THE SENTINEL.

JOSIAH TURNER, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1875.

DEATH AND ASSASSINATION.

The history of the world teaches that Republics are short-lived. Last year there were only three worth naming. The United States, Mexico and Spain. Mexico should not be called a Republic though it comes nearer to that form of government than any other, if you call what she has government at all.

A boy of seventeen by the name of Alfonso, who parts his hair in the *middle*, overthrew the Spanish Republic out of spite, because the Republic had repudiated his mother, Queen Isabella, and made her run out of town and over the line among the French. This boy is now at the head of the army. If he appoints such Quarter-masters as Judge Rodman of the Supreme Court, and such military rulers as Governor Cantwell, late Military Governor of Norfolk, we doub: if his government lasts long.

While this boy of seventeen was murdering one Republic two big, course men were at New Orleans stabbing the other, with a set of idle soldiers, who are as hard up for something to do as Flora McFlimsey was for something to wear. Only a few men as yet, have given "aid, countenance or encouragement" to the assassination of the Louisiana Republic. Republics are always destroyed by enterprising boys like Alfonzo, or stabbed to death by reckless old men like Grant and Sheridan.

Republics are more subject to robberry than to murder and assassination. How many had been robbed under Grant would make the tale too long to tell. Whether Grant and Sheridan will continue the stabbing to the death or not depends altogether upon what may be thought and done by the American people. The death of one Republic a year will soon extinguish the whole family of Republics. Two of them having always been consumptive. "Eternal vigilance" is not only the price of liberty, but the life of a Republic, without vigilance on the part of the people Republics cannot live.

HONEST JOHN RAGLAND.

Where is this old white Republican, with his grape vine? When John Pool and Judge Reade wrote what was called the Legislative Address, telling the white people if they did not employ the negro and give him shelter, they might by the negro be deprived of their shelters or houses. Every radical in the Legislature, including Gov. Cantwell, signed it, except John Ragland, the member from Granville. "*Honest*" John swore he would not sign it—it was incendiary and inviting to barn burning. He further said the man who would sign it should be "hung with a grape vine untrimmed." He said this in Raleigh, and had the boldness to go home and repeat it on the stump. "*Honest*" John is a fire tried Republican, and was the first one in the State to advocate the right of the negro to vote and hold office. He helped to make the Constitution so dear to the radical party, that few are found to desire a change. But alas! for "*Honest*" John and his "fire tried principles," Judge Reade and John Pool were too strong before his negro constituency, and two negroes now fill "*Honest*" John's place in the political school of Granville county. John had only the will, but not the power to use the grape vine. If he could have used the vine he would have saved much valuable property in Granville. Dr. Hicks informed us that he could stand in his porch and see the flames that consumed $50,000 of property, all the work of incendiaries.

Sheridan's latest dispatch to Washington is just of the order of the Legislative Address written by Reade and Pool. We would not say that which would incite to mob law, but it is lucky for Sheridan, that the old Constitution-maker, "fire tried Republican of Granville is not near him with a "grape vine untrimmed." This Louisiana game is nothing but the carpet bag game played in North Carolina—Grant backing the carpetbag and scalawag plunders in both instances. Resistance is all in vain; humble, slavish submission and "masterly inactivity," alone can win. Is that way, after a Convention is called, North Carolina will have whipped them, after a war longer than that of the revolution, and six months longer than the Trojan war. Without a Convention our victory is all "dead sea fruit."

MEETING IN CARTERET FOR CONVENTION.

One of the largest meetings ever held in Morehead, convened at the Macon House on Wednesday, the 13th inst., to consider the subject of Convention. Col. W. N. Dennis was called to the chair and Wm. L. Arendell, Esq., was elected Secretary.

After considerable discussion a committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of what seemed to be the general views and opinions. The necessity for Convention appeared to be fully conceded, but the minds of many seemed to be impressed with a doubt as to its present expediency. This shrinking from the true responsibility which the people ought to take upon themselves is the only thing which will defeat Convention—should it be defeated—for the representatives of the people can hardly be expected to assume a responsibility which they themselves decline.

After a brief delay, the Committee on Resolutions reported the following, which were read and discussed:

RESOLUTIONS.

At a meeting of the citizens of Morehead Township, in the county of Carteret, held at the Macon House on Wednesday, the 13th day of January, A. D., 1875, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, in the history of all Republican governments it has been found that the liberties of the people are best secured by a frequent recurrence to the fundamental law, by means of which not only the purity of the body politic is maintained, but the minds of the people are more thoroughly familiarized with the organic laws; and

Whereas, the constitutional government of a free people should be in perfect harmony with the spirit and genius of such people, in order that the greatest good to the greatest number being the prime object of all governments should obtain; and

Whereas, there has existed in the minds of the people of this State for several years past a strong feeling of dissatisfaction with the existing Constitution, and it has been found by actual experience that there is a grave necessity for some change in said Constitution; and

Whereas, the citizens of Morehead have always been ready to declare with sincere independence, but proper respect for the opinions of others, their own views and opinions upon the public issues of the day. Therefore the citizens of Morehead, without regard to party, in meeting duly convened in said place, have

Resolved, That in their humble opinion the future welfare of this State imperatively demands that a Convention of the people should be called at an early day to meet in the City of Raleigh to provide for such State and people a Constitution not only worthy of their antecedents, but but in keeping with the progress and genius of the age.

Resolved, That the citizens of Morehead, while acknowledging and thus expressing their firm belief in the necessity for constitutional changes, at the same time are constrained to also enter their protest against what might be termed a Revolutionary Convention. They feel, in the most solemn manner, the obligation which rests upon this State, to preserve intact the liberties which the results of our late war have conferred upon our Southern citizens of African descent. They, therefore, while endorsing the public movement in favor of Convention desire to put upon record their convictions, that no interference, directly or indirectly, ever should be had by the dominant party of this State in the objects sought to be obtained by the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That there are questions of grave importance to the people of this State which have been settled and determined in and by the present constitution of this State which, in our opinion, should not again be disturbed, except to enlarge the same; particularly among these we would enumerate "The Mechan's and Laborers Lien Law." We further are of opinion, that true policy, as well as justice, demand that a convention, if held, should not interfere with the remaining terms of office of either State officers or the higher judiciary.

Resolved, That with these humbly expressed reservations, the citizens of Morehead, without regard to party, will support a call for a State Convention in such a manner as the wisdom of the General Assembly think most expedient.

Resolved, That the chairman and secretary of this meeting be appointed a special committee to report the same to the *Sentinel, News and Newbernian* and such other papers as they deem expedient.

W. N. DENNIS,
Chairman.

W. L. ARENDELL,
Secretary.

After the resolutions were read Colonel Dennis made a few remarks declaring his own willingness to meet the issue now—he would, however, defer to the will of the majority, &c. Mr. Webb was understood to support the resolutions; and after other discussion, Mr. Oakesmith, the member from Carteret, being called upon said:

SPEECH OF MR. OAKESMITH.

Mr. Chairman:—If the citizens of this county had not conferred upon me the very great honor of sending me as their Representative to the General Assembly of this State, I should not perhaps have been as profoundly impressed with the necessity for calling a State Convention as I am at this moment. In discussing the resolutions which are now before this meeting I feel it my duty to acknowledge this impression, I may say conviction at the outset, for I know that my own views are not concurred in by a large number of my fellow citizens of this county. A faithful legislator could not have served six weeks under the Constitution of North Carolina without discovering many of its defects. I have served six weeks, and trust when my duties are over, I shall be found to have been a faithful servant, and it is from the highest sense of my public duty, speaking from a knowledge thus acquired, that I am forced to support these resolutions. Were I not to do so, I should be recreant to the trust which you yourselves and so large a majority of the citizens of this county have reposed in me. The committee which framed these resolutions have disembarrassed the question of some features which have given rise to serious objections. Belonging as I do to the reform Democracy, who are seeking to restore our State and General Governments to their pristine purity—to drive the plunderers and "Rings" from our Legislative and Congressional Halls to harmonize and build up the disorganized and shattered institutions of the past. I could ot be expected to support any measure which might by any possibility have the effect of rekindling a single spark of the unhappy fires so lately quenched. If there is a single citizen here present who more than another has cause to shrink from such a result, I am that man. I do not share in the fears which I have heard expressed that a call for a Convention by the General Assembly would be the signal for attack by the Republicans upon the democracy. This, sir, is no party question, and the man who seeks to make it so is devoid of all true patriotism. I believe a genuine fear has been entertained by many of the southern citizens of African descent that the calling of a State Convention by the Democratic party foreboded no good to their liberties or their condition. Who was responsible for this fear, how it was engendered, who fostered it, or who encouraged it matters but little at the present moment. It has existed, and although it is being rapidly dispelled, it is not wholly eradicated. The resolution now before us touching on this point is wisely put, and I am truly glad that there are so many of that race now present to hear it emanating from a Democratic source. I fully endorse it, and I here most emphatically declare that never so long as I have a voice to raise will I consent to the abridgement—no matter how small the degree—of a single right or privilege now enjoyed by that race, and I say to them now, and I would that every colored citizen in the State could hear my voice, *you have nothing to fear from Convention*—the rights which the Constitution of the United States have given you can never be annulled or impaired by any human power. This question has long since been settled, and can never be revived again.

* * * * *

And, sir, if I have expressed with candor my views upon the inalienability of the rights of Southern citizens of African descent, I desire to express with equal candor my opinion upon those questions regarding which the resolutions would seek to limit the action of a State Convention.

And first, in regard to the homestead. As a question of political economy I am not prepared to say that this exemption is a wise one; but taking into consideration the peculiar condition of the people of this State, their poverty, their long sufferings and privations and the disheartenments under which they at present labor, I should be prepared to support it as a question of expediency. The right rests with the people, and having the right and power it is for them to exercise it as they will, and presuming that they will exercise it by maintaining the homestead, I see questions arising in the future, which if we are to have a Convention, should very properly be settled there; for this reason I am glad that these resolutions contemplate the enlargement of certain questions to which the people's right of restriction is sought to be applied. If the Homestead is to be maintained it may as well be made a *fee simple*, and exempted from compulsory sale under any process whatever; while the questions of laying off and appraisal should be permanently settled in the organic law. I need hardly add my endorsement to the restrictions on the questions of laborers and mechanics liens, and the rights of married women as affecting their separate estates. An enlightened public policy has long since determined the wisdom of what substantially exists at present in the Constitution of this State upon these questions, and where public policy and the people's wishes alike concur, it seems almost a work of supererogation for me to endorse, as I do these resolutions, also upon those subjects. And sir, this brings me to a point of gravest importance. What is the necessity of any change? All who, from their experience, have learned this necessity have discovered it from different grounds, and view it from different standpoints. Let me briefly express some of those which have occurred to me. It is everywhere conceded that foremost among the great needs of this State are capital and immigration. It is known that this State is burdened with a debt of forty millions of dollars. Among high minded, enlightened and prosperous States and Nationalities such a word as *repudiation* is unknown; and in the countries to which we shall have to look for our capital and immigration, the presumption exists that the people of this State are or will be taxed for the principal and interest of this enormous debt. Is there any wonder that the emigrant shrinks from bringing his family, with perhaps a slender fortune, to a land where he is to be taxed to the utmost limit for the former burdens of the State? Is it surprising that the capitalist declines to risk his money where, if he can believe the public journals of the State, the prevailing sentiment of the people is in favor of repudiating obligations upon which he has based his trust in that people in former years? True policy would seem to dictate then, that if we cannot or will not pay our debts, we should exempt both the emigrant with his slender means and the fruits of his labor, and the money of the foreign capitalist, the use of which we require to develop our resources from taxation for limited periods as an inducement for them to come here. I have talked with some of our wisest statesmen upon these points, and they, without an exception, concur in the wisdom of such a course. But we cannot do it—cannot pass a single law inviting in this manner, and with this inducement of exemption from taxation for limited periods, capital and immigration to our State, because the Constitution forbids such exemption. Again, sir; if we are ever to make any settlement of our State's debt—are ever, by honorable compromise to seek to restore the once high credit of this State, another amendment to the organic law is essential. The people should limit the power of the General Assembly to incur debts for any purpose, and that limit should be fixed at whatever sum is settled upon as a final adjustment of the past. These are points which have attracted no attention, but they are vital ones. Difficulties have also been suggested in regard to public education wherein constitutions changes are required, and there are many minor questions which time will not permit me to dwell upon. One of the strongest arguments which the Conventionists use is the evil of an elective Judiciary. Not withstanding that in the main this State has been singularly fortunate in that respect, I am constrained to declare I have always been opposed to the election of those who are to sit in judgment upon their fellow citizen. A pure and independent judiciary is one of the essential elements of good government; and however great the man he could not be possessed of human attributes who could be proof against the influence of those upon whom he was dependent for his position, and most probably his family's support. We owe to Mother-England the great and the best that we have in everything; and believing that her judicial system is now the best in the world, I am in favor of retracing our steps and resuming with some modifications the system which we originally had from her. But sir, I do not feel that in bringing about so serious a change it should be done without due consideration for those who are faithfully performing their duties in the high positions to which, under the present Constitution they have been called, and I trust those portions of the resolution which express that view may be favorably considered."

* * * * * * *

Space will not permit us to give Mr. Oakesmith's speech in full, but we have given enough to show its general scope and tone. Upon conclusion he seconded the adoption of the resolutions.

He was followed by a

SHORT SPEECH FROM DR. M. F. ARENDELL,

who stated that he desired to discuss the question as a *Democratic Union Republican*. With some slight modifications he would support the resolutions. He believed there was no hope for the future development of the State, except through certain constitutional amendments, and no hope for these amendments except through Convention. He agreed with his friend Oaksmith in the main upon all that he had said, but he had left out the strongest point in the argument, which he would supply. "Constitutions were made for minorities, and true statesmanship would dictate that the majority of to day never knowing when they might be the minority, would guard with jealous care all the rights of the minority." Hence he would assure his Republican friends that they might acquiesce in Convention with perfect safety, as he believed if it was called North Carolina would send there her wisest and best men, regardless of party."

The Dr made one of his characteristically able speeches, after which the resolutions were put to the electory and unanamously adopted. The meeting then adjourned.

Mr. Editor—Will you allow an ousider to say a word about Convention. I learn the Senate is all safe for Convention, and in the House there are some members who, favoring a Convention themselves, fear their constituents are not for it. I know the fact that there is a plan to bring Republicans to the aid of Convention by proposing to remove Ex-Governor Holden's disabilities by the Convention. I depricate any such bargain. I learn that Gov. Holden and other prominent Republicans are for Convention. It seems, Mr. Editor, we can do nothing without a trade. Yours for Convention without

TRADE.

1874. 1874.

AUTUMN.

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nov 13 1w

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Persons who have listed their property and polls and fail to settle by January 10, 1875, the same will be advertised and collected as once by law.

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nov 21-tf

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dec31-dtst J. M. LOVEJOY.

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Dec. 9th, 1874—36t30.

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jan 4-tf

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CONGESTION OF THE LUNGS,
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Twenty drops in half a tumbler of water in a few moments cures CRAMPS, SPASMS, SOUR STOMACH, HEARTBURN, SICK HEADACHE, DIARRHŒA, DYSENTERY, COLIC, WIND IN THE BOWELS, and all INTERNAL PAINS.

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