

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

Some Great Campaigns of the Past, (By Ex-Congressman John Nichols.)

In view of existing political conditions in North Carolina at the present 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.

William Henry Harrison was the Whig nominee for the Presidency and Martin Van Buren, 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 he is remembered at the time of which I propose to submit a few thoughts.

man of ability and superior accomplishments, but he did not know how to get around the "boys," and was too retiring to win friends among the business men and trades-people. The Whigs ridiculed his candidacy, and there were many amusing publications issued at his expense, in some of which he was called "James the Shepherd, riding through the country on the back of an ass of the Democratic organ, who had been 'set up in business,' by the said Democratic candidate.

the Democracy had practically ceased to exist; but there was no division in the party on the question of a "Distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands." I do not propose to enter into a discussion of this question, because I know but little 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 discussion.

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J. M. Kennedy ARCHITECT RALEIGH, N. C. Edwards & Broughton's New Building Correspondence solicited. Capital City Phone 988-M. The campaign of 1854 was another "battle of the giants." I use the term "battle of the giants" in an intellectual sense. The two candidates were Thos. Bragg, the Democratic nominee, and Alfred Dockery, the Whig nominee. The Whigs were to be more plain, the remnants of the old Whig party and such Democrats as had affiliated with them in that secret organization known as the "New Nothing." 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 modern parties, it was "one of opposition" to the Democracy, just as opposition now exists to the dominant party of the country, with 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 intellectual quality than that of 1854. It was equal to that of Douglass and Lincoln in Illinois in 1858. Bragg was elected by a small majority.