Review of the Battles Between the Political Giants of the Past Years

Some Great Campaigns of the Past,

(By Ex-Congressman John Nichels.)

In view of existing political con- expired, he turned his attention ditions in North Carolina at the pres- education, manufacturing and pub ent time and the approaching conventions of the parties, it may not be uninteresting to your readers to look back to some of the early campaigns in this State.

education, manufacturing and public improvements. His opponent, however, who was a restless politician, continued to take an active interest in late campaigns.

Before becoming a candidate for

The old Whig and Democratic The old Whig and Democratic parties were not fully organized and arrayed against each other as such until 1840. While there had been conflicts between political leaders before that time it had been under different party names, and largely on different issues, but in 1840 the lines were drawn and Whig and Democrat, or "loco-focco," as the Whig in derision often called their opponents, were arrayed against each other on

well-defined party lines. William Henry Harrison was the Whig nominee for the Presidency and Martin Van Buren, then Presidency and Martin Van Buren, then President, was the Democratic standard bearer. But it is not my purpose to attempt to discuss the national campaigns. I shall confine myself in this article to the State campaigns—chiefly that of Governor. For be it remembered at the time of which I propose to submit a few thoughts. propoce to submit a few thoughts, the candidate for Governor was the only State officer who went before the

only State officer who went before the people seeking their support. The State Treasurer, the Comptroller (now State Auditor), the Secretary of State and Attorney General were all elected by the Legislature. There was no Lieutenant-Governor at that time, and the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction had not been established. All the judges were also elected by the General Assembly.

Consequently the State campaigns were confined to the party candidates for Governor. How different then from now—as it appears to me. Then the respective parties selected their ablest men—men of greatest ability and highest charcter, to lead them to victory or defeat. No pigmy could receive the slightest recognition from his party, it mattered not how zeal-ous he might be, or how many questionable party schemes he might have engineered. The standard bearer chosen by either party must be a chosen by either party must be a man, yea, a statesman, because in the candidate centered the hopes of

My father, my grandfather, and all my "uncles and aunts" and all my kin-folks, were Whigs of the most ultra character. Therefore, if what I may write shows a little bit of prejudice on the youthful mind, which time has not evadicated but is the more con-

firmed as age creeps on.
Of course my recollections of the campaign of 1840 are somewhat dim, tha) was sung from the sea to the mountains. But as above remarked, it is with the State campaigns that I propose to write.

I propose to write.

John Motley Morehead, of Guilford county, was the Whig nominee for Governor and Romulus Mitchell Saunders was the Democratic standard bearer. They were both giants—

candidates were compelled to travel friends.

by private conveyance. I had heard much of Morehead and Saunders. I any other State, for any position, so newhere east (perhaps Tarboro)

To Raleigh, coming up what is still called the Tarboro road. It had been canounced, but how the information had been obtained I do not know, have the called the Tarboro road. It had been between the information had been obtained I do not know, had been obtained Chat Morehead would pass up the Poad on a certain day. My home at Chat time was in the Eagle Rock neighborhood, at which precinct there neighborhood, at which precinct there spective parties, or assaulting those were about 130 Whig voters and only of the enemy, they exhibited five or six Democrats.

have been brought by some passen-ger, or perhaps, by the stage driver, who was a sort of Avant-Coureur in partisan followers. all matters of political news and gos-

At any rate the news spread that feat. The remark, "I had rather be Morehead would pass, and quite a crowd of men, women and children credited to Mr. Clay, it is said was then a little fellow, but, oh, how After writing the letter he handed it proud I was when the great Whig to Mr. Badger for his criticism, "The heard that his friends would come together to do him honor, because but if published it will defeat you for to elect two United States senators. just before he reached old Eagle the Presidency." To which Mr. Clay Governor Reid was elected to succeed the Presidency. To which Mr. Mangum and Judge Asa Biggs. Rock, where the crowd had gathered, replied: "I had rather be right than he got out of his carriage and took to be President." The letter was pub- of Martin, was elected to succeed Mr. a seat on the outside by his negro coachman. The carriage was drawn by two magnificent iron gray horses. As he approached the little crowd lifted his hat and gave the Whig slogan, "Hurrah for Tippacanoe and Tyler too," which was responded to by a "Hurrah for Morehead too."

Morehead was elected by a good majority, and was re-elected in 1842. The office of Governor was the only public position he ever held, except that nearly twenty years later he was a member of the House of Commons from Guilford county.

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Governor, Mr. Saunders had filled many public positions of trust and The next year after his defeat for Governorship he was elected to Congress and served two terms. In 1846 he was appointed Minister Spain where he remained until 1850 when he was recalled. after his return home he was elected as a member of the House of Com-mons and later a judge of the Su-

perior Court. In 1842 Governor Morehead was opposed by Louis D. Henry, of Cumberland county. The campaign of this year was a tame affair compared to the one preceding, and the one succeeding it. The State was largely Whig, and Morehead was universally popular with the people, while Henry, although a man of ability and high character, did not have the popular manners that Morehead possessed. Perhaps the most exciting cam-

paign that ever occurred in North Carolina was that of 1844. There was the year for the election of a President. Henry Clay was the Whig was hated by his enemies, James K. Polk, of Tennessee, had been nomi-nated by the Democrats, and being a native of the State, they hoped that in consequence of that fact, the party would be grealy strengthened, and they would be able to carry the State. Both parties were on their mettle, each determined on victory. It was no time for scrubs or professional politicians. The very best men of the parties must be selected for all offices because the battle promised to when parties sought the candidates with as much care as a general would select a soldier for a hazardous and responsible undertaking. Both par-ties were fortunate in the selection

The Democrats named as their in Tavor of the old Whig party, my only excuse (and a good one it is too) of Lincoln county. He had had the walk over the dead body (politic) advantage of a military education, but of one of the State's favorite sons is my early raising and the influences fession. Of Col. Hoke a writer says: oratory and acquirements in his profession won for him "troups of ponents by defeat. Who was the but I shall never forget the Whig slogan of "Tippacanoe and Tyler too" W. A. Graham as his opening the same with the same of t friends and an extensive practice." W. A. Graham as his opponent, such kerr, of Caswell county. He was an was the fairness of his conduct, his orator; of the Patrick Heury style, open, generous temper, his elevated and a satirist scarcely second to that mode of argument, that even in high of John Randolph, of Roanoke. He

and bearer. They were both glants—bearer in the person of William A. physically and intellectually—both Graham, of Orange county. He was being over six feet tall and tipping the scales at over the two hundred notch.

There were no railroads at that time amounting to anything, and the candidates were compelled to travel

regarded Morehead (as he was) a were candidates more evenly match-most wonderful man. I pictured him ed. Both were in the very prime of in my youthful imagination as al-life. Hoke was only thirty-five and most a demi-god. It was my good for une to see him one time during were peculiarly handsome men, being the campaign. He was going from tall, well-formed and graceful, with

courage of a Washington and (At this time there was a stage line between Raleigh and Tarboro, and it is possible that the news might

Graham was elected Governor, and sip. Their opportunities for collecting news, and the facility with which they distributed it, would put to shame the daily papers of the present that contributed so largely to his deused by him to Hon. Geo. E. Badger. leader approached. He must have letter is all right," said Mr. Badger,

any unusual interest. It was what Governor, and served out the term. we call an "off year." The Whigs It was at this period in the political renominated Governor Graham, and history of Governor Reid, when some the State having gone so strongly of the Democrats began to realize Whig two years before, and Graham how they had been duped by Reid, having made such a popular Gover- and openly charged that he and Biggs nor, the Democrats did not enter the had colluded together to bring about contest with any enthusiasm or de- these results. The part that Governor gree of hope. Their nominee was Reid took in the organization of the James B. Shepherd, of Wake county. State Convention twenty years later, After his term as Governor had He had been a State Senator, was a if not sustaining former charges, at

some of which he was called "James the Shepherd, riding through the country on the back of an ass." The elected by over twelve thousand ma-

The administration of Governor Graham was very popular. It was largely through his efforts that the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad was rebuilt and the company re-organized, thus giving an impetus to the system of public improvements. He caused to be made a number of needful imschool system, and did much to advance the came of education. As Secretary of the Navy his adminisration was progressive and far-reaching. In conducting the affairs of that high office he made an impress upon his country's history unequalled by any other ranking official.

The campaign of 1848, while not

exciting the people and arousing

party enthusism to the degree that had been the case in some of the former campaigns, was full of interest and earnestness. David S. Reid, of Rockingham, had been a member of Congress, and was related by blood or marriage to Stephen A. Dougless of Illinois. It was said that Dougwere many causes that made it so. It lass had "coached" Reid, and advised him to make the race for Governor and to advocate the principles nominee, and made a speech in Ral- of "free suffrage." He was nomi-eigh on the 12th day of April of that nated, and "free suffrage" was the year. No public man before or since had the power to sway his followers platform, and Reid used it with all that Clay possessed, and to the extent he was admired by his friends he politician. The Whigs nominated Charles Manly, of Wake, a lawyer and a farmer. He was a man of fair ability and high personal charactersomewht aristocratic in his manners, and fond of ease and the comforts of life. The State two years before had gone some twelve thousand maority for the Whigs, and Mr. Manly

the returns were all in he had hardly thousand majority. In 1850 the same battle by the same men was fought, and Reid capbe one of unusual excitement and in- tured the Whig banner. He was proterest. This was one of the times claimed the Governor of North Carolina, the first Democratic Governor of the State elected since the Whigs and Democrats had been the recognized political parties of the State. This was a humiliating blow to the grand old Whig party of North Carolina. The idea that a little political standard bearer Col. Michael Hoke, "runt" like David S. Reid should

felt confident of his election. When

miliation that to them was almost un-Goliath to throw down the gauntlet was armed tnd equipped and went forth to battle with "little David." The people-the common peoplebeen aroused on the question of "free suffrage" and the adroitness of Reid in showing the non-slave-owners how they were unjustly dealt by in the matter of suffrage, won for him many votes that had before been cast for the Whigs. He did this with great effect when he pointed out that the "peacock orator" was the special champion of the land-owners. This line of argument was especially effective. Kerr was a strikingly handsome man with a ver- aristocratic bearing, while Reid was small in stature, modest and plain looking. His ridicule of Kerr made him the sub-

ject of derision rather than the ob-

ject of admiration. Reid was elected

and Kerr never fully recovered from

Governor Reid was a very shrewd

his humiliating defeat.

politician, and his schemes seldom failed. Some of his enemies in his own party, after the matter was all over, charged that Governor Reid was guilty of unfair tactics in the election of a successor to Senator Willie P. Mangum in 1852. It was one of the duties of the Legislature elected that year to name the successor of Mr. Mangum. The Democrats had a majority on joint ballot, and James C. Dobbin, of Cumberland, the caucus nominee. Judge Saunders, who on a few previous occasions had been induced to accept desired to honor him. He had clans, he did not have enough of Whigs could not elect their there was no election, and for two years the State had but one Senator-Hon. Geo. E. Badger, of Wake. The Democrats carried the State again in "and contains sound Whig doctrine, 1854, and one of its first acts was Mr. Mangum and Judge Asa Biggs, The campaign of 1846 was not of the Speaker of the Senate, became

> diplomat of no mean order. The campaign of 1854 was another "battle of the giants." I use the term "battle of the giants" in its intellectual sense. The two candidates were Thos. Bragg, the Democratic nominee, and Alfred Dockery, the nominee of the "American party." or to be more plain, the remains of the old Whig party and such Democrats as of the lungs, and prevents both the entrance of the lungs, and prevents both the lungs. affiliated with them in that secret organization known as the "Know Nothings." I shall not attempt to discuss the questions that brought into existence this secret political organization, because I know but little about it, other than like some-more, modern parties, it was "one of opposition" to the Democracy, just as opposition now exists to the dominant party of the country, without any well-defined fixed principles. Bragg and Dockery were both great men—intellectual giants. Perhaps in no campaign during the period of which I am writing was there a greater exhibition of incuss the questions that brought into was there a greater exhibition of in-tellectuality than that of 1854. It was equal to that Douglass and Lin-coln in Illinois in 1858. Bragg was elected by a small majority. The campaign of 1856 was of no

least proved that he was a political

The campaign of 1856 was of no special significance. Opposition to the Democratic party in the State was disorganized, and a new National party had sprung up which had practically united all Southern voters into one party. The fragments of opposition left, named John A. Gilmer, of Guilfori, as the opposing candidate, and the Democrats again nominated Governor Bragg, who was again elected.

Addicted to it.

J. M. Kennedy

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\$58, organized opposition to

man of ability and superior accom- the Democracy had practically ceased plishments, but he did not know how to exist; but there was division in to get around with the "boys," and the party on the question of a "Diswas too retiring to win friends among tribution of the proceeds of the sale the business men and trades-people. of the public lands. I do not pro-The Whigs ridiculed his candidacy, pose to enter into a discussion of this and there were many amusing pub-lications issued at his expense, in about it, and if I did it would be useless, as the results of the "War between the States" removed the question from the arena of political disass was supposed to be the editor of cussion. Judge John W. Ellis, of the Democratic organ, who had been Rowan, was the Democratic nominee, "set up in business," by the said and Col. Dunean K. McRae, am inde-Democratic candidate. Graham was pendent Democrat, opposed him. The campaign was "fussy," but of no spe-cial importance, either State or Nation. The State had become strongly Democratic, and it was a mere pro forma matter to hold an election.

Before 1860 a new local or State issue had risen. It was the question of taxation. Slaves had been taxed, as was charged, far below their real valuation, thus discriminating between the slave-owners and the small House and the capitol grounds. He farmers and mechanics who owned was a devoted friend to the public thront capital and the small no slaves. A strong anti-slavery sensely approach to the public thront capital and the small had been sensely as a strong and the small approach to the public thront capital and the small had been sensely as a strong anti-slavery sensely as a strong and the small had been small as a strong and the small had been small as a strong and the small had been small as a strong and the small had been small the subject was one that could be handled with much effect by the adroit politician. Governor Ellis was renominated by his party and John Pool by the ad valorem advocates. But for the existing National campaign—the year that Lincoln was first elected—which produced such excitement in National politics, Pool would undoubtedly have defeated Ellis, but the latter was re-elected. This was the last campaign "before the war." That sad national calamity thoroughly revolutionized the par-ties of the whole country, North and

Later I may say something of North Carolina politics "since the but not now. Conditions are so different, issues are so unlike and public men so warfed that new lines must be drawn and new comparisons

When we look back into the history of the State and see pictured before our eyes such men as Mangum, Bad-Graham, Hoke, Battle, Ruffin, Nash, Bragg, Dockery and numerous others whose names adorn the history of our State, and compare them with the political pigmies of the present-day, one must wonder at the patience and forebearance of our peo-

No patriotic North Carolinian, it matters not what his political affiliations may be, or may have been, can view with indifference the decadence of statesmanship in North Carolina. No personal or political reference is intended, and no such construction should be put on these remarks, but to one who has lived a full three-quarters of a century, and been a student and close observer of men and measures, the contrast between the great leaders of the Whig and Democratic parties of fifty and sixty years ago and some (not all) of those who assume leadership of parties (both) of the present day, is too apparent not to attract the attention

period of which I have been writing the only officer voted for by the people of the State at large was that of Governor. It was important at that time, that each party should name its ablest and most popular leader; because in the candidate all party principles and issues were centered. Now, there are the third of a hundred offices to be filled by popular election. Not all at the same time, nowever, but that many before the list is complete. It is not strange, therefore that in the struggle for leadership, or at least political prom-inence, some "light weights" should come to the front, and that party platforms should be badly wrecked, before the day of election arrives.

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In the first place I am not going tell you any "crank" stories about he drugged cigarette and all that. The fact is that cigarettes are not often drugged, and if they were, it couldn't be a worse drug than the drug in the tobacco itself-the nico-

smoking is bad because it strikes at the very root of the life—the breathmore you live. The bigger, the more active the lungs, the stronger, healthier, more active and beautiful is the person. To stop the breathing is to stop the life; to reduce the breathing capacity is to reduce the

Everybody knows this: "No, thanks, No cigarettes. I have cut them out. am in training, you know," is a frequent remark among training men. If the cigarette is bad for the man in training, why, it is just as bad for the man not in training. It is-and worse,

Well, in the first place let me tell you that the lungs cover an immense surface—a surface equal to the area of a ffoor of a large room; that this surface is wrinkled up, for the lungs are contained in a small space. Through this surface the blood pours out its poisons, and at the same time takes in oxygen, which is the greatest essential of life.

Now, when you smoke a cigarette, or breathe the air of a smokey room. the smoke enters directly into the lungs. Smoke is in reality nothing but a very fine charcoal dust; and when you inhale it the dust settles on the delicate membranes, covering the scape of poison from the blood and the entrance of the oxygen of the air

into the blood. Thus the cigarette smoker is at once starved and poisoned-starved for air and poisoned by his own breath. Is it any wonder that he gets pale and thin and weak mentally and

Among the better class of men and young men cigarette smoking is dy-ing out. It isn't "good form," it cer-tainly isn't good health. It is silly and unclean, and the habit will, with absolute certainty, injure the health and shorten the life of him who is addicted to it.

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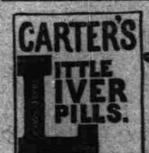
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