The Weekly Era.

A REPUBLICAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER—THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE PARTY.

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Correspondence.

It must be understood that this paper does not endorse the sentiments of its correspondents in every instance. Its columns are open to the friends of the party, and their communications will be given to the public as containing the views and sentiments of the writers.

The following communications is taken from the columns of the *Tri-Weekly Constitution*:

Secessionists and Revolutionists in Council in Smithfield.

To the Editor of The Constitution:

The rule or ruin party of this county met last Saturday to appoint delegates to the so-called Democratic Convention, to be held at an early day at Raleigh to select candidates for the purpose, if elected, of taking away what little liberties the people have left in North Carolina.

There were thirty persons present who looked *mean* and sheepish, as they saw condemnation and defeat by the very small crowd present.

On motion L. R. Waddell, Esq., (the man who boasted that he visited *houses of ill-repute* in Raleigh while he represented or rather misrepresented this county in the Senate,) W. H. Joyner, (who stood Gaston Britt's security as special tax collector of Johnston county, and who was to and is receiving one half of the cost and commissions that the said rascal Britt squeezes out of the people as pay for going on Britt's bond,) was made chairman, and a little squint-eyed, red-headed, speckle-faced fellow was made Secretary. A dead silence took place for one half an hour, when the Virtuous Waddell moved that they proceed to appoint delegates. Whereupon, Joyner, (who the people dropped like hot potatoes several years since for voting for Merrimon, the traitor to his party, and who drew the bill for Littlefield and Swepson whereby the State was put in debt sixteen millions of dollars,) selected some of the meanest secessionist in the county as delegates to the so-called Democratic Convention.

On motion of the virtuous and temperance Waddell, a resolution was offered endorsing Hon. Joseph Davis for his *able* representation of this district in Congress by offering a bill to abolish the National Banks and destroying thereby the Union, which he failed to do by fighting against it four years. Davis' bill is similar to the one passed by the last Legislature for the purpose of making money still scarcer, and for the oppression of the people. A case was carried up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the court held the law unconstitutional and void. But it seems Mr. Jo Davis being a bob-tail lawyer of Franklin county thinks he knows more than the Supreme Court of the United States, and offered this bill which made him the laughing stock of Congress.

Zo Lamay thought the delegates should not be instructed, as the county was not represented in this small meeting, and Jo Davis, the bloody secessionist, was not the choice of the Union element of the county. Whereupon, Dr. Rose, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic party of Johnston county, and who has been charged with having about a dozen children by a negro woman in this county, cried out, "Put him out, put him out," and commenced speaking by saying that "Smithfield should control the county; that all the intelligence and virtue of the county was in Smithfield, and during the war all of the true secessionists lived there, and he was determined that no "buffaloe," as Zo called Union men, should hold any position, or represent *his* county in the Convention." He was "for the resolution for the reason Jo Davis was a tried and true secessionist, and had stuck up to Jeff Davis and voted the yellow ticket for Vance in the days that tried men's souls; and would stick to old Jeff again should occasion require it." At the conclusion of this able and entertaining speech, Dr. Beckwith shouted "Amen! amen!" And Wright Blow said he would kill another nigger before Jo Davis should be beat for the nomination. Zo Lamay and Dr. Leach, seeing that the Union men of the rule or ruin party had no strength in the *little* meeting, groaned, "Poor Jo! poor Jo; you have no show among the fellows who put the thumbs of poor women under the fence during the war because their husbands and brothers were Union men."

On motion of L. R. Waddell, the "virtuous" and "temperate" ex-Senator from Johnston, every man in the house should make a speech or treat to a quart. [Much laughter.]

Pat Stewart, the man who will take a nomination from any party, rose and made one of the most hesitating, disconnected, pointless speeches ever listened to in Johnston county. He said he had tried to ride two saplings at the same time, but had failed to get a nomination on either side up to this time. But if Dr. Rose, Beckwith and Seth Woodall would forgive him he never would go with Waddell again to a bad house in Raleigh, even should Waddell be a Senator. When Pat sat down, Rose and Beckwith caught him in their arms and commenced singing, "Return, prodigal, return to your father's house and the fatted calf shall be slain. Pat asked would there be anything stronger than water at that calf meeting, if not, he and Waddell was much obliged, but preferred something stronger and could not come. Beckwith groaned, and said the dog will return to his vomit and the hog to his wallow. Dr. Rose put his finger upon his side pocket and winked, when Pat and Waddell withdrew with Rose to a committee room and "smiled" and smiled together. Beckwith said if he was a cussing man he would make things lively, but Seth had taxed the county to build him a bridge, and Morgan had held back the money especially to pay for it, after refusing to pay honest farmers' debts due by the county ever since these mangy secessionists had come into power in the county.

Things began to get hot. Waddell the virtuous, Waddell the temperance man, again renewed his resolution, that every man in the house should make a speech or treat to a quart. No one responded. Pat had exhausted himself.

Wright Blow was examining the records where he was once charged with killing a nigger.

Gaston Britt, after many calls, failed to come to time, but at last Alex. Thain, who gives the secession sheriff ten dollars per month for the rent of the jail, hit the right man to make a speech. He called for a usually drunken fellow from Border Swamp. Up he rose, with fire in his eyes, fire in his stomach, whiskey in his belly. He ranted, foamed at the mouth and said he, like Pat, had been trying to get the nomination for something from both parties. He had been a Republican thirteen times, but he was thankful that he had been a Democrat fourteen times and unless he got a nomination this Summer he would vote the Republican ticket. That he hated both sides, as neither would give him an office.

Morgan (the harness maker, or rather the man who broke up honest Bill Davis by bringing cheap yankee harness to Smithfield to sell in competition to the first-class work done by Bill Davis, who is as clever a fellow as ever lived in the county) told him to hush.

The last time this roaring partner of Waddell & Co. was seen, he was trying to stand upon his head on the court-house square, with the loafers and little negroes cheering him.

Rose and Beckwith said that such disgusting scenes as Waddell, Pat and the limber Jack from Boon Hill township, got up when drunk, was enough to break down any party. Whereupon the limber Jack from Boon Hill, told Rose that if he did not mind his business he would have him turned out of chairmanship of the Democratic Executive Committee as a fornicator on the negro line.

At this stage of the game, Seth Woodall (the King of the Jews and the Spring Board candidate, and who voted the yellow ticket for Vance for the purpose of carrying on the war forever,) took W. H. Joyner off and told him that the "jig was up;" that Britt had ruined him (Joyner) by telling that he had to give him (Joyner) one half of the cost for goiug on Britt's bond; Rose's nigger propensities had killed him, and as to my part, says Seth, that d—n dry brigde was my winding sheet.

Joyner burst out crying, and said: "You are right, Seth; we are gone forever in Johnston. I ruined myself by standing Britt's security and sending my son Jocko around with the rascal Britt to oppress the people, and if I was not afraid they would laugh at me I would join the Radicals."

"I would, too," said Seth; "but we have changed so often I am afraid the Rads would not take us."

The whole crowd of delegates, except Dr. Leach and Beckwith, got drunk, and about dark the fighting commenced, when I left. You will hear from me again soon.

PINE BURR MOCASIN.
Saca Jack Ridge, Johnston Co.

To the Editor of The Constitution:

I notice in your issue of the 3d inst., two communications recommending me for the office of Register of Deeds. Silence on my part might perhaps create the impression that I had dictated these articles. I do not know the authors; but, in thanking them, through this medium, I seize the opportunity to say, that I could not for a moment think of seeking the position now filled by a friend of sixteen years' standing, and who makes a capital officer. When the Republican party shall see proper to say to W. W. White, "come up higher," my name can then be used in the connection in which your correspondents use it: not before.

M. V'B. GILBERT.

Raleigh, June 5th, 1876.

Republican Meeting in Wilkes County.

In pursuance to a call of the County Executive Committee, the Republicans of Wilkes county, met in Convention at the Court-House in Wilkesboro on the 16th day of May 1876, for the purpose of nominating delegates to the State and District Conventions. The Convention was called to order by H. Hays, chairman of the County Ex. Committee. On motion, S. P. Smith was called to the chair. On motion of Gen. J. Q. A. Bryan, J. Frank. Davis was called upon to act as Secretary, and W. O. Hendren, Assistant Secretary. The Convention then proceeded to appoint the following named delegates to the State Convention: J. Q. A. Bryan, A. Wiles, W. D. Garner, Jno. M. Brown, Adam Staley, J. W. Hays, Asa Triplette, H. Hays, S. P. Smith, A. L. Hendrix, W. M. Cooper, L. D. Burcham, I. S. Call, J. R. Henderson, T. J. Dula, George H. Brown, R. B. Bryan, E. Dyer, J. P. Elledge, R. Hawkins, J. F. Somers, T. W. Smith, J. B. Simonton, J. A. Mathias, S. Blackburn, A. E. Myers, J. Frank Davis, W. O. Hendren, W. F. Porter. The following were appointed to the District Convention; W. F. Porter, T. J. Dula, T. S. Bell, T. H. McCaun, G. S. Smoot, A. E. Myers, S. Blackburn, I. Hollar, E. E. Hendren, Thos. Barlow, J. Q. A. Bryan, A. Wiles, Henry Jining, George H. Brown, J. B. Simonton, I. S. Call, J. R. Henderson, J. Frank Davis, W. O. Hendren and S. P. Smith.

The following resolutions were introduced by Col. T. J. Dula:

Resolved. That we pledge the support of the Republican party of Wilkes County to the nominee of the State Convention for Governor and State officers.

Resolved. That this meeting do not instruct the delegates, nor express any preference for any of the several candidates for the nomination.

Resolutions unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions were also introduced:

Resolved 1. That in Gen. Rutherford B. Hays, now Governor of Ohio, we have a man, who has shown great patriotism, honesty and Executive ability; having defeated Wm. Allen the champion Democratic aspirant for President, in the last Gubernatorial election, thereby proving himself to be the strongest man in the *great N. W.* And we, the people of Western N.C., do express our decided preference for him as the Republican candidate for President.

Resolved 2. That in Gov. Marshall Jewell, of Connecticut, we have a statesman and patriot, and a representative of the great manufacturing interest of the country, and we declare him to be our choice as a candidate for Vice-President. With Hays and Jewell as our candidates for President and Vice-President, the Democratic vote of North Carolina, will be the Greely vote of 1872. Resolution unanimously adopted.

Col. W. F. Henderson was then called out, and in a short, though pointed speech, addressed the house upon the important issues of the day. The impressions made were such as our people will not soon forget. His remarks were founded on the inimitable principles of truth and right, which even Democrats themselves dared not attempt to deny, notwithstanding he courteously offered any one present an opportunity so to do. As to the constitutional amendments he handled them with peculiar severity, in fact, he killed them so dead, and buried them so deep, that they can never be resurrected again in Old Wilkes. We are confident that the currency argument of the Col. made large accessions to our ranks. The meeting passed off quietly and satisfactorily. Wilkes is thoroughly organized and in the coming campaign will go largely Republican.

On motion, the proceedings of this meeting were ordered to be sent to the Statesville American, Raleigh Weekly Era, Raleigh Daily Leader, Raleigh Daily Journal, and the Union Republican be requested to copy.

On motion the Convention adjourned.

S. P. SMITH, *Chairman.*

J. FRANK DAVIS, W. O. HENDREN, } *Secretaries.*

EDITORIAL.

HON. THOMAS SETTLE.

We call the attention of our readers to an article in another column, from the New North State, regarding a statement recently made in the National Republican, that Judge Settle had declared that "no man who fought under the Confederate flag should be intrusted with such high honors and duties as those which attach to the office of Vice President." As we apprehended, he made no such declaration, and the article of the New North State, whose editor speaks by authority, corrects the statement of the Republican, and concerning which Democratic journalists in this State have become so excited about. Judge Settle's views upon the subject, as stated by the New North State, is simply those of any sane Republican at the South. We do not expect the South to be represented on the Presidential ticket until reconstruction is thoroughly accomplished and fully accepted,—and that event has not yet been consummated; but if the Democratic party, whose principal strength is with the disaffected class at the South, choose to try the experiment in the next campaign, we have no objection.

THE GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST

Honest Democrats everywhere conclude that the Republicans will elect their State ticket in the November election. This concession is admitted, it is true, with bad grace, but the signs of the times are so evident, that the indications cannot be gainsayed. This fact has developed all the aspirations of our leaders; and just at present, an animated electioneering time is on hand among the friends of the various aspirants. The Supreme Court of the State, and the U. S. District Court began its sessions in this city on Monday last. The two courts have called together representative Republicans from every section of the State; and for the first time since the inception of the campaign, a general interchange of sentiment is had here. We are pleased to note that, while leaders in various sections differ in choice as to who shall carry the Republican banner in the campaign, all agree to abide the choice of the Convention. It is evident there will be no discord in our deliberations. Whoever may be the choice of the Convention will be cheerfully and heartily supported by local leaders as well as the rank and file. Republicans everywhere believe that the approaching campaign is a crisis, on the result of which depends their weal or woe politically and individually; and therefore there is a unanimity of feeling as to the course to be pursued. After a conference with representative men from every part of the State, we are convinced that individual preferences and local choice, will give way to the voice of the whole people, and that perfect harmony will characterize the deliberations of the State Convention. Every one feels that the day and hour demands this action.

But until the majority voice is uttered, the contest for the various offices on the State ticket will be animated, especially the candidature for Governor. Our opportunities of hearing, has demonstrated that Governor BROGDEN will come to the Convention with no little strength, and that his adherents have much faith. Judge SETTLE'S enthusiastic friends will be numbered by scores, and from east, center and west, will link shields and battle manfully to obtain his nomination. DOCKERY'S friends have been industrous, and will show an imposing strength and persistency. Judge READE has many friends, and no enemies. His Homestead record is so safe, that although he has expressed a physical inability to canvass, and no aspirations whatever for the place, he has many friends. We have also heard Judges ALBERTSON and BUXTON spoken of as available candidates.

We have plenty of material for the position, of the best kind. Under the leadership of either one we have named, we are sure of a Republican victory and a safe administration of the affairs of the State. Let the Convention speak, and whatever may be its choice, we are sure, will be accorded a hearty and zealous support from every true Republican within our borders.

The Hon. W. M. Robbins could not be present at Wake Forest, on Wednesday last, to read his address. It was read for him by Dr. Bitting. A writer from Wake Forest speaks of it as follows:

"The subject matter of the address was a resume of history, showing from whence our government derived its origin, also its tendencies—presenting a very dark picture, so much that the faces of the thoughtful looked gloomy indeed; but as he neared the close of the address he declared there still was hope, and when the address closed there were no dark faces, but the praises of the effort of the honorable gentlemen were in the mouth of all agreeing with the President, that it was a characteristic southern address, and grand in every way. Mr. Robbins was very fortunate in having Dr. Bitting to deliver the address in his stead."

Another political speech! How much obliged every one should be to Mr. Robbins for declaring that there is "still hope" for the government of the United States! But it was positively cruel in Mr. Robbins to present that "dark picture," which made so many amiable, unsophisticated gentlemen "look gloomy indeed." And yet, with his potent wand, he dispelled the "gloom" with a "characteristic SOUTHERN address." There is a world of meaning in that word "*Southern*" in this connection. When *shall* we be reconstructed?

It is one of the most fortunate things in this world that the government of the United States is not in the keeping of such as Mr. Robbins. This same Democracy, of which Mr. Robbins is a leader, tried in vain for four long years to destroy this same government, but Providence preserved it, and it is stronger to-day than it ever was. We should not "look gloomy" for the fate of this government if forty thousand Robbins should paint "dark pictures," and predict its destruction. It would only be paint after all. An all-wise God has the country of WASHINGTON in the hollow of His hand, and He will do with it as He pleases. Let all Professors in Colleges, and all Colleges, and all Christians look to God for protection to our free institutions, and for hope that they will endure, and will continue to be a blessing to us, and not look for these things to Mr. Robbins.

MONTFORD McGEHEE ON GOV. VANCE.

Last Thursday night, in Commons Hall, Hon. Montford McGehee delivered a glowing eulogy upon the life of William A. Graham. The audience was not excessively large, but very select, consisting of several judges of the Supreme Court, Hon. George W. Brooks, of the U. S. Circuit Court, large numbers of the bar in attendance upon the courts from abroad, with the local bar and the *elite* of the city of Raleigh. Many ladies graced the scene; and all listened with deep interest, although the eloquent speaker engaged their closest attention for nearly three hours.

Mr. McGehee traced the career of Governor Graham from the cradle to the grave, following him through his collegiate course, picturing his triumphs at the bar and delineating with great power, his public life in the Legislature, as a Senator in Congress, as a cabinet minister, as Governor of his State and as a popular speaker. The address terminated with a masterly sketch of his character, in all the various capacities of a long and eventful life. The speaker was filled with enthusiasm, and it was evident that his was a labor of love.

The most noticeable feature of the address was the glowing defence of Governor Graham from the aspersions and slander of Zebulon B. Vance, which the latter had not ventured to utter during the lifetime of the distinguished statesman, but had waited until the grave had forever closed his lips. The matter at issue was concerning the statement of Mr. Vance in his address, last summer, before the Southern Historical Society at White Sulphur Springs, in Virginia, in which it was represented that Governor Graham came to him (Vance) near the close of the rebellion, with propositions from "unknown parties," that he (Vance) should act separately in his capacity as Governor of North Carolina, to close the war; Governor Graham expressing no opinion of his own which proposition, Vance said, he of course refused. Mr. McGehee demonstrated that Gov. Graham did not come from unknown parties, but that he came for himself, expressing his opinions, that the war ought to be terminated, to save a useless effusion of blood, maintaining that the Confederacy was then at its last gasp, and that a further prosecution of the war was not only useless, but monstrously wicked. By Mr. McGehee's showing, while all could see there was no longer any hope for the Confederacy, and Governor Graham, with clear judgment and pure humanity, was appealing to the Executive of North Carolina to bring peace to his people, and through them, to the people of the Confederate States, the latter was furiously opposed to such a course, and upholding, with all his might, the waning power of Jeff. Davis and crazy advisers. It was clearly shown, by the speaker, that Vance was utterly blinded, and that while Lee was beleaguered at Petersburg and Richmond, and Sherman had cut the Confederacy in two, the Governor of North Carolina wanted more blood, and the pleadings of Governor Graham to stop the sanguinary flood, were in vain. In the eloquent language of the orator, after the failure of the conference at Hampton Roads, none of this blood was upon Governor Graham's hands!

The arraignment of the slanderer for his attack upon the dead statesman, was terrible, convicting the blood thirsty Vance of falsehood. It is fortunate, even at this late day, that the truth of history has been vindicated, and that documents are extant by which the statements of Mr. McGehee can be authenticated.

Backbone.

In the campaign which will soon begin, this constituent of success must be exercised by Republicans. In the past, they have shown too little. They have let political whippersnappers and left-handed petty-fogging one-horse lawyers browbeat, intimidate and cheat us out of thousands of votes. This policy has not been confined to any single county, but the record shows it has been universal. We believe it is a part of their general programme; that those small-fry gentry have received instructions from their head-center—the Conservative Democratic Executive Committee—and that a method and system is in vogue, by instruction throughout the State. It behooves Republicans to cultivate, if they do not already possess, *backbone.* Let us assert our rights and maintain them at the polls. Republicans generally are disposed to observe the *law.* As a general thing, they go farther. They will observe the very forms of law, and let these emisaries of the Democracy dictate the forms of law. We want the Republican Executive Committees of every county to post themselves as to the law of electors, and assert and maintain—demand and require—of every poll-holder their rights under the constitution and laws of the State. The time is coming when no timorous and time-serving policy will do. We have to deal with men unscrupulous exceedingly, who will not stoop to any policy to obtain their ends. Let us be vigilant and brave. These requisites in leaders, will give courage to rank and file. When we hold meetings, let these be attended in mass. Especially by Republicans who obtain their bread and butter out of the party. There are hundreds of such in the State who have never yet attended a Republican mass meeting. They are satisfied to enjoy the "loaves and fishes," but shrink from the odium and contumely that the name of a Republican entails in the circle in which they live. We want no cowards or skulkers in the coming contest. It is a matter of life and death to those who have the principles of the party at heart. It behooves us all to show our hand, and carry our heart in it. Those who do not, are unworthy of place or confidence. It is demanded of all by the crisis that is upon us. In the counsel room, in our meetings, at the street corners, and at the polls, let us all exert ourselves to maintain the supremacy of the Republican party. Let every Republican go to his district meetings. Let them select their best men to represent them in the county, district and State Conventions, and let us maintain and defend our principles boldly and openly—not secretly and privately—and all will be well. We want the white Republicans of North Carolina, in the approaching contest, to show *backbone.*

The spirit of man is in reality one with our political foes. They seek to intimidate the weak-kneed by abuse and contumely. They will attempt to keep us from an active participation in the campaign by inuendo and jeers. They will cry out that ours is a "Negro party"—and thereby prevent white men from a participation in our meetings. We know it is no negro party—it is no white man's party. We know it is the party of the people. We know that upon its success depends our weal or woe in State and Nation. So let them rave—but let us do our duty. *Backbone!* BACKBONE!! BACKBONE!!! to assert our principles, is all that is needed to insure success.

A Quick Juror.

[Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist.]

We heard his Honor Judge Gibson, on Tuesday, tell an amusing story of the way a juror went for a conviction. He says he was trying a murder case a few days ago down in one of the wire grass counties, and experienced great difficulty in getting a jury; that eleven jurors had been sworn in, and in the next panel that was brought in was a small, lean, lank, cadaverous-looking fellow who had on one shoe, his pants were nearly above his knees; his shirt open both front and back, and the aforesaid trousers were held up by a single gallows. The Solicitor proceeded to ask the usual questions in such cases, as follows:

"Have you from having seen the crime committed, or heard any of the testimony delivered under oath, formed and expressed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner at the bar?"

So the "single gallus" fellow, in a clear and distinct voice, answered, "Not any."

Second Question—Have you any prejudice or bias resting on your mind for or against the prisoner at at the bar?

Answer—I hain't.

Third Question—Is your mind perfectly impartial between the State and the accused?

Answer—Hit air.

Fourth Question—Are you conscientiously opposed to capital punishment?

Answer—I isn't.

The State did not like the juror much, but it being late and jurors scarce, he was put upon the prisoner in the usual manner, the Solicitor saying: "Juror, look upon the prisoner; prisoner, look upon the juror."

The juror was quite near the prisoner, and when this command was giving, he bent over him, scanning him from head to foot. The juror looked the prisoner firmly in the face, and then turning to the judge said, in a firm, solemn voice: "Yes, Judge, I think he's guilty."

The following well executed counterfeits are circulating: Twenties on the National Bank of Utica, N. Y.; tens on the Farmer's Manufacturing Bank, of Poughkeepsie; fives on the First National Bank of Chicago; fives on the National Bank of Paxton, Ill.; fives on the First National Bank of Canton, Ill.; fives on the First National Bank of Peoria, Ill.; fives on the First National Bank of Aurora, Ill.; fives on the First National Bank of Galena, Ill.; fives on the National Bank of Northampton, Mass.; fives on the Hampden Bank of Westfield, Mass.; fives on the Mechanics' National Bank of New Bedford, Mass.; fives on the Traders' National Bank of Chicago, Ill.; fives on the First National Bank of Louisville, Ky. Two men and a woman were arrested in New York on the 3d instant, for passing some of these bills. Other counterfeits were found in their possession.

Mumps are epidemic in Mecklenburg.

A good tinner is wanted in Greenville.

A Lodge of Good Templars was recently organized in Oxford.

The farmers of Alamance are hopeful of a large yield of wheat.

The commencement exercises at Wake Forest College took place on Tuesday.

There will be an excursion party from Shelby to Wilmington on Tuesday, the 20th inst.

The dog war still rages throughout the State, and we hope to see the number greatly reduced.