

The Evening Review.

JAMES & PRICE, EDITORS & PROPRIETORS
WILMINGTON, N. C., NOV. 11, 1875.

THE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL.

We yield all of our editorial space today to the publication of the following address of Hon. John Manning and Dr. W. F. Stroud, delegates from Clatham county in the recent Constitutional Convention...

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHATHAM COUNTY FROM MESSRS. JOHN MANNING AND W. F. STROUD.

To our Fellow Citizens of Clatham County:

The undersigned having been elected as delegates to the Convention from Clatham county, deem it eminently proper and right that they should render an account of their stewardship to their constituents.

It was charged during the campaign for the Convention in the address of the Executive Committee of the Republican party and reiterated by Republican orators and papers:

1st. That the object of the Democratic party was to disfranchise large numbers of voters. This was not done nor attempted.

2d. That the Democratic party was unfriendly to the homestead and personal property exemptions, and if control was obtained of the Supreme Court they would overrule the decisions of that Court, as applied to aid debts.

No ordinance or resolution interfering or proposing to interfere with these provisions of the present constitution was introduced by a Democrat; one was introduced by a Republican, but it was promptly decided that it came within the restrictions of the act calling the convention, and was never allowed to pass its second reading.

3d. That the Democratic party would discriminate in property exempt from taxation against the poor man and in favor of lawyers and other professional men. No alteration was made in the provisions of the present Constitution on that subject.

4th. That the Democratic party, in order to reduce the blacks to a degraded position, would legislate against their own race by annexing or requiring property qualifications for voters.

No property qualification of any sort was required either for office or for a voter.

5th. That the restrictions of the convention act would not be obeyed. There is no pretence from any quarter that these restrictions were not faithfully observed and this in spite of the protests from the Republicans.

1st. That the Legislature had no right to impose the restrictions; and 2d, against the oath required by the act to be administered to the delegates and against its binding effect in law.

6th. That "the plotters," meaning the Democratic party, would restore the county courts, do away with the townships, cripple or abolish the common school system, and convene the Legislature in an extra session.

None of these things have been done or attempted.

7th. That "the plotters" would create life offices, taking from the people the power to choose their own rulers.

The terms of officers and the mode of their election remain the same.

8th. The sessions of the General Assembly would be prolonged and the expense increased.

The sessions of the General Assembly have been shortened, and the expense diminished more than one half.

9th. That the Convention would cost \$500,000. It has not cost \$32,000.

10th. That the amendments would not be submitted to the people for their ratification, or if so, but 30 days notice would be given.

The convention has submitted the proposed amendments to the people, and has given over twelve months in which the amendments can be examined and discussed, and has provided for a more liberal and intelligent distribution of them than was ever before practiced in this State.

This statement convicts the leaders of the republican party of being false prophets, and ought to shake the confidence of the people, either in their intelligence or their sincerity, for accusations so groundless should come home to roost.

Now as to what the convention did. Two amendments are proposed to Article I, of the constitution—sections 24 and 25, the first condemning the practice of carrying concealed weapons, and giving the General Assembly power to enact penal statutes against said practice; the second declares that secret political societies are dangerous to the liberties of a free people, and should not be tolerated. These amendments are in the interest of good morals, and of the public peace and safety.

To Article II, six amendments are proposed, viz: To section 2, altering the time of the meeting of the General Assembly to the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January next after their election, thus getting rid of the Christmas holidays, and the delay and expense incident thereto.

Sections 4 and 8 are obsolete and were abrogated.

Section 27 is proposed to be amended, so as to make the terms of office for Senators and Representatives commence at the time of their election.

Section 29. The latter clause being obsolete, so much of said section is abrogated.

An additional section is proposed to this article, by which the sessions of the General Assembly are restricted to sixty days, the per diem to \$4, the mileage to 10 cents per mile, and the limit of an extra session to twenty days, with the same per-

diem and mileage. By this amendment fifty thousand dollars is saved, and the weight of taxes proportionally lightened. To article III, two amendments are proposed, viz: Section 3 is changed so as to limit the patronage and appointing power of the Governor to officers, whose offices are established by this constitution, and not otherwise provided for in the constitution. This amendment is in harmony with the Democratic principles of our government...

Sec. 17 is abrogated, and the following inserted in its stead: "The General Assembly shall establish a department of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics, under such regulations as may best promote the agricultural interests of the State, and shall enact laws for the adequate protection and encouragement of sheep husbandry."

This wise and much needed amendment is, of course, principally in the interest of the farmer, and for the first time in the history of the State, agriculture is dignified by a constitutional department, for it is made the duty of the General Assembly to establish a department to be devoted to the dissemination of useful information, the improvement of labor, and the promotion of the interests of the farmer.

The address of the Republican Executive Committee insulted the farmers by denouncing them as the "haughty lords of the soil."

The Democratic Convention of '75, acknowledging their independence upon, and their gratitude to the farmers, endeavors to improve their condition, to encourage their occupation and to aid them in their work. The contrast is striking and suggestive.

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holding for the full term and in spite of, if not in defiance of the popular will. Sec. 33 is amended so as to give appeals in all trials before Justices of the Peace to the Superior Court in term time; gives Justices of the Peace jurisdiction of actions of tort where the property does not exceed in value \$50. This is an important amendment enlarging the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace, and enabling the Justice to try civil actions, other than those founded on contract when the property in controversy does not exceed in value \$50. This of course expedites trials and lessens the costs.

An additional section is proposed carrying out the restrictions of the Act calling the convention in regard to vacating offices.

Two additional sections are proposed—the first is an exact copy of a section in the constitution before 1868, and provides that a judge of any of the courts may be removed from office for mental or physical inability, upon a concurrent resolution of two-thirds of both houses of the General Assembly, and requires a reasonable notice to be given to the judge against whom proceedings are instituted. The second section provides that the clerk of any court may be removed by the judge of said court, for like reasons, and requires a like notice. These sections enable the people to get rid of incompetent officers without the cost of an impeachment.

An additional section is proposed providing, "In case the General Assembly shall establish other courts inferior to the supreme court, the presiding officers and clerks thereof shall be elected in such manner as the General Assembly may from time to time prescribe, and they shall hold their offices for a term not exceeding eight years." This amendment is proposed to prevent life tenures. The General Assembly may elect the presiding officers and clerks, or it may direct how it shall be done. This is necessary to protect the white men of Eastern North Carolina, and to insure competent officers.

Art. VI. Suffrage.—Section 1 is amended so as to require 90 days residence in a county instead of 30 as a qualification for a voter. "But no person, who, upon conviction or confession in open court, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, or of any crime infamous by the laws of this State, and hereafter committed, shall be deemed an elector, unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a mode prescribed by law." This is the only change in the qualification of a voter, and in a government where intelligence and virtue are the chief corner stones, and the ballot the only weapon this intelligence and virtue can wield, the Convention could not have done less than to give to the honest, patriotic and upright citizens this protection against the dishonest and the vicious.

Art. VII. A Section is added to this Article as follows: "The General Assembly shall have full power by statute to modify, change or abrogate any and all of the provisions of this Article and substitute others in their place, except sections seven, nine and thirteen." This amendment gives the General Assembly entire control of the county government and the election of Justices of the Peace; that is, the General Assembly may continue these provisions as they are now, or change them as they may be instructed by the people, thus abolishing many useless offices, county Treasurer for instance, and saving to the people about \$75,000 a year; and better than all, giving a door of escape to our white brethren of the East from negro despotism, without injury to ourselves.

Art. IX. Two amendments are proposed. One to section one by adding the following words: "And the children of the white race and the children of the colored race shall be taught in separate public schools, but there shall be no discrimination made in favor of or to the prejudice of either race." This amendment and the one proposed to article XIV, viz: the addition of a section prohibiting marriages between a white person and a negro—settles the question of social equality, and this without injury to the colored people; it only protects and preserves the white race.

Art. IX is proposed to be further amended by striking out section 4 and inserting in lieu thereof two sections. By the first a general fund is created for purposes of education, the whole of which instead of the inconsiderable income is to be appropriated to common school purposes. By the second all property belonging to a county school fund, proceeds of estrays, penalties, forfeitures and fines &c shall belong to and remain in the several counties, where collected, instead of being paid into the State Treasury and then distributed back to the several counties. These provisions are just, will materially increase the school fund, and must commend themselves to all.

Art. XI is amended by adding to section 1 a provision authorizing the general Assembly, under certain humane restrictions, to farm out all persons imprisoned for crime, except those under sentence for murder, manslaughter, rape, attempt to commit rape and arson. This will lessen the expense of the Penitentiary and other prisons fully one half, say \$70,000, and still leave a sufficient number of convicts in the penitentiary to carry on the work to its completion.

Article XIII is proposed to be amended by striking out all the present provisions upon the subject of amendment of the constitution and inserting two sections. The first, "that no convention of the people shall be called except the proposition, convention or no convention, shall be first submitted to the people, at the next general election, and a majority shall vote in favor of convention."

This second section provides, "that the General Assembly by a three-fifths vote of each House may submit amendments to be ratified by the people at the next general election, and if ratified by a majority of the qualified voters shall become a part of the constitution."

These provisions render a convention unnecessary and give a speedy, cheap and satisfactory way of amendment, in striking contrast to the tedious, costly and most unsatisfactory modes now in force.

The difference in the expense under our present constitution and the constitution

Table comparing Present Constitution and Amended Constitution with financial figures for various departments like Supreme Court Judges, Superior Court Judges, Penitentiary, etc.

Total \$271,500.00 vs \$102,320.00. The saving in money will be \$169,180 per annum in favor of the amendments.

Your obt. servants, JOHN MANNING, W. F. STROUD.

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FRESH!!

BANANAS, FLORIDA AND HAVANA ORANGES, COCOANUTS, CALIFORNIA PEARS, APPLES, RAISINS, CURRANTS,

Cigars, CITRON, NUTS, CANDIES, PRESERVED FRUITS, PRESERVES, PICKLES, AND CANNED GOODS.

CURTIS & BOATWRIGHT, nov 9

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FUTRELL & TAYLOR AT F. M. AGOSTINE'S old stand have now on hand a full line of Provisions, Confectioneries, Nuts, Raisins and every thing calculated to attract the attention and hold the spectator spell bound. Give him a call. nov-5-1ycw-26.

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THE BEST IN THE MARKET, Our CANNED MEATS and FRUITS, PRESERVES and JELLIES. The finest things out.

Our stock of STRANGE, ATTRACTIVE AND WONDERFUL TOYS, nov 2

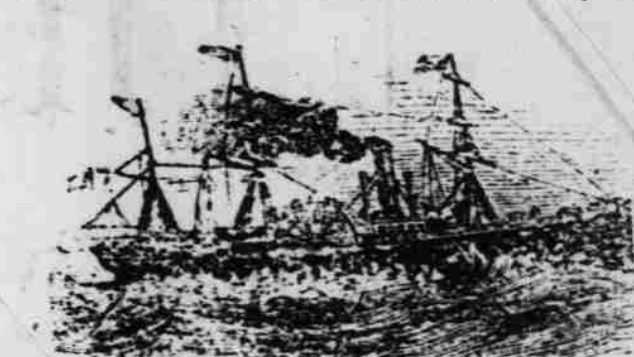
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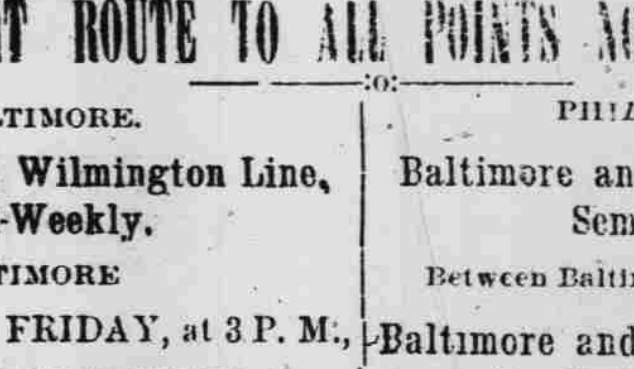
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FAST FREIGHT ROUTE TO ALL POINTS NORTH OR SOUTH.

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EDWIN FITZGERALD, Gen'l Agent Balt. Line, 50 South Lt., Balt., A. D. CAZAUX, Agent Baltimore and New York Lines, Wilmington, N. C. oct 8.

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TONSORIAL-REMOVAL. E. ARTIS has removed his Barber Shop to the stand formerly occupied by him, in the basement of the Purcell House, where he invites his old friends and the public generally to call on him. Best workmen in the State employed, and Shaving, Hair Cutting and Shampooing done at the shortest notice. oct 7

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CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PRIVATE RESIDENCES AND BRIDGES. oct 7

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