

# CAROLINA CENTINEL.

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## Domestic.

Defeated in their applications to the Legislature, the citizens of the Western counties are determined to appeal to the people for a redress of their grievances, and to form a Convention in which a majority of the free population of the State will be represented. However opposed our readers may be to the contemplated change of the State Constitution, they cannot but desire to be informed of the measures which are agitated in regard to this subject, and with the view of affording such information, we publish the following article, expressive no doubt of the sentiments of our western brethren.

FROM THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN.

### THE GRAND JURY OF ROWAN TO THEIR FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—Impelled by every consideration of right and justice, we feel it our duty to bring before you an oppressive grievance under which the people of Rowan, in common with a large majority of their fellow-citizens of the state, have for a number of years labored. This grievance arises from the great inequality in the operation of our present constitution, particularly that part of it which prescribes the mode of electing members to the General Assembly. It is one of the fundamental rules of a republican government, that all the free people living under it should have equal privileges one with another, and equally bear the expenses and burdens of government. This is very far from being the case in North-Carolina. Under the present constitution our state government has ceased to be republican, and has become a complete aristocracy. So far from the majority governing, as it ought to do, it is an incontestable fact, that a minority of less than one third of the free people of the state, controul and make laws for the rest. This follows from the mode of choosing members to the legislature.—Each county elects the same number of representatives, without any regard either to the amount of population, or extent of territory contained in the county. Thus our county of Rowan, with a free population of more than 20,000 souls, sends to the legislature only three members, while the small county of Greene, with a free population of only 2,359 souls, is entitled to the same number. So that, in fact, three citizens in many of the small counties in the eastern part of the state, have more weight in making the laws than 27 of the free inhabitants of Rowan. No, likewise, as to bearing the burdens of government. It is a fact established by the books of the comptroller, that there is a number of the small counties in the state which do not furnish a sufficient amount of taxes to pay the wages of their own members; whilst Rowan sends to the public treasury every year, over and above the pay of her own members, upwards of 2,000 dollars. And yet, year after year, when Rowan applies, in a respectful manner, to the legislature to have her unwieldy territory divided, and her local grievances redressed, she is treated with sneers, and rejected with scorn. Fellow-citizens, is it not time for the people to awaken to a sense of their degraded situation? Shall we continue to have the laws made for us by the minority, and pay them for domineering over us?—No. There is a point of forbearance, beyond which it is criminal to go. Nor is it the representative feature of the constitution alone, that requires amendment; there are many other parts which experience proves can be altered for the better. One of which, in our opinion, is, that the legislature meets too often. We think, that to convene every two years, would be frequent enough. It is now a fact, not to be denied, that the laws of one session have scarcely time to become known to the people, until they are either repealed or altered by the succeeding legislature. What are laws this year, cease to be laws the next; and so constantly are our acts of the assembly changing, that few others than the lawyers know which are in force and which are not. This is a great defect in our constitution, and a serious grievance to the people. But there is another objection to the legislature meeting as often as it does; namely, the great expense incurred by it. The legislature, one year with another, costs the people little short of 40,000 dollars. Now if it were convened only once every two years, then this large sum of 40,000 dollars, or nearly that, would every other year be saved to the public; and might either not be collected at all, or, if collected, applied to purposes of general usefulness.

But, fellow-citizens, our object is not now to expose the defects of the present system, as to call your attention to a remedy. Every reflecting citizen must be able to see, and sensibly to feel, that the operations of the present constitution are unequal, unjust, and anti-republican in the

extreme; that they are every day growing worse and unless the remedy is speedily applied, will soon become too grievous to be tolerated. What is this remedy, we would ask?—Every tongue will at once answer—a Convention of the free people of North Carolina! But how is this most desirable end to be brought about? Not by applying to the legislature, for the MINORITY there hold the power; and sad experience shows us, that feeling power, they forget right. No! there is no hopes from the legislature; and after the treatment we have received from that quarter, it would be humiliating to apply to them again. Thank God, in this land, where our fathers fought for freedom, there is another mode of obtaining redress, of our sufferings; this is, to apply to the source of all political power,—to the people themselves. The power lies in the hands of the people, and a majority have an incontestable right to exercise that power in altering or new-modifying the constitution whenever they please. The main consideration is, how to produce such a concert, as to bring by their delegates a majority of the people together. To accomplish this most desirable object, WE believe that the best plan is, for the free men of each county to meet at the place of meeting in each Captain's district, and choose one or more delegates. The delegates of each county so chosen, to convene at their respective Court Houses, on some certain day, to take the subject of our grievance under their most serious consideration; and, among other measures, to appoint a committee for the purpose of opening and carrying on a correspondence with like committees in other counties; and in this manner produce a concert of feeling and measures, which cannot fail in a short time, of bringing about a convention of the free people of North Carolina.

Believing, as we do, that this is the only method by which we can obtain redress, we, the grand-jury, joint-sufferers with yourselves, collected together from every part of the county, do most earnestly recommend to you to meet at your respective muster grounds on some day between this and Saturday, the 19th of October, and make choice of two delegates. That the delegates so chosen, do meet at the Court House of the county, on Thursday, the 24th of October, to deliberate on the grievances we suffer, and to devise such measures of relief as may be deemed most prudent and effectual.

With the most ardent wishes for success in this necessary undertaking, we promise you, fellow-citizens, our zealous co-operation.

Signed,

W. BODENHAMER, as Foreman,  
JOHN EASTBURN,  
BRUMMELL SAPP,  
STEPHEN BEACHEN,  
HENRY WORKMAN,  
ADAM CASPER,  
HENRY STIREWALT,  
JOHN GOODMAN,  
SAMUEL FERRINGTON,  
JOSIAH TUMBLESON,  
MICHAEL BAKER,  
JOHN BOOE,  
LEVI SMITH,  
JOHN WALSER.

August 25th, 1822.

### CIVIL WAR.

A scene has taken place in Georgia, (says the Richmond Compiler) which has excited no little stir among the good people of the state. The constitution declares that "when any office shall become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Governor shall have power to fill such vacancy." The Secretary of State Colonel Hammond, did not vacate his office by death or resignation—but because he was absent on the seaboard for about 30 days for the benefit of his health, the Governor chose to consider his office vacant, and appointed a successor.

It seems that Col. H. was in ill health; he left his residence adjoining to Milledgeville for the purpose of recruiting his health, he purposed to stay only a few days—but previous to his departure, he left signed as many blanks as he supposed would be wanting in his office—and still further to obviate every inconvenience, he left with his principal clerk, Thos. H. Crawford, the following power of attorney:

"Secretary of State's Office,  
Milledgeville, Georgia.

"Mr. Thomas H. Crawford is hereby fully authorized and empowered to sign for me, and in my name and stead, any official paper or papers that may necessarily be issued from this office during my absence therefrom." It does not appear that there is any law to justify such a transfer of power; without some such provision, the instrument appears sufficiently extraordinary. This paper was regularly signed, &c. and bears date the 9th July.

Matters went on smoothly enough until the 12th August, when the signed blanks, that had been left for grants to land drawn in the last land lottery, gave out. The Governor being acquainted with the matter,

declared the power of attorney void; and under the above recited clause of the constitution, declared the office vacant, and appointed Simon Whitaker the new Secretary of State.—Mr. Crawford, however, was not so complaisant as might have been expected. He refused to deliver up to Mr. Whitaker the books, records, keys, &c.—acting under the advice of legal counsel.—Then came the war to extremities.

After some time (adds the Milledgeville Recorder), the Governor came to the office again, and told the Clerk, that if he did not give up the key, he would have him thrown out of the house! The Clerk refused.—He was repeatedly threatened with a warrant, and as often refused to give up the office. Mr. Whitaker went and applied to a Justice of the Peace for a warrant against Mr. Crawford, but the Magistrate could find no law to authorise it, and therefore declined giving one. A carpenter was then sent to the office to take the lock off the door and put on a new one. Mr. Crawford told him not to touch the lock, and he refused. He was again called and ordered to proceed, and was ordered by Mr. Crawford not to touch it, and he desisted. Mr. Whitaker then went to the Executive Office and returned with Mr. Burch, one of the Governor's Secretaries, and the carpenter. Mr. Burch took hold of the door for the carpenter to proceed, when a battle ensued between him and Mr. Crawford, in which, it seems, Mr. Whitaker took a hand.—Some persons in the passage ran in and parted them. Mr. Burch alone was injured in a slight degree, from whom some blood was drawn. Immediately after they were separated, the Governor came in, and in a violent passion, ordered the carpenter to pull off the lock and put on another, that he had the controul there, and was responsible for the consequences.—The carpenter obeyed, and thus was Col. Hammond forcibly deprived of his office.—Neither the Executive order for vacating the office, or a copy of it was shewn to Mr. Crawford, till after every effort to intimidate him had been tried in vain.

Col. Hammond returned on the 17th, demanded the possession of his office, which was refused.—He called at the Executive office and made a similar demand,—high words ensued, and here the matter rests.

## Foreign Intelligence.

Boston, August 29.

### LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Our London dates, by the Herald, are to July 19.—Their principal contents, of an interesting nature, relate to Spanish affairs, in which it will be seen that a bloody contest has taken place between the Royal Guards and constitutional militia of Madrid. The particulars in the different Spanish papers, are contradictory; but the following, copied from the London Morning Chronicle, appears to embrace the leading facts, and to be written with candour and impartiality.

### Insurrection and Massacre in Madrid.

LONDON, JULY 16.—An express arrived yesterday from Madrid, bringing advices of an interesting nature, which in the course of the day served for considerable speculations on the Stock Exchange.—They furnish some interesting particulars respecting a battle which took place between the revolting guards and the national militia on the 7th, as well as to the events which gave rise to it. The following is a faithful outline of them.

The unfortunate affray that occurred at the close of the sittings of the Cortes on the 30th ult. left a degree of anxiety and distrust in the public mind, and it became necessary, to call out the militia, it being evident that no great reliance could be placed on the King's Guards.—This became, as it were, the signal of revolt, or rather the party of the *Serriles*, who expect to use the guards as the instruments of their iniquitous plans against the Constitution, considered that their plans were discovered, and that it was necessary to act immediately on the general plan they had devised with the French Ultra. The Guards, a select corps of high-minded men, and generally commanded by Officers belonging to the noble families, had always given umbrage to the constitutional party, and they expected to be disbanded as soon as a favourable opportunity offered. When they saw the militia called out, they thought the moment for disbanding them had come, and they broke out in open mutiny, and collected on their usual parade ground. Here they had a conference with Gen. Morillo, in the terms we stated in our paper of yesterday which ended in their positive refusal to disperse or lay down their arms. Finding themselves on the parade ground liable to an attack, they marched off to the Prado, an old Palace situated on a hill on the other side of the river Manzanares, two leagues from the capital, on the Scorial road, known as the favorite hunting seat of Charles III. The position is a military one, and the grounds are surrounded by a great wall, the access being through an iron gate. Here about 2000 of

the Guards assembled on the 2d inst. and demanded rations from the Alcaide or Governor. On the 3d, a message was sent in to the government, entrusted to delegates appointed by the revolted Guards; but it had not the effect of restoring order. On the 7th the Guards advanced towards the town, with the intention to seize on the park of artillery, placed between the Fuencarral and Pozo gates. The militia and armed inhabitants, headed by General Ballasteros, Riego, Alava, Zayas, and Morillo went out to meet them, when a desperate action took place, in which the guards lost 400 men. Eventually they were compelled to lay down their arms, the triumph being complete on the part of the Constitutionalists. The populace of the capital remained perfectly neutral during the contest, and as it were silent spectators of the whole. These events have given rise to a variety of rumours, injurious to the reputation of several individuals of high rank in Madrid, among whom is one Foreign Ambassador; but we decline repeating them till we receive more authentic accounts. We may mention, however, that it is said of the Duke del Infantado in particular, that he was heard exciting the populace to call out "Long live the Absolute King!" In the mean time, we think it but justice to state, that the patriotic conduct and cordiality that reigned among the Generals above named, and their exertions during the whole of the mutiny, is stated to be above all praise. It was expected that this overthrow of the revolted Guards would restore tranquility, and teach the servile party the folly of their criminal plots against the Constitution.

It is also rumoured that a sum of money, intended to promote the criminal projects of the Andalusian revolters, had been seized on the way to Seville.

LONDON, JULY 17.

The arrivals from the Continent of yesterday, furnished nothing new with regard to the affairs of Spain; but the variety of papers we have received since our last publication, enables us to give a more connected view of the whole events which followed the revolt of the King's Guards, than the general reader perhaps would be able to form from the perusal of so many, and in some instances, such contradictory accounts.

The position of the Prado. (the old palace on the other side of the Manzanares, and not the Prado, public walk, as stated in some of the daily papers) to which the four battalions of the guards had fled, was too isolated for the realization of any plan, formed by the servile party, and these battalions were besides separated from the other two, which still remained at the Palace, under pretext of guarding the person of the King. All negotiations for a surrender having proved fruitless, the four battalions of revolted guards, pressed, probably by the want of provisions, from which they were cut off, the moment they shut themselves up in the Prado, formed the project of attacking the city on the morning of the 7th, at an early hour—conceiving that the militia and armed inhabitants, who had been on duty for several days and nights successively, might easily be surprised and overcome. With this view, they left their position in the night, and advanced to the square of the Constitution, where they found four companies of militia, and a detachment of cavalry, supported by two pieces of artillery.

The guards entered the avenues, leading to the square at daylight, calling out "Long live the absolute King," and immediately commenced a brisk fire on their antagonists. By the time they had discharged their pieces four times, they had reached the line occupied by the militia, when two grenadier companies of the latter, and a company of Chasseurs, commanded by Brigadier-General Palarea, attacked them from several of the streets leading into the square, and considerable loss was experienced on both sides.

At six in the morning, General Morillo ordered a piece of artillery to be placed in the main street, to prevent the retreat of the guards in that direction. In the mean time, the militia continued to fire upon them from the street *Las Carretas*, which compelled the mutineers to retreat by the adjacent streets on the opposite side. The guards retreated in two directions, part towards the Palace, no doubt to join their comrades posted there, and the others, towards the square of St. Domingo—both being successively charged by the regiment of the Prince, crying out "Long live Liberty."

The King's Stables, where the guards had collected and posted themselves, were next attacked by General Morillo the instant he could bring up the militia, and forced with fixed bayonets. Repulsed on all sides, the mutineers withdrew towards the Palace, where they were received, among other persons of rank, by the Duke del Infantado, and the Marquis de las Amarillas. They then offered to enter into negotiations, and despatched one of their own party to the artillery ground to signify their wishes. Notwithstanding this offer, they subsequently attacked some of the militia, posted near the house of *Los Consejos*, but they were repulsed in a most vigorous manner. With

out waiting for the capitulation to be carried formally into effect, the few remaining mutineers effected their retreat from the Palace, by the gate of La Vega towards Alcorcan, whither they were pursued by a party of cavalry, accompanied by Generals Morillo and Riego. On the 8th, all the remaining mutineers surrendered, and the bishop performed a solemn mass, in honour of the triumph gained, in presence of the militia.

JULY 18.

Paris papers contain no fresh accounts from Madrid. The *Constitutionnel* states, on the authority of letters from Bayonne, that the bands of General Quesada, exist no more, and that it is believed he took the direction of Guipuzcoa, in the design of returning to France.

The turn which affairs have taken at Madrid has made the *Ereucha Ultra* papers quite furious. "The cruel indifference (says the *Quotidienno*) of the men of the age calls out—leave to every people the care of arranging their own affairs; but the honor of crowns is not to be satisfied with this reason, at once puerile and murderous, which tends to lull the consciences of Kings." This is intelligible language.

The *Constitutionnel* has an interesting letter from Madrid, received by the Post, which, however, only comes down to the 5th. An eulogium is given of some of the principle measures adopted by the Cortes in their last sittings, and among others, that relative to the distribution of commons and waste lands, which will be made gratuitously to the inhabitants of the country, by means of drawing lots. Every lot is to represent a value sufficient for the subsistence of a family composed of five persons; and the adoption for the general plan for the endowment of the Clergy of all classes, from the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo down to the Curates of small villages. "All these measures, it is said, when carried into execution in the Provinces, ought to contribute very powerfully to attach the national mass, to the new political system which governs Spain, and destroy the prejudices which offered arms to malevolence." Speaking of the conspiracy, the writer observes, "those who were to play the first parts, hesitated at the decisive moment, and conducted themselves with such a degree of cowardice, that they thereby proved themselves unworthy of the direction of great affairs."

PARIS, JULY 15.

A meeting of the Foreign Ministers has been held at Madrid to sign a declaration relative to the events in that Capital. Mr. Forsyth, the American Minister, refused to sign it as totally untrue; asserting that the loyal adherents to FERDINAND were his greatest enemies, and that the Cortes, Riego, &c. were his best friends. It is added, that eventually all the Foreign Ministers, except the Austrian, agreed with Mr. Forsyth.

Constitutionnel.

LONDON, JULY 25.

The following intelligence is contained in a private letter, dated

Madrid, July 13.

"The choice of the new Ministry is not yet definitively arranged. The great object appears to be to effect a union of the moderate and influential men in the Cortes."

"It is very remarkable that the expectador has opened a subscription in favour of the widows and children of the Royal Guards who perished in the conflict of the seventh."

"P. S. I open my letter to annex to it the note of R. Martinez de la Rosa, in answer to that of the Foreign Ambassadors. This important document would show you the point of view in which the old Ministry wished events to be considered; it will probably also be the language of the new Ministry."

"Gentlemen—You are sufficiently acquainted with the deplorable events which have occurred within these few days, since a respectable corps destined for the service of his Sacred Majesty, left their quarters without orders, abandoned the capital, and established themselves in the Royal residence at the Prado, at the distance of two leagues from Madrid. This unexpected event has placed the government in a situation as difficult as it is singular. It has been deprived of one of its chief supports for the maintenance of public order; the force destined to carry into effect the execution of the laws, has thrown off the yoke of subordination, and the military charged with the sacred trust of the King's person, have not only abandoned it, but fixed the general attention on the palace of his Majesty, which continued to be occupied by their companions in arms. Under such circumstances, the government has directed its efforts towards two objects—first, to preserve the tranquility of the capital; and secondly, to attempt every means of conciliation to bring back this misguided corps to a sense of duty, without resorting to force, or to the painful necessity of shedding Spanish blood.

"With respect to the first object, the measures of government have been so efficacious, that the state of the capital at this