



### The Tarborough Press,

BY GEORGE HOWARD.

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## POLITICAL.

### AN ADDRESS

#### TO THE FREEMEN OF NASH.

FELLOW CITIZENS: The period is again at hand, when you are called on to exercise your judgment in the selection of a suitable person to represent you in the House of Commons in the next General Assembly. And inasmuch as it was your good pleasure to honor me with your suffrages and confidence to a seat in that House at the last election, and being a gain a candidate for that station, I feel anxious, (believing it a duty I owe both to you and myself,) to submit briefly to your candid consideration a plain and simple statement of the course I pursued in executing the high charge with which you honored me. And knowing as I do, that it is impossible for me to do so to the extent desired, by a personal interview with all, or satisfactorily, in the ordinary way by public speeches at the usual places of meeting for that purpose, I have thought proper to adopt this method.

First then, fellow citizens, I will respectfully call your attention to the circumstance of the last, being the first Legislature held under the amended Constitution, by which a new principle of legislation was introduced, producing important changes, in the political as well as legislative importance of particular districts of country. While on the one hand under the old Constitution every county in the State was entitled to one Senator and two Commoners, as is well known to you all, by the new Constitution many of the small counties were cut off with but one Commoner, and in many instances without a Senator; on the other hand, some of the larger counties, have been allowed each one Senator, and many of them two, some three, and some even four Commoners, to the great political and legislative advantages of the larger to the no less pernicious and ruinous consequences to the smaller counties. In which classification it is well known to you, fellow citizens, that our old county of Nash has suffered a loss of half its importance in the House of Commons.

To this change of our political and legislative relation in the alteration of our old Constitution, it is well known to you all that I ever and constantly raised my voice and exerted all my influence to prevent, but in vain: it is nevertheless a source of much pleasure to me to know, that on that eventful occasion, I was seconded and supported by almost an unanimous vote of my fellow citizens of Nash, both against the call of the Convention and the ratification of the amendments—in which, however, we failed, and the consequence is that we (Nash county, one of the oldest and most respectable,) are cut off with but one Commoner; thereby lessening one half our weight and importance in the House of Commons, and consequently doubling the duty and importance of your Representative there, and at the same time and in a corresponding degree, increasing the highly important obligations that you are under to yourselves and the public, in the selection you are now called on to make.

The last Legislature was perhaps the longest, and I doubt not the most laborious, if not the most important ever held in the State, and rendered the more so in the revision and consolidation of the whole of our statute Laws, which of itself was a herculean task, and engrossed much of the time and labor of the two Houses; for although the work had been commenced in 1835, and prosecuted with much ability by Commissioners appointed for that purpose, under an Act of the General Assembly, passed in 1834, yet much, very much remained, to be done by the last Legislature; and which I am proud to say, was done in a manner that has reflected much credit upon our State abroad, and I believe given general satisfaction to our citizens at home.

By an act of Congress passed at its session of 1835-6, a surplus amounting to

about \$30,000,000 of the public revenue of the General Government, was directed to be distributed according to representation, and deposited with the several States to be by them kept free of interest, subject to the call and future wants of the Government; to receive which, it was necessary that the Legislature should pass a law to that effect, and pledge the faith and credit of the State for the prompt and faithful return thereof, whenever thereto required. This bill I voted for in accordance to the known wishes of an overwhelming majority of my constituents. The portion of which surplus allotted to North Carolina by the provisions of the said Act of Congress amounted to about \$1,900,000, and was directed to be paid over to our State in four equal quarterly instalments, commencing on the 1st day of Jan'y, 1837—three-fourths of which has been received amounting to about \$1,425,000, while the other fourth, \$475,000, remains yet to be had when the situation of the Public Treasury will justify it. How to dispose of this money was an important, exciting and vexatious question. To lock it up and set a guard over it, would not only have abstracted that amount from circulation, and thereby increased the pressure that in a good degree has resulted from the change produced by the distribution; but would have been both troublesome and expensive to the State.

What to do with it for the best, was the constant inquiry with all; and almost every member was ready with some scheme of his own. Some were for dividing it out amongst the people; but that would not do, because it must be remembered that the money was not ours, nor had it been given to the State, but deposited for safe keeping. Some were for distributing it amongst the counties, to be by them disposed of as they might think proper. Some for appropriating the whole of it to purposes of internal improvements, as South Carolina did. Some for appropriating the whole of it to public schools, and some for establishing a State Bank upon the faith and credit of it, besides divers other schemes almost as numerous as the members of the Legislature; while my proposition was, first to pay a debt the State owed of \$400,000, borrowed four years ago to take Bank stock with, and to lend out the balance at interest, on good and sufficient security, to be returned when called for, and for the profits arising therefrom, together with those of the then present Literary or School Fund, to be applied to the purposes of Free Schools, or for a part of it to be applied to the ordinary expenses of the State Government, instead of collecting taxes out of the people every year for that purpose, and for the balance to be regularly reinvested and lent out at interest.

But with so very many conflicting opinions and interests, it seemed almost impossible to unite a majority upon any plan; in which state of the case, a joint select committee consisting of twenty-six members, two from each Congressional district, was appointed to consider the subject, and report some plan to the two Houses; of which committee I had the honor to be one. That committee after much patient investigation, and ceaseless vexations arising from the above mentioned causes, finally reported by a lean majority as a compromise between conflicting opinions, that one half of the surplus money should be invested in good Bank Stock, and the profits arising therefrom added to the Fund already established by law for Common Schools, and the other half lent out at interest on good security, under the direction of the Board of Internal Improvements, to facilitate the works of internal improvements, and for the profits thereof to be applied to purposes of internal improvements; to which I was opposed, believing then as I now do, that mine was the better plan.

The Surplus Revenue deposited with North Carolina was, however, finally disposed of in the following manner:—

1st. The State debt before alluded to of \$400,000, bearing an interest of 5 per cent. payable semi-annually, has been paid off, which is an annual saving of	\$20,300
2d. \$200,000 is vested in Bank Stock, which will produce annually about	14,000
3d. \$200,000 appropriated to the draining of Swamp lands, which has not been used but lent out—interest per annum	12,000
4th. About \$300,000 not appropriated at all but lent out—interest per annum	18,000
5th. \$600,000 subscribed to the Wilmington Rail Road, but lent out at interest till called for, and of which sum about \$150,000 is yet at interest, and will produce at least about	15,700

Making the sum of \$80,000 Saved to the State the first year after the reception of the Surplus Revenue; which under all the circumstances of the case, is probably the best disposition that could have been made of it; though still I prefer my own plan, because the whole amount

of the balance, after paying the \$400,000 debt which the State owed, lent out at interest, would have yielded a larger profit and been amply sufficient to defray all the expenses of the Government without the annual collection of Taxes for that purpose; or it might have been applied to purposes of public schools, which together with the profits of the Literary Fund already existing, would be sufficient to afford at least two public schools in every Captain's district throughout the State; and it appears to me that if the resources of the State shall be judiciously managed for a few years to come, the annual income will be allsufficient to defray all the expenses of the Government, and leave at least \$100,000 net balance for the support of public schools. Its funds at this time are very little short of \$3,500,000, consisting in part of—

Cherokee lands to be sold first Monday in September next, estimated at	\$100,000
Swamp and Marsh lands now being reclaimed, estimated at least at	750,000
Besides various debts, &c. belonging and due to the State, Bank Stock, Rail Road Stock, Navigation Stock, &c. amounting to about	2,300,000
Which must produce at least	\$175,000.
at not \$200,000 per annum.	

Various other matters of a highly important character were under consideration, and some of which, were adopted and became Laws, but which it would be tiresome here to enumerate; but on which I shall take much pleasure in submitting my views and opinions at our public gatherings now commencing in the county. I will, however, mention one other, as in my opinion deserving notice here. I allude to the Bill passed conferring Banking privileges on the Charleston, Cincinnati and Louisville Rail Road Company, or perhaps more properly speaking, a League between the States of North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio, to build up a Bank with a Capital of \$12,000,000, and the privilege of owing at one time \$36,000,000.

This Bill, I was and still am opposed to. First, because I believe that in both spirit and meaning, it conflicts with the plain interpretation of the 10th Sec. of 1st article of the Constitution of the U. States; which reads as follows—'No State shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation.' Secondly, because I doubt the policy of such a Bank; and thirdly, it was a subject pressed upon us at a time and under circumstances that put it out of our power to hear the voice of the people, whether for or against it.

Thus, fellow-citizens, I have in a brief manner, submitted to your consideration some of the most important measures of our last Legislature, together with my views and the course I pursued thereon; and if upon an impartial examination, my conduct shall be found to meet your approbation, I hope I may indulge the reasonable expectation, that you will not discard; but continue your confidence in, and again bestow your suffrages on, most respectfully your obedient humble servant.

H. BLOUNT.

Nashville, N. C. 4th July, 1838.

### REMARKS

OF THE

HON. JESSE A. BYNUM,  
Of North Carolina, in reply to Mr. Bond,  
Of Ohio.

Mr. BYNUM said that he rose merely to reply briefly to the honorable member from Ohio, [Mr. Bond.] That gentleman, with an air of triumph, asked why the members of the Administration did not come out and defend it against the charges of extravagance, that he had made against it?

Sir, said Mr. B. the honorable member certainly has presumed greatly upon the ignorance of the public, and particularly on that of his constituents, when he is making these most reckless and unfounded statements. The gentleman has not specified any particular act of the Executive as being extravagant; but takes shelter under general charges; and, sir, has, in the zeal of partisan heat overleaped every thing like a correct statement of facts.

Sir, he with an air, told us that this Administration came into power upon the charge of Executive extravagance, and on its pledge to reform it. Now, sir, the gentleman must know that his first statement is entirely unfounded in fact; that under such circumstances, there could have been no principle involved. The petty extravagance of no Executive would be sufficient to found a party upon. No, no, sir; the gentleman must know that this Administration, as well as the preceding one, came into power upon higher and nobler principles, which the gentleman seems purposely determined not to tell the people of this country or his constituents. Little could have been effected by the petty re-

form in any department, by the scaling down of salaries, &c.

No, sir, no friend of the Administration ever thought of coming into power under such circumstances; nor did their opponents. The great measures upon which the Republican party came into power were founded on principle: and that principle was in their opposition to a most prodigal and impracticable system of internal improvements, then about being carried on in this country, by which millions and millions of the people's money would have been squandered.

Sir, at that time, from a statistical statement, made out by Judge Smith, then a distinguished Senator from South Carolina, there were projects in contemplation, about being submitted to the sanction of Congress, of internal improvement, to the amount of eight hundred millions of dollars, which, if carried into effect, would have impoverished this whole nation. Sir, this extravagance it was, that the Democracy rallied with a determination to reform. Sir, little did they then think of your Executive reform, farther than he gave countenance to this prodigal system; to have done so, would have been a mere pica-yune business.

[Here Mr. B. was interrupted by the Speaker and Mr. Bronson; and after some conversation continued.]

Secondly, he said, there was another great principle upon which the present party came into power. It was founded in their opposition to your odious, unequal, and unjust tariffs, which were extracting millions and tens of millions yearly from the pockets of the people, to be scrambled for by log rolling politicians in this House, and to be voted away to the more favored States and objects. It was their opposition to the tariff that caused the Democracy of the North, South, East, and West, to rally against the former Administration, of which the honorable member from Massachusetts was at the head. Yes, sir, this was the reform that the Democracy was for, and this they got, and the country has realized the beneficial effects of it.

And sir, thirdly, let me tell the gentleman, that it was against an extravagant system of forts, fortifications, and light-houses, that the present party went in opposition to his party, under the lead of the member from Massachusetts.

The United States Bank also was one of the great subjects on which the two parties differed and which brought one of them into power, and sustained them under the former and present Administration. Sir, it was against the extravagance of that institution, that aroused the freemen and Democrats throughout the country; but the gentleman does not feel very anxious that these truths should be known, however anxious he may be to put it forth on other subjects. Sir, the gentleman mis-stated every fact, in his zeal no doubt, in relation to which this Administration came into power, and most adroitly endeavors to shift the true issue from great principles to mere petty and pitiful acts of individuals, which will and must necessarily occur under every Government from its very nature.

Sir, this gentleman had labored long and often to implicate the Executive into some act of extravagance or folly. Yet he had never brought forward any specific charge—any tangible proposition. It all seemed to be for effect abroad. If the gentleman would dare bring forward any proposition, he would go with great pleasure with him to correct any individual abuse. Why did not the gentleman do so, if he knew of so many abuses? Sir, he was doing himself and the country great injustice to conceal or blink these subjects, knowing them as well as he did, or pretended to know them.

Sir, the honorable gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Adams] has correctly informed the gentleman from Ohio, that the Executive cannot be properly responsible for those acts of the Government, which he has denounced as extravagant. He cannot appropriate a single dollar, without the assent of this and the other body of this Congress. If, then, there is extravagance, it is here—here in this House. Let the gentleman commence here, and see how many of his own party he will leave unconvicted. I dare him to do it. I dare him to attempt it. I challenge him to look to the journals of this House—see the yeas and nays upon every extravagant appropriation, and if a majority of his friends have not voted for every one of them. Yes, sir, I challenge the gentleman to do this.

Then, Sir, how does it comport with candor and honesty, to be continually crying against the other party, for that which they themselves are most guilty of.

Sir, were I to be guilty of such a course, I should blush to meet my constituents, or

to appear before an intelligent American public.

There were other causes of the increase of public expenditures, that he would remind his honorable friend of, for personally, he assured him, he considered him so, and was proud of it. It had in a great measure been owing to the immense issues of paper money, that had swelled out and given an additional and fictitious value to every thing consumed or employed by Government—with hundreds, if not thousands, of other most satisfactory causes to any impartial, rational mind. But this was no time to go into detail in relation to those matters, and it would be out of order to do so upon this subject. He hoped the gentleman would, however, bring in some proposition upon this subject; and as a friend of reduction and reform, he would pledge himself to go with him to his heart's content.

This, however, the gentleman seemed studiously to avoid. Perhaps it was because nearly every similar attempt of special committees had never failed to cover their authors with shame and contempt, and end in the disgrace of their party. He hoped that the gentleman would not be discouraged, however, but would bring forward his proposition for a sealing committee, as he would most assuredly lend to him his little aid in carrying it on.

Robert Potter.—We exchange with the "Texas Telegraph," and in the last number received, we find the following paragraph. From the similarity of the name, and the peculiar features of the transaction, we have but little doubt that the individual, referred to, is the notorious Robert Potter, formerly of this State. We have had no knowledge of his whereabouts, for several years:

"We learn from the Texas Chronicle that Col. R. Potter having lost his horses about the middle of April last, suspected they had been stolen by the Caddo Indians in his neighborhood. He therefore immediately raised a party of armed men, and arrested several Indians. They however made their escape from him soon after their capture; he pursued them to their village, where he found several women and children, these he attempted to carry off, when a small party of armed Indians arrived, and a skirmish ensued in which three Indians and two white men were killed! The horses which he had lost, were afterwards discovered in the range near his settlement, having only strayed a short distance from their ordinary pasture grounds! What must be the reflections of this individual, who has thus rashly imbrued his hands with the blood of innocent and unoffending men, and possibly plunged his countrymen into all the horrors of a murderous Indian war? The Editor of the Chronicle justly observes:—'this affair shows the necessity of acting with deliberation, and admitting evidence against the Indians with caution, for we are too apt to attribute to them the honor of having perpetrated many crimes that might upon investigation be traced to some of the loose characters among us.'—*Ral. Reg.*

Neuse Navigation.—On Wednesday, of last week, the steamboat E. D. McNair left this place on an experimental trip up the Neuse, with the view if practicable, of plying permanently between the termination of boat navigation and this place. She proceeded, we learn, without obstruction or difficulty, as far as Doherty's Bridge, which has neither span of arch sufficient to admit a boat of her width nor a draw to obviate the inconvenience of its lowness. The gentleman who furnishes these facts informs us that the owner of the boat waited on Mr. Doherty, and offered to pay the expense of so altering the bridge as to render it passable, provided the law did not render this the duty of Mr. D.—This proposition was rejected, and the boat was compelled to return to town. We are extremely sorry that this unreasonable and unlawful conduct on the part of the owner of the bridge should have frustrated, even for a time, this laudable enterprise. We understand that Mr. Farrior has been legally advised on the subject, and his notice to the owners of bridges on the Neuse—which we publish in another column—is the first step towards compelling them to a duty, which, if no law existed on the subject, their desire to promote the welfare of their fellow citizens of the country should make them not only willing, but anxious to perform.

Newbern Spectator.

Large Snake.—The Boa Constrictor must knock under. A rattle snake it is said has been killed in Perry county, Ala. over 12 feet long and containing an entire fox within him.—*N. Y. Star.*