the "doing something for themselves,"* how soon would they do something for the *country*, and demonstrate the *greatness and magnificence of western North Carolina.*

W. H. MALONE.

MARION, N. C., June 23, 1871.

For the Sentinel.

THE MISSES NASH'S SOIREE.

The select boarding and day school of the Misses Nash and Miss Kollock has long since taken its place in the foremost rank of institutions for the education of young ladies in North Carolina, and is a good type of what is best in North Carolina character. Our people have in their natures *less brass* and *more gold* than—I had almost said any other people on the face of the earth. They believe in *doing* rather than *talking*. They mind their business, pay their debts and keep their promises. The Misses Nash and Miss Kollock, who come of the best of our old colonial blood, are true North Carolinians; and having promised in their modest and unpretending advertisements and circulars to keep a first-class boarding and day school where young ladies shall be educated in the best manner, *they do it.*

It was my good fortune to attend the "soiree musicale" at this school on the evening of the 22d inst. The programme was an excellent one.

The audience was a select and very intelligent one, and judging from the applause with which the performance was greeted, it was an appreciative one too. The decorations of the room, festoons of evergreens and flowers, were very tasteful and beautiful; and the young ladies—why, they were gotten up in the best style of art, and were like the wreaths, graceful and beautiful. The execution of the various songs and pieces was most creditable to Mr. Grotz, the teacher of music, as well as to his pupils; for delicacy of touch, accuracy of time, and culture of voice, the young ladies could not easily have been surpassed, and their performance was highly creditable to all concerned. The choruses were very fine, especially the Carnival of Venice.

The vocal solos of Miss Murchison were sweet little home songs delightfully rendered. The vocal duet from La Juive, by Miss Scales and Miss Field, was *splendid*. David Dodd says that operatic music is "no music at all; just scrambling up to the mast head and back again, and all for no good." But David didn't hear Miss Scales and Miss Field sing the duet from La Juive, or he would not have said so. The execution was very fine; and, to one who knows anything of the difficulty of rendering such a piece,—anything of the richness, compass and culture of voice which such execution requires, the performance of these young ladies must have been very striking. To me it was marvelous. This piece, as also Miss Scales' vocal solo, "one wandered down the mountain side," was vigorously encored.

May we hear them again!

RUSTICUS.

For the Sentinel.

CHAPEL HILL, June 30.

MR. TURNER: I see no good reason why you should not receive an occasional letter from this forlorn locality. Chapel Hill has subsided to be sure, but it is not yet extinct. Occasionally it spits fire, and now and then throws out mud. I propose to send you to-day a little milk and water by way of variety, and tell you what a peaceful and unambitious sunday school celebration we can get up when we have a mind.

This time it was the Methodist church, aided and abetted by the Baptist, who gave the frolic. Mr. Pool generously lent them his own private college chapel and campus, which they took possession of on Thursday 29th inst., and a prettier display of happy children, and gratified and interested fathers and mothers, to say nothing of good looking teachers, was never seen before on those premises I assure you.

The chapel rostrum was occupied by Rev. Messrs. Bobbitt and Betts of the M. E. church, Messrs. T. Long and P. [illegible] superintendents of the two sunday schools, and by the orator of the day, [illegible] the old faculty used to sit [illegible] was filled with children [illegible] with citizens of Chapel Hill and from the surrounding country.

Rev. Mr. Betts opened the exercises with prayer, making therein a beautiful and affecting allusion to the present condition of the institution in whose chapel we stood—his beloved *alma mater*,—praying for a blessing on his old professors wherever scattered, upon the old graduates and his classmates and for a restoration of the college to its former pride of place.

Mr. Betts made some people in Chapel Hill love him all the more for that prayer. Next Rev. Mr. Bobbitt briefly addressed the assembly in a felicitous and sprightly way, which you know no class of men more excel in than the Methodist clergy as a body. Then the orator took his stand and entertained us with an exceedingly well written, sensible and practical digest of the sunday school work and what it should be as to the scholars, teachers and superintendent. I don't know how you feel about these things, Mr. editor, but for my part I think it a happy thing for any community when its young men come forward to such a work as that of sustaining and elevating the sunday school. [illegible] work going on in protestant countries than this, not one more closely connected with the best interests and prosperity of our rising generation. Chapel Hill sunday schools have raised many a clever boy, and none more likely to do them credit than those who are now engaged in them as teachers.

Next in order was the presentation of a handsome Bible to the worthy superintendent of the M. E. sunday school, Thos. Long, Esq., by the teachers and scholars. Mr. T. F. Norwood performed this pleasing duty neatly and appropriately—Mr. Long accepting the token with evident emotion, and responding with deep feeling.

After this, came the pic-nic part of the celebration. Now I don't known, Mr. Editor, how you feel about these things either, but to my mind, cold chicken and apple tart and bread and butter, judiciously interspersed with hard boiled partridge eggs, form not inappropriate adjuncts to the sunday school cause of a June morning, when introduced about 12 m.

Your correspondent took occasion during the recess to stroll about the college grounds and buildings. Alas! and alas! Some bold hand has written on the wall of a passage in the old W. B. "Ichabod, Ichabod, the glory is departed." No care seems to be taken of the property. The windows are all stood open, the closets have been torn down and the very doors carried off. The plastering of the S. B. lies in heaps on the staircases. An old resident like myself, Mr. Turner, walks through those corridors and groves, repeopling them with the dead. Familiar faces look out at every window and meet me on the gravel walks.

However, I promised you milk and water only. Let us leave the the university per se, lest there be an infusion of bitter that shall spoil the mixture.

After lunch, there was more speaking. Mr. P. McDade of the Baptist school, Mr. H. Merritt, principal of the Cary Academy, and some others, assisted to make the time pass agreeably and profitably. Prizes were distributed among the children and teachers, and the crowd dispersed to assemble again at night to witness the performance of a balloon which was successfully sent up by Mr. Cooley, of Hillsboro'. By the way; I may as well mention in confidence, that Hillsboro' has a way of sending down pretty girls to assist at Chapel Hill solemnities. All right, Chapel Hill girls are not afraid of 'em any day.

Yours to command, Mr. editor,

CHAPEL HILLIAN.

P. S. Are we going to have a convention? First, I read the SENTINEL and think we are. Then, I read republican papers and am afarid we are not. Mr. Phillips wants us all to wait awhile. Law bless you, Mr. Turner, taint no use waiting. Charles Lamb advises, when a man has been bit by a mad dog, to wait and see if the dog really was mad and mean while to kill the man for fear of accidents. I want the dog killed, and the bitten part cut out of the poor man.—Quien.

A BACKHANDED COMPLIMENT.—One of Bunell's juniors got off this paragraph while that individual was recently down South enjoying himself among the hospitable Virginians and North Carolinians: "As yet nothing has been heard from the party of editors who left this part of the State some ten days ago on a trip to the South. We have no fears for them however, for they are about as big a lot of professional dead beats as ever got together, and each one knows just how to look out for number one. We do from the bottom of our hearts pity those with whom they come in contact, such men as railroad conductors, hotel keepers, omnibus drivers, etc. Such people will suffer.—Virginia will present a worse appearance after these editors have passed through it than it did at any time during the war." Mr. Bunnell is the editor of the Danville (N. Y.) *Advertiser*, and publishes a good paper.