

An Election for Delegates to number One Hundred and Twenty, to amend the Constitution of the State, will be held on Thursday, the 5th of August, 1875. The Convention will meet at Raleigh, on the 6th of the following September.

Hon. D. M. Barringer delivered a speech in the House of Commons in 1861, from which we quote as follows: "If we call a Convention, that call must be absolute, and not conditional. The Legislature cannot control the sovereigns, but can call them together in pursuance of the Constitution."

Let all who formerly acted with the old line Democracy and who now propose to join with the revolutionists of this State in depriving the people of the power of electing their Judges and magistrates, read and reflect over the following extract from the message of Governor Reid, of date November 20th, 1854:

"The election of Judges and Justices of the Peace by the people, and for terms less than for life, are also questions of reform, which I recommend to the favorable consideration of the General Assembly."

The question of a call of a Convention did not enter into the campaign when the members of the late Legislature were before the people for election. Therefore the issue has been sprung upon the voters of the State as to whether a change in our present Constitution is desirable.

Hon. Asa Biggs, in his speech in the State Senate, in December, 1854, on Mr. Graham's Convention bill, said:

"Whether a majority of the people are discontented with the Constitution as it is and desire a change, is a question that ought to be ascertained antecedent to any legislative action for altering the organic law."

We invite the people of North Carolina to carefully read the following extract from a speech delivered by Governor Bragg, in the city of Raleigh, on the first day of June, 1854. It sounds an alarm which every man who has the good of the Old North State at heart should ponder over in the present crisis. When we take into consideration the fact that the revolutionists rejected the legislative mode of amending the Constitution and urged the call of a Convention, for the ostensible purpose of making a few and unimportant changes, it may readily be inferred that their intentions are sinister and pregnant with evil to the State. Read the extract:

"A Convention of the people cannot be restricted by the Legislature. A Convention may make most unexpected and unacceptable changes in the Constitution, and the people can have no remedy."

Had the Democrats of the last Legislature that great confidence in the people which they so much delight to prate about, they would doubtless have submitted the question of calling a Convention, for popular ratification or rejection. Neither of the old parties would have dared to ignore the opinions of the voters of the State upon a matter of such vital importance. As a proof of this statement, we give the following extract from the proceedings of a Whig Convention in 1852:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, whenever amendments are to be made to our State Constitution, they should be effected by a Convention of the people elected on the basis of the House of Commons; and we are in favor of submitting it to the people to say whether a Convention should be called or not, for the purpose of making amendments to our Constitution."

We call the attention of such old line Whigs as are now co-operating with the revolutionists in their attempts to deprive the people of the privilege of electing their judicial and executive officers, to the following extracts from the proceedings of the Whig Convention of 1850. The views entertained at that time were concurred in by Governor Graham and other prominent Whigs. Do these gentlemen believe that the people are less entitled to the ballot in 1875 than in 1851? This is what we call retrograding with a vengeance. Read the extracts:

"And whereas, many people of the State have indicated a desire that the present mode of electing Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts, Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, Justices of the Peace and other State officers, shall be changed so as to give the election of said officers directly to the people themselves; and whereas, the voice of the people, without distinction of party, should be consulted in this, as in every other matter involving an alteration or amendment to the Constitution; Resolved, That the Legislature should adopt some mode, in accordance with the provisions of the

Constitution, by which the sense of a majority of the people of the State may be clearly ascertained, and their wishes carried out, in relation to the manner of electing said officers or any of them."

It is generally conceded, and by some openly avowed, that one of the main objects of the anti-reconstructionists, in case they should obtain a majority in the approaching Convention, is to transfer the power of electing judges and other officers from the people to the Legislature.

In order to recall to the minds of some of our readers who were identified with the old Whig and Democratic parties of North Carolina nearly twenty-five years ago, the views then entertained by many of the most prominent men in relation to this question, we publish an extract from what was entitled the "Western Address," issued in the early part of 1851 and signed by such men as J. G. Bynum, N. W. Woodfin, J. M. A. Drake, John A. Gilmer, Peter Adams, J. M. Leach and J. H. Hammon. The sentiments therein set forth in regard to the judicial system were generally accepted by all parties, and it is hardly to be supposed that the people of the State are less zealous of popular rights now than they were in those days when the slave aristocracy held undisputed sway. We earnestly invite the attention of such old line Whigs and Democrats as are now fraternizing with the present revolutionary party in North Carolina to the extract, in the hope that the inconsistency of their present position may lead to serious reflection. We quote from the address as follows:

"Many of our citizens are greatly opposed to the election of Judges by the Legislature, as is required by the Constitution. It cannot be disguised that our Legislature has, in many instances, been the scene of intrigues entirely at war with our ideas of the purity of the bench, and in which it was shown that neither character nor qualification was made the test for fitness for office, but simply party services. Legislatures are small bodies, usually elected upon political party grounds, and that too frequently at the sacrifice of the best interests of the people. Under these circumstances many believe that the people would be the safest depositories of this power. The opportunity and facility for corruption and intrigue would not exist, and the people, in acting, would not be influenced by the fear of denunciation or punishment of party men. The system has been tried in many States of the Union, and found to operate so well, that it is much to be doubted whether it will not in time be adopted in all.

Others, too, think that they ought to hold office for a limited period. There is no officer known to our laws, but who is limited to a short period, after which his power is laid down at the feet of those from whom he received it; and in determining whether they will again place him in power, they pass upon the manner in which his duties have been discharged. Many of these officers are of the highest character and importance, and equally requiring in the incumbent, purity and integrity of character. No evils have resulted from giving the election of these officers to the people; and certainly no corruption of the people, nor of the officer, has been the consequence."

Graham, Craige and Company. The so-called restrictions are not worth the paper on which they were written. They are regarded as of no force or consequence by all whose opinion is worth anything. So let the people remember that the Convention when it assembles, will be untrammelled, all powerful, and act accordingly. It is all important that the truest Democrats be sent. Such men as Graham, Craige, Gaither and Shober, Davis and Graves will make the people of North Carolina a Constitution that will be acceptable to our people. Send forward men of brains and nerve."

There is more meaning in the above, from the Carolina Watchman, than would probably strike the reader at first glance. The declaration that the restrictive features of the Convention act are not binding is no new one. That paper has frequently made the same assertion and seems determined to fight out the campaign on that line. In the foregoing extract, however, it will be readily perceived that Messrs. Graham, Craige, Gaither, Shober, Davis and Graves, shining lights of Democracy, are put down as entertaining the same belief as the Watchman. The statement is not made directly, it is true, but after calling upon the people to remember that the Convention will be untrammelled, these gentlemen are named as proper delegates to serve them.

It can hardly be supposed that the Watchman would have taken the liberty of committing the gentlemen named to its policy of setting aside the provisions of the act, unless it had had some understanding with them in regard to the subject.

We think this Convention plot begins to thicken. The true intentions of the leaders of the anti-reconstructionists begin to leak out. The people of North Carolina have the right to demand an explanation of Messrs. Graham, Craige, Gaither and company. Are these gentlemen in favor of keeping faith and regarding the express terms under which they act calling a Convention of the people of the State was passed, or

not? If they are not, then they are again attempting the role of 1861; if they are, then the Watchman has taken an unwarrantable use of their names, for which an explanation should be sought.

There is no retreat now, gentlemen. You must speak out. The people want an explanation and you must make it.

Death of John C. Breckinridge.

This gentleman died at his residence, in Kentucky, a few days since, in the 55th year of his age. General Breckinridge has held many high positions under the government of the United States. In 1856 he was elected Vice President on the Democratic ticket with James Buchanan. In 1860, he was nominated for the Presidency by the Southern wing of the Democratic party, and received the votes of most of the Southern States in that memorable contest. Just before the close of the rebellion he was made Secretary of War for the Confederate States, but at a time when no exertion on his part could prove of any avail in advancing the secession cause. It is but just to say, that General Breckinridge did not enter without distrust into the cause of disunion, and it was only when all hope of reconciliation was abandoned that he resigned his seat in the United States Senate and returned home to share the fortunes of Kentucky. However widely we may have differed with him in his political course, his gallant and unselfish devotion to the cause he believed to be just must entitle him to general respect.

Important.

The attention of all concerned is called to Section 15, Schedule B, of the State Revenue law now in force, which reads as follows:

"Every National bank, State bank, Savings bank, or association conducting a business as contemplated in this section, any private banker, agent of a foreign banker or broker, every money exchange, bond or note broker, whether operating as corporations or associations, or privately as individuals, and such insurance companies as are incorporated by the State, in addition to the ad valorem tax on their capital invested, shall pay annually a tax according to capital employed, as follows: On a capital of one hundred thousand dollars or more, two hundred dollars; on a capital of fifty thousand dollars and less than one hundred thousand dollars, one hundred dollars; on a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars and less than fifty thousand dollars, fifty dollars; on a capital of less than twenty-five thousand dollars, twenty-five dollars, and also ten dollars additional for each county in which they have an agency, said taxes to be paid to the State Treasurer. Every person or company running sleeping cars upon any railroad in this State, shall pay for every car so run fifty dollars per annum, and shall make return and pay to the State Treasurer as and when other taxes are returned and paid. On failure to comply with the provisions of this section, said banks, companies or persons shall pay as taxes two thousand dollars, to be collected by the Treasurer of the State."

Remember, the Carolina Watchman declares that the restrictions in the Convention act are not worth the paper on which they are written, and calls upon all Democrats who may be elected to the Convention to disregard them.

The Watchman wants such Democrats as Graham, Craige, Gaither, Shober, Davis and Graves in the Convention, thereby intimating that these gentlemen entertain similar views. Will they deny the imputations of the Watchman, or will they, by silence, allow the impression to go forth that they are attempting to drag the people of North Carolina into a conflict? Is the old role of 1861 to be re-enacted? Speak, gentlemen, the people demand it.

We devote much of our editorial space, in this issue, to extracts in relation to a change of the State Constitution. It would be well for our Republican exchanges to preserve the paper for future reference, or, what would be better, to copy from it to such an extent as their columns will allow. The extracts referred to have been obtained only after much research, and, as the files containing them are not to be found in many localities, they are well worth preserving.

When the Convention meets, let it resolve unanimously not to take the oath required by the Legislature, and proceed forthwith to frame a Constitution every way suitable to the people of the State.—Western Expositor.

Freemen of North Carolina, are you not now satisfied that no confidence can be placed in any word spoken, printed or thought by your Democracy? With them the most solemn obligations go for nothing. They are as false to an oath as they are to their country. They cry aloud for fair dealing, and stab you in the back as soon as you believe them. Is it too late to successfully implore the people that they make sure of their imperilled liberties by summoning to the work all their manhood, their good sense and their patriotism? Vote down the men who present this issue against your most precious privileges. We want no Convention, and let us have none.—Pioneer.

The following is the reply of Governor Brogden to a letter from the editor of the New York Herald in relation to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, April 28, 1875.

To the Editor of the Herald:

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter in relation to the coming Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, inquiring what arrangements North Carolina has made for the purpose of securing representation in the Exhibition; also what industries, types of manufacture, products, mining ores or accomplished invention will be exhibited from this State.

I hope that many of our liberal and patriotic citizens will use their means and efforts to have North Carolina well represented in all the departments of useful industry and skill, so that there may be some living evidence of our growth and progress during the past hundred years. We are part of our great National Union, and rejoice in its progress and prosperity. More has been done for the improvement of the condition of mankind, for the advancement of our material resources, and for the development of the arts and sciences in the United States during the last fifty years than has been done by all the nations of Europe within the last five hundred years.

I hope that our agricultural, mechanical and manufacturing industries may all be well represented, and that the administration of our charitable and benevolent institutions, our asylums, schools and prisons, our chambers of commerce, our agricultural societies, our institutions of science and learning, and all our diversified industries may be brought prominently in view, in order that our advancement, growth and progress may be better seen and known. It will afford the most favorable opportunity that our State has ever had to advertise herself to the world, to present some reliable information concerning her means and resources, and to invite immigration and capital from other countries to locate among us.

Feeling much anxiety for North Carolina to participate with her sister States in the celebration of our national Centennial, I sent a special messenger to the Legislature upon this subject; but that body failed to give any assistance to our people to contribute to the Exhibition.

I shall appeal to our leading citizens, who have a deep and lively interest in the prosperity and welfare of the whole country, to encourage and sustain this noble enterprise by their patronage and support.

I regard the Centennial of our American Declaration of Independence as the greatest event in the interest of peace and friendship that has ever occurred in our national history. Believing, as I do, that it will exercise a most favorable and beneficial influence and effect in promoting concord, union and harmony, I hail it with joy, and will do all in my power to promote its success.

I am pleased with the industry, ability and influence which the Herald is exerting to make our great National Centennial Exhibition what it ought to be, and, as I trust it will be, the pride and admiration of the world.

The Herald deserves well of the country for its persistent and powerful advocacy of the Centennial. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, C. H. BROGDEN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

It must not be understood that THE ERA endorses the sentiments of its correspondents in every instance. Its columns are open to all, and the views and communications will be given to the public in the order in which they are received.

To the Editor of the Era: Is the Republican party going to organize to defeat the change of the Constitution? The change that the Democrats are so anxious to make in our fundamental law, will, in my opinion, be injurious to a large majority of the citizens of the State. Much of the power guaranteed to the people will be taken away from them forever and given to the Legislature. The people should look with a jealous eye to their liberties, secured by the present Constitution.

Is it not reasonable to suppose that the Democrats will engage many aristocratic features in the amendments? In my opinion, it is. Ever since the adoption of the present Constitution they have been clamoring for the whipping post. Nearly all the new rights conferred upon the people, they oppose. Have the people forgotten the time when none but those who held a freehold in land could vote for a Senator, or serve on jury? Many of our rights now conferred on the people were denied under the old Constitution. The people are fast becoming reconciled to the new Constitution. What they want is a permanent government and no curtailing of their rights.

Although the Republican party has made some blunders, yet, in the main, they have been always right. Let us then reorganize and march on to victory. L. C. M. May 15, 1875.

very creditable manner. Frank Giles was the first who was called out, and delivered a splendid declamation. Little Minerva Jeffries and Sammie Brown were the first to call forth applause by their dialogue, "Helping papa and mama." Master A. Manly gave the temperance alphabet; applying the twenty-six letters to the different stages of a drunkard's life, in a very ludicrous, yet truthful way. The poetical dialogue between Masters Eddie Green and Eddie Hunter was spoken very nicely. Master Willie Curtis' declamation on "A little elbow room" called forth much applause. Master Providence Buncome made a speech on the thief and placed him in a very bad light before his audience. Miss Laura Curtis read a piece of prose ("In the twilight") in a loud, articulate and smooth tone of voice and with such due regard to emphasis, modulation and punctuation, that it reflected great credit upon her, as a good reader. A play, entitled "Richard the III," taken from Shakespeare, was performed by Miss K. Ligon, Master McCauley and others, in a very pleasing, tragic and admirable way. The dialogue "True Charity," by Miss Mary Jeffries, A. Manly, B. Ellison, F. Nash and others, taught a lesson worth remembering, while it afforded a lot of fun. The French dialogue, by Miss K. Ligon, L. Curtis, S. Brodie, R. McCauley and others, was the most attractive feature of the evening. It was quite a novelty to hear them fluently conversing in the French language. The song "Jasper Sea," sung by Miss E. Brodie, L. Curtis and N. Jeffries, was spoken of as being the best piece of music of the evening. C. Hunter made a capital speech on rum. Miss K. Ligon, one of our most talented young ladies, read a very fine piece of poetry, entitled "The Belle of Atri." Time would not allow, and I doubt whether space would be granted, for a full report of such a literary treat as that of Friday evening, hence I have given in a brief way some of the principal pieces. That exhibition speaks volumes of praise for Miss Louisa S. Dorr and her faithful Associates, Misses Page and Peary. It was an evidence of the fact, that their patient labors for the past two years in our midst have not been in vain. And we believe we speak the sentiments of all connected with this school when we say we hope they may return next session. They donated the proceeds, \$27.15, to the Church and Sunday school; thus they are helping us not only intellectually, but pecuniarily. There was so much confusion in the house, caused by disinterested persons, that we could not hear at all times, which will account for mistakes, if any, in this notice. We are sorry to say that some persons in the back part of the church behaved unusually bad, and more than once they were warned of their shameful conduct. I call no names, but dare to say, that the law protects such lawless and contemptible acts, and it is not well to trespass upon them. O. H., JR.

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