THE SENTINEL

JOSIAH TURNER, JR., EDITOR
JAMES H. MOORE, Associate Editor
and Local Editor.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1870.

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE
For Member of Congress,
HON. W. M. SHIPP,
of Burke County, NORTH CAROLINA.

We are authorized to withdraw the name of MR. J. J. OVERBY, as a candidate, and to say that he will support DR. DUNN, the regular nominee.

A RESTRICTED CONVENTION.

Our space is unfolding so frequently to this subject, as not to create a new public opinion, but if possible, to make what we understand to be the wishes of the people. Blinded as we are, perhaps, our position enables us to ascertain what their wishes are, somewhat more easily than others.—Yet we do not assume that our information is through by perfect. Hence we are in favor of a free discussion of the subject.

We regard it as the most important subject which now disturbs our people—one about which there should be a clear understanding and great unanimity. We have said, that on no subject of so great importance, have we found the people so unanimous, as the necessity of the call of a Convention to amend the Constitution, and equally harmonious are they as to the particular amendments desired. We have seen nothing to change this opinion. The only point about which we discover a difference of opinion among the friends of amendment, are, first, the *time* of doing it and secondly the *manner* of doing it.

No one wants a Convention to make a Constitution for the State, *de novo*, not one; no one wants to destroy it. Where are any who desire such a Convention, we do not go with them. Neither the necessities of our condition nor sound policy, favor the call of an open or unrestricted Convention. But some still hold to the old but now obsolete idea, that the very nature of a Convention to make or change the organic law, demands that it should be open and unrestrained. This might be true, if it were also true in any practical sense, that the acts of a Convention are the people's acts. But is it not a palpable truth, that this idea is merely theoretical and intangible, and that the people do not admit the acts of their representatives in Convention to be their acts, until they have been ratified by them by specific vote? A contemporary says, "it is quite wrong in supposing that the Convention can be limited or restricted in any way, save by the Constitution of the United States." Why did it not give satisfactory proof of this position? We have taken a different view, but have never quarrelled with any one who has supposed it. Historically from point to period, and some people seem to be fond of it, that it does be, in the face of the known fact that in many of the States restrictions have been added and in this State in 1835 such a Convention was held, after the question had been fully discussed by the ablest men of that day. Who ever doubted the validity of the amendments to the Constitution made by the Convention of 1835, because it was a restricted Convention?

But all are agreed, that the present Constitution is not justly entitled to our people such onerous burdens *that it ought to remember*. If so, why not now—the sooner the better. Well, say some, we would like to have it by all means—would like to have it changed now, but hush! it must go to talk of it, or have it defeated! That is darker to the attempt. Well, but there is certain death to the Sentinel as it remains, if it is a day longer than it can be amended. Have you seriously thought of the consequences to the people of the State of defeating the present Constitution for the next two years? We have survived its ruin so far, despite of it, the Radical party, who adopted it, have not enforced it! In many of its important features, it has been a dead letter, under Radical rule. The Radical party as a party will oppose the amendments we propose, not because those amendments will injure the State, but for the two-fold reason that if the Democratic Conservative party attempts to enforce the Constitution as it is, they know it will kill the party monster, and if on the other hand we succeed in amending the Constitution in the particulars we propose, it will tend to put the end of hatred among us and therefore, kill the Radical party. Look what they did at the last session of the late Radical Legislature. They laid a tax bill, ignoring the Constitution, which they knew would not produce an income sufficient to meet the appropriations. Appropriations are made by the government for the year 1870-71, for the reason that they are prohibited their extent in the August election, knowing that if the Conservatives succeeded, the responsible burden of providing the means of carrying on the government the next year would fall upon us, which they hoped would destroy our party. We denied the right of the Legislature to carry out the Constitution at the Radical governments in the South would equip themselves with the power of taxation, and the people of the State of amending the present Constitution for the next two years!