

Whig State Convention.

This body assembled on Tuesday last, in remarkable full force, considering the inclement state of the weather. The rain fell in unceasing torrents through the day, and the punctuality of the Delegates in their attendance afforded most gratifying evidence of their enthusiastic zeal in a good cause.

It will be seen, that JOHN M. MOREHEAD, of Guilford, glorious Guilford, has been nominated as the Whig Candidate for the Governorial Chair; a man, whose name has long been associated with whatever is pure in patriotism, and lofty in integrity.

HENRY CLAY, of Kentucky, has been also recommended for the Presidency, and a pledge given to support NATHANIEL P. TALLMADGE of New York, should be the nominee of the National Convention for the Vice Presidency.

Governor Owen, of Bladen, and James Mebane, of Caswell, were appointed State Delegates to Harrisburg.

A faithful account of the Proceedings, taken down in shorthand, will be found subjoined: "nothing extenuated, or ought set down in malice." All that we profess to give is the spirit of the Speakers. With these brief remarks, we willingly trust the result of the labors of the Convention with the people, having no fears that victory will perch on the Whig banner, if, in the language of its estimable President, every man does his duty.—Raleigh Register.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1839.

This being the day, recommended by the Whig Members of the Legislature, of North Carolina, for holding a State Convention at Raleigh, the Delegates assembled at 3 o'clock, P. M. in the spacious room of B. B. Smith's large building, occupied by the Commons, at the last Session.

James Mebane, Esq. a Delegate from Caswell, called the meeting to order, and proposed that the Convention be organized by the appointment of Gov. John Owen, a Delegate from the Senatorial District of Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus, as President of the body. The motion having been put by Mr. Mebane, it was decided in the affirmative, unanimously, and Gov. Owen was accordingly conducted to the Chair, from whence he addressed the Convention, in substance, as follows:

GENTLEMEN:—I thank you most sincerely for the distinction conferred upon me by the vote just taken. The honor could have fallen on no one less qualified for the duties of the station—no one, who had less anticipations of such a mark of favor. Wholly conscious of my inability to discharge the functions of the Chair, I should yet be wanting in duty to my own feelings, and evince a want of proper respect for the body over which I am called to preside, were I to deny myself the gratification of expressing my sense of the kindness manifested by their choice.

The objects for which we have assembled, Gentlemen, may be explained in few words; and coming, as you do, from different, and many of you, from distant points of the State, I cannot think of consuming a greater portion of your time, than is barely necessary to specify the objects for which we have convened.

At a meeting of the Whig Members of the Legislature of this State, at its last Session, this Convention was recommended; and sanctioned, as it has been since, by the voice of our Fellow Citizens, through the medium of primary meetings, we are now here, in the exercise of a privilege guaranteed to us by the sacred Charter of our Liberties. The period is drawing near, when the Freeman of North Carolina will be called on to indicate their preference for Governor of the State. How the duties of that responsible Office have been performed by the present enlightened, virtuous and patriotic incumbent of the Executive Chair, it is unnecessary to state.—His acts are before the world, and speak for themselves, as unto wise men, who are to judge.—It is, however, only doing sheer justice to say, that he has acted well his part—it will be fortunate for the State, if his mantle shall fall upon his successor. Who that successor is to be, or rather, to determine whom the Whigs of the State desire for the station, is the principal object for which this Convention has assembled.

One other specific object I will name. We are to determine as to the expediency of sending Delegates to the National Convention, and to give thereby, an expression of our approbation or disapprobation of that measure. For six successive Administrations, comprising a period of nearly half a century, the affairs of our Government were managed, under our almost perfect Constitution, with consummate ability and wisdom. During that time, Agriculture, and the Arts, Commerce and Science, and the Religion of our Fathers, were nourished and encouraged throughout the wide extent of our peaceful empire. On a sudden, from this high and commanding situation, has the country been thrown into distress and confusion. Misrule and corruption have crept into the Administration of our National Government; and from an elevation, where we stood the admiration of the civilized world, we have been tumbling headlong into the abyss of wretchedness and crime. How, and by whom, this has been done, it is for us, as a component part of the people, to judge; though they are matters which may, more appropriately, be referred to in the discussions of this body.

With renewed thanks, Gentlemen, for your kindness, I shall endeavor, in my feeble way, to discharge faithfully, the duties incident to the station conferred on me.

On motion of Mr. Mendenhall, Gen. S. F. Patterson, of Wilkes and Henry Watkins Miller, Esq. of Wake, were appointed Secretaries.

The President having announced that the Convention was duly organized, on motion of Col. Long of Halifax, the Counties of the State were called, for the purpose of ascertaining what counties were represented, and the names of the Delegates in attendance, which resulted as follows:

Alston—P. H. Winston, John A. McRae, Thomas Waddell, James M. Waddell, Beaufort—William Ellison, Bladen—Thomas C. Smith, Chatham—Isaiah Barnett, Baxter Clegg, Chowan—Robert T. Paine, Cumberland—Robert C. Belden, John C. Patton, Edward W. Barge, Duncan Buie, J. C. Blocker, Currituck—Warner M. Lewis, James Mebane, Duplin—C. D. Hill, B. T. Grady, John F. Rhoden, Davidson—Charles Brummell, Charles L. Paine, Davie—Caswell Harbin, Edgecombe—Richard W. Battle, John F. Hughes, Franklin—Nath. R. Tunstall, Jos. A. Whitaker, Benjamin Foster, David Thomas, Gates—Willis F. Reidick, W. J. Baker, Jesse Wiggins, B. Goodman, Rufus K. Speed, Granville—R. B. Gilliam, Wm. M. Sneed, Jas. A. Russell, H. W. Jones, Ivey Harris, Wm. T. Hargrove, William A. Johnston, Guilford—George C. Mendenhall, James McNairy, Ralph Gorrell, Peter Adams, William H. Brittain, Halifax—William L. Long, Hertford—Kenneth Rayner, John L. Taylor, Iredell—Joseph P. Caldwell, Mecklenburg—Moses W. Alexander, Montgomery—Francis Locke, Green Davis, Samuel H. Christian, Moore—Charles Chalmers, S. C. Bruce, Donald Street, Northampton—Absalom B. Smith, Thomas G. Tucker, S. B. Spruill, Onslow—Daniel L. Russell, Owen Huggins, Orange—Wm. Barbee, James Webb, William A. Carrigan, Randolph—John B. Troy, Richmond—John C. McLaurin, Jas. D. Pemberton, Rowan—Jonas Sneed, Rockingham—Robert B. Watt, John M. Ross, Stokes—Albert F. Nelson, Isaac L. Gibson, Caleb H. Matthews, Surry—Columbus B. Franklin, Wake—John H. Bryan, John Hinton, Hugh McQueen, Daniel S. Crenshaw, Johnston Barber, Adam G. Banks, H. W. Miller, Stephen Stephens, Wayne—John B. Williams, Richard Davison, John C. Stocomb, George W. Collier, Wilkes—Samuel F. Patterson, From the 30th Senatorial District of N. C. John Owen.

Resolved, That each county represented in this Convention shall be entitled to the same number of votes, in the event of the Ayes and Noes being demanded, as it is entitled to Members in the House of Commons.

Mr. Davison was opposed to the Resolution. The members of the Convention he said, were all a portion of the Whig family, and ought to vote on all questions, he thought, per capita. The Resolution would neither be an equitable or suitable one, because many counties were not represented at all. If every county in the State were represented, the case would be different. The Resolution was not adopted.

Mr. Spruill moved that the Convention take a recess until 12 o'clock. Agreed to.

The Convention re-assembled, when Isaiah Spencer of Orange, and T. R. Debnam of Wake, appeared and took their seats.

Mr. McQueen, from the General Committee, made a detailed Report on the matters referred to them. [The Report is of such length, that we are unable to publish it this week, but will give it in our next.] It concludes with the following Resolutions:—Raleigh Register.

1. Resolved, That having been inspired with a deep and lively sense of the eminent practical vigor, sound Republican principles, unblemished public and private virtues, ardent patriotism, and decided abilities of

JOHN M. MOREHEAD, Of the County of Guilford,

we do accordingly recommend him to our fellow citizens, as a fit successor to our present enlightened Chief Magistrate, Governor DUDLEY.

2. Resolved, That in consideration of the pure patriotism, distinguished public services, and splendid abilities of

HENRY CLAY, of Kentucky,

this Convention yields to him a decided preference for the next Presidential Term of the United States, and should be nominated by the Harrisburg Convention, we pledge ourselves to render the nomination a cordial and undivided support.

3. Resolved further, That whilst this Convention is willing to go to any reasonable extent in sanctioning such nomination for the Presidency of the Union, as may heretofore emanate from the National Convention which is to convene at Harrisburg, yet we deem it due to the objects for which this Convention has assembled, to recommend to our Delegates in that Convention to adopt all honorable means which may serve to secure the nomination of Mr. CLAY, by that body.

4. Resolved, That in consequence of the superior talents of

NATHANIEL P. TALLMADGE, Of the State of New York,

and from the high estimation we entertain of the intrepid and efficient services which he has contributed to the important principles for which we are contending, we pledge ourselves, in the event of his being nominated by the Harrisburg Convention, to yield to the recommendation a cordial and animated support.

5. Resolved, That — and — be appointed Delegates to represent the State at large in the Harrisburg Convention; and, in case of their inability or failure to attend, that — and — be appointed alternates.

6. Resolved, That it be recommended to the Whigs of the several Counties composing the Electoral Districts in this State, to meet in their respective Counties, to confer with the Delegates from the other Counties composing said Districts, in relation to the appointment of an Elector for said District; and that the name of such person as they may agree upon, be forwarded to the Central Committee, to be placed on the Whig Electoral Ticket.

7. Resolved, That it be recommended by the Convention, to the Whigs of the different Counties in this State, to meet at some convenient period, for the purpose of appointing Committees of Vigilance for the said Counties.

8. Resolved, That the Whig Central Committee be requested to prepare and publish a suitable Address for distribution among the people of the State, on the subject of the approaching Election for Governor.

9. Resolved further, That the said Committee be also requested to prepare and publish a proper Address to the People, on the all important subject of the next Presidential Election of the U. States.

10. Resolved, That our present pure, patriotic and enlightened Executive, Gov. DUDLEY, by the ability, purity, impartiality and Republican simplicity of his Administration, has grown extensively in the affections and confidence of the Whig party, since his appointment to his present elevated trust, and that this Convention, in behalf of the Whigs throughout the State of North Carolina, hereby tender to him the homage of their warmest respect and gratitude.

The question being stated by the Chair to be on the adoption of the Report,

Mr. Winston rose and said, that it was due to himself, to express in his place here, opinions, which he had, elsewhere, frequently uttered in strong language. Without wishing to excite acrimonious debate, he could not conscientiously forbear to state his dissent to the Resolution recommending Mr. TALLMADGE for the Vice Presidency. He could not vote for it, because he considered that individual deficient of sound moral principle, which was sufficiently exemplified by his vote on the Expurgating Resolution. He had shown conclusively, by his conduct on that occasion, that he was unworthy of public confidence or respect. Desirous of recording his vote against that particular recommendation, he called for a dissent vote on each Resolution.

Mr. Mebane suggested the propriety of first taking the sense of the Convention upon the Preamble, and then, the Resolutions, in regular order; which being acceded to, the President stated the question to be on the adoption of the Preamble; which was decided in the affirmative.

The question then recurring on the adoption of the Resolutions, the 1st and 2d were unanimously carried.

The 3d Resolution coming up for consideration, Mr. Troy moved to amend it by striking out the word "instruct," and inserting "recommend." He believed that, in venturing upon instructions, the Convention transcended its powers. The motion was agreed to, and the Resolution unanimously adopted.

The 4th Resolution being now under consideration, Mr. Speed said, that it was with great diffidence, he rose in this body, to make any remark. Certainly, he had no wish to provoke discussion, but he felt it his duty, at all hazards, to say frankly, that Mr. Tallmadge's course had been such, that he could not command his support. He was willing to go as far, as he that goes farthest, to displace dishonest men in power, but he could not sanction the nomination of Mr. Tallmadge. He had various objections to him, but would state only one—his vote on the Expurgating Resolution. If the Whigs of North Carolina chose to vote for a man, with such a load of political sin resting upon him, he could not help it. He did not say, he would oppose his election by any extraordinary means, but

certainly he would not yield him his support. He never would, directly or indirectly, countenance that most abominable of all abominable acts, the mutilation of the public records of the country.

Mr. Mebane observed, that he considered union and harmony in our deliberations, a matter of much more importance than the nomination of Mr. Tallmadge, or any other person. The great object of the Whigs was, to elect Henry Clay to the Presidency, and to effect this, almost any honorable concession should be made. For the sake of union, therefore, he moved to strike out the 4th Resolution, with a view, if the motion prevailed, to substitute something in its place.

Gen. Patterson observed, that it was possible some of the members of the Convention had not marked the phraseology of the Resolution. He would take the liberty of reading it again. (Having read it, he resumed.) It will be perceived, that no absolute nomination is made, but a conditional one only, subject to the decision of the Harrisburg Convention. It declares that, if Mr. Tallmadge should be the nominee of that body for the Vice Presidency, then, that we will cordially support him.—He had as great objection to his vote on the Expurgating Resolution as any gentleman possibly could have, and had so stated in the committee, but he yet thought, that his distinguished public services, and his hearty co-operation in defence of Whig principles, entitled him to such a pledge as is contained in the Resolution.

The question on striking out was negatived, and the Resolution, as reported, was adopted with but few dissenting voices.

The 5th Resolution coming up for consideration, on motion of Mr. Rayner, it was referred to a committee, with instructions to recommend to the convention the names of suitable individuals for the purpose contemplated by the Resolution. The committee as named by the chair, consisted of Messrs. Rayner, Mendenhall, Bryan, Mebane and Davison.

The 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Resolutions were unanimously adopted without amendment; and the convention then adjourned until 4 o'clock, P. M.

Four o'clock, P. M. Joseph W. Scott, a Delegate from Cabarrus, appeared and took his seat.

On motion of Mr. Caldwell, a committee of five persons were appointed by the chair, to communicate to Mr. Morehead his nomination by the convention and its wishes that he will accept the same. This committee consists of Messrs. Caldwell, Iredell, Hinton, of Wake, Webb, of Orange, Patterson of Wilkes, and Long of Halifax.

Mr. Rayner, from the committee to whom was referred the 5th Resolution, reported a Resolution to fill the blanks in the same, with the names of Gov. Owen and James Mebane, Esq. The Resolution was read and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Davison, the central committee were authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur by sickness or otherwise, among the Delegates to the National convention.

Mr. Paine moved a re-consideration of the 10th Resolution, and called for the reading of it. Mr. Davison said, that by striking out the words "has grown extensively in the affections of the Whig party," it would probably meet the views of all, and would be then, no less complimentary to the Governor, than now.

Mr. Miller introduced the following as a substitute: "Resolved, That our present patriotic and enlightened Executive, E. B. Dudley, for his honest and able administration of the affairs of the State, deserves the respect and gratitude of his fellow citizens."

The question being now loudly called for, it was put by the Chair, and the Convention refused to reconsider by a very decided vote.

Mr. Rayner alluded to the recommendation of the Central Committee, that this Convention should appoint Delegates to the Harrisburg Convention, from those Districts, in which provision had not otherwise been made. With a view of ascertaining what vacancies existed, he moved that the Clerk call over the Districts. This was accordingly done, and it was found that appointments had been made in all the Districts, but the Newbern, in which a District Convention will shortly assemble for the purpose. [The following are the names of the Delegates:

First District—Charles R. Kinny. 2d. William Cherry. 3d—Joseph R. Loyd. 4th—no appointment. 5th—Dr F. J. Hill. 6th—Wm. H. Battle. 7th—E. L. Winslow. 8th—Henry W. Miller. 9th—Dr N. M. Roane. 10th—Dr. Isaac Burns. 11th—Col. Thos. A. Allison. 12th—Wm A. F. Davidson. 13th—Col. B. S. Gaither.

Gen. Patterson rose and said, that in the existing state of things, there was a heavy obligation due from the Whigs of North Carolina, to the Whigs and Conservatives of New York, for the gallant stand they had taken in the cause of our common country. He therefore proposed the adoption of the following Resolution.

Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that whether or not the Whigs and Conservatives of New York have gained a victory in the recent election in that State, they are entitled to the gratitude of their brethren throughout the Union for the noble and firm stand they have taken, against the unwarrantable interference of Executive power and influence, boldly and unblushingly put forth to control the will of the people.

The question on the adoption of this Resolution was decided in the affirmative by acclamation.

Mr. Mac Rae offered the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That this convention tender their thanks to Mr. B. B. Smith, for his generosity in offering to the convention the use of his House, during its deliberations.

Mr. Mac Rae presented the following Resolution, which was unanimously carried: Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered to the Secretaries, for the able and faithful manner in which they have discharged the duties of their appointment.

On motion of Mr. Spruill, Resolved, That the Whig papers of the State be requested to give publicity through their columns, to the proceedings of the Convention.

No other business remained to be transacted, Gen. Patterson rose and said, that as the labors of the Convention had drawn to a close, he would read a Resolution which had been laid on the table by a member of the body (Mr. Hughes). It was as follows: Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are due and are hereby tendered to the Honorable John Owen for the able, dignified and impartial manner, in which he has discharged the duties of the Chair.

The question having been put upon its adoption, it was unanimously decided in the affirmative.

A motion having been made, that this Convention adjourn sine die, the President, Gov. Owen, rose, and remarked as follows: I am, gentlemen, so sincerely impressed with a sense of my incapacity for the duties of the Chair, that I readily attribute the Resolution, just adopted, to the motive by which I am confident it was prompted. It is due to no merit of mine, but is dictated by a spirit of kindness and forbearance, on your part. I have been very often honored by the people of this State, with flattering tokens of approbation, but I have never enjoyed in any situation greater happiness and satisfaction, than I have experienced in my association with this body.

I have made it a rule through life, whenever called to act in a public capacity, to contribute to the extent of my ability, my full quota of service. Under the influence of such feelings and determination, I have resolved to accept the appointment of a State Delegate to the National Convention. Though my presence, like that of the head of every family, is indispensable at home, I forego every other consideration but the success of the glorious cause in which we are embarked.

Perfect unanimity, gentlemen, is unattainable in any deliberative body, where its members have intelligence to understand, and independence to give expression to their opinions. A sufficiency of it has obtained here for useful and practical purposes. I part from you all, gentlemen, with unfeigned reluctance and regret, and if permitted so to express myself, with this injunction—LET EVERY WHIG DO HIS DUTY. Not only let him be active at the Polls, but in his neighborhood, let him constitute himself a nucleus, around which he may rally friends to his country's cause, and thus lay broad and deep the foundations of its prosperity and happiness. I will detain you no longer, Gentlemen. This Convention stands adjourned without day.

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adoption, it was unanimously decided in the affirmative.

A motion having been made, that this Convention adjourn sine die, the President, Gov. Owen, rose, and remarked as follows: I am, gentlemen, so sincerely impressed with a sense of my incapacity for the duties of the Chair, that I readily attribute the Resolution, just adopted, to the motive by which I am confident it was prompted. It is due to no merit of mine, but is dictated by a spirit of kindness and forbearance, on your part. I have been very often honored by the people of this State, with flattering tokens of approbation, but I have never enjoyed in any situation greater happiness and satisfaction, than I have experienced in my association with this body.

I have made it a rule through life, whenever called to act in a public capacity, to contribute to the extent of my ability, my full quota of service. Under the influence of such feelings and determination, I have resolved to accept the appointment of a State Delegate to the National Convention. Though my presence, like that of the head of every family, is indispensable at home, I forego every other consideration but the success of the glorious cause in which we are embarked.

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