

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

MEETING IN WAYNE.

According to previous notice, a large number of the citizens of Wayne and the adjoining counties assembled at the Court House in Wayneboro, on Tuesday the 19th Feb'y, for the purpose of considering the best plan to secure the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution.

On motion of W. T. Dortch, Esq., the meeting was organized by appointing James Griswold, President; Jno. C. Slocumb, Jno. Everett, Vice Presidents, and W. F. S. Alston, Secretary.

The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting.

On motion of W. T. Dortch, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions for the action of the convention.

The Chairman appointed W. T. Dortch, Wm. Hollowell, Jas F. Komegaj, J. J. Baker, and John Exum, who after retiring a few moments, reported through W. T. Dortch, their chairman, the following resolutions, to-wit:

The people of the County of Wayne, without distinction of party, in Convention assembled, deeply sensible of the perilous condition of the Union, and particularly of the contemplated injuries to the rights of the Southern States of the Confederacy—

Resolved, That we approve of the Southern Convention, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on the first Monday in June next; and that we concur with Mecklenburg, in recommending the appointment of delegates to said Convention from this Congressional District, and that we pledge ourselves to support the measures of the proposed Southern Convention.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint fifty delegates to attend the Convention to be held in Charlotte Tuesday of the Mecklenburg court, in April next.

Resolved, That all the Counties of this Congressional District be requested to co-operate in the measures necessary to accomplish the objects contemplated.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of this meeting forward copies of these proceedings to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, requesting them to present them to the two Houses of Congress.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Lincoln, Charlotte, and Raleigh papers; and that the other papers of the State be requested to copy.

Resolved, That if these things be done by the North, (simple justice under the Constitution) we desire to remain in the Union.

Resolved, That we declare our determination and readiness (if this simple justice is withheld from us) to join the Southern States in any action necessary to maintain our rights.

Resolved, That we believe the Union of these States is of far greater advantage to the North than to the South—that if the North so think, let them cease to agitate the question of slavery. We ask nothing from them but our rights under the Constitution, and those rights we are determined to maintain, even at the hazard of a dissolution—convinced as we are, that we shall not be the greater losers thereby.

Resolved, That the questions connected with the subject of slavery, should be permanently adjusted by the present Congress—that the links of the Confederacy are becoming weakened from day to day—that nothing but a speedy settlement securing the rights of the South, can preserve them.

Resolved, That we deprecate and deplore a dissolution of the Union, and express our belief that the only way by which this calamity can be prevented, is, that Congress should forbear to adopt the "Wilmot Proviso" and refuse to pass any law interfering with slavery in the District of Columbia.

Resolved, That we are opposed to all compromises, unless Congress will, in its wisdom, adopt one that will settle this question forever.

Resolved, That should the action of Congress render it necessary, we are ready to meet the Southern States in Convention, at such time and place as may be proper, to consider as to such concerted action as may become necessary to maintain our rights.

After the resolutions were submitted, Messrs. W. A. Wright, John N. Washington, John Exum, W. H. Washington, and Geo. Stevenson, addressed the Convention successively, urging the necessity of adopting the resolutions.

The resolutions then passed unanimously.

On motion of John Exum,

Resolved, That the President of this meeting appoint twenty-five delegates to meet delegates appointed by similar meetings throughout this Congressional District, to meet in a District Convention for the purpose of considering the great question involved in the preceding resolution and to take such steps as the times may seem to demand.

Resolved, secondly, That we recommend Newbern as a proper place for the District Convention above contemplated, and the time for such Convention, the Wednesday after the fourth Monday in April next.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Goldsboro papers, with a request that the papers of the State copy, and a copy of them be sent to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, with a request that they lay them before their respective Houses.

On motion, the thanks of the Convention were tendered to the officers, for the able manner in which they have discharged their duties.

On motion, the Convention adjourned.

J. GRISWOLD, Pres't. Jno. C. Slocumb, Vice Presidents. Jno. Everett, W. F. S. Alston, Secretary.

SOUTHERN RIGHTS MEETING IN GASTON COUNTY.

On Wednesday, the 20th inst., a meeting of the citizens of Gaston county, to which all parties were invited assembled in the Court House in Dallas, for the purpose of considering the best course to be adopted to resist the aggressions of the North upon the constitutional rights of the South.

On motion of Barrett Shipp, Esq. Col. O. W. Holland was called to the Chair, and John Webster and Joseph Shuford were appointed Secretaries.

J. M. Newson, being called upon by the mee-

ting, arose and briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Mr. Stone then suggested that, instead of appointing a Committee to report business, it would save time, if any gentlemen present would at once present resolutions for the action of the meeting; whereupon Mr. Lewis arose and offered the following:

Whereas, the continued agitation of the subject of slavery, by reckless politicians and fanatics of the North, calls loudly upon the people of the South to take measures for the protection of their Constitutional rights, we the people of Gaston county without distinction of party, have assembled together to express our feelings, and to devise means to resist the aggressive policy pursued by those who seem to entertain a fixed determination to overturn and set aside the Compromises of the Constitution, and therefore.

1. Resolved, That the threatening aspect of the question of Slavery has assumed, admonishes us to prepare for any emergency that may arise.

2. Resolved, That a crisis has arrived when the Southern people must unite and act in their own defence if they would cherish and protect the institutions bequeathed to them by their ancestors.

3. Resolved, That resolutions of the Legislatures of the Northern States and recent demonstrations in Congress, have satisfied us that a general feeling of hostility to Southern rights exists among the people of the Northern States of this Confederacy.

4. Resolved, That there is a manifest expediency in calling together the able men of the South in convention, to deliberate on the proper course to be pursued.

5. Resolved, That we approve of the Southern Convention, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on the first Monday in June next; and that we concur with Mecklenburg, in recommending the appointment of delegates to said Convention from this Congressional District, and that we pledge ourselves to support the measures of the proposed Southern Convention.

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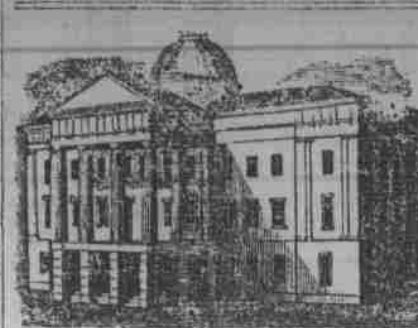
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THE RALEIGH TIMES.



RALEIGH, N. C.

Friday Morning, March 1, 1850.

"Connected as the Union is with the remembrance of past happiness, a sense of present blessings, and the hope of future peace and prosperity, every dictate of wisdom, every feeling of duty, every emotion of patriotism, tend to inspire fidelity and devotion to it, and admonish us cautiously to avoid any unnecessary controversy which can either endanger it or impair its strength, the chief element of which is to be found in the regard and affection of the people for each other."—GENERAL TAYLOR'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTH DAY.

The Sons of Temperance celebrated the Birthday of the Father of his Country on the evening of the 23d—the preceding day having been inclement. The "Cadets" and "Sons," numbering some 200, in full regalia, marched in procession to the M. E. Church, where a large audience had assembled, and Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. HEPLIS and WILLIAM C. DOUB, Esq.—The Music was conducted by a choir of "Sons," under the lead of Messrs. Peterella and Solomons. We have heard both addresses spoken of in terms of high praise: that of Mr. Heflin, it is sufficient to say, was characterised by his usual zeal and ability,—while the address of Mr. Doub was one of the most beautiful and finished productions to which we have ever listened, eloquent, appropriate, and impressive. We trust they will both be published.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Our readers will observe that we publish the proceedings of such Public Meetings as request us so to do. Our paper this week therefore contains two descriptions, viz. 1. Southern Rights Meetings; and 2d. Whig Meetings in reference to our coming State election. A word or two on each.

STATE RIGHTS MEETINGS.

We have no exception to take to the resolutions of any public meeting we have seen in the State in relation to Southern rights and Northern aggression. They generally speak a firm language, though temperate, and full of devotion to the Union; and their spirit, so far as they let the world see our united determination to maintain our rights, under the Constitution, we approve of unequivocally. It is right that we should await the decision of Congress, and then act: and we go with the Wayne meeting in declaring, "that should the action of Congress render it necessary, we are ready to meet the Southern States in Convention." But no one has a right to mistake our position when we declare, that we are not ready and see no necessity for any Convention, before we see what that action is. "Simple justice, under the Constitution," is what we desire; and that justice the Southern people will have—but are opposed to going into Convention, or revolution, or dissolution, as a remedy for anticipated wrongs. So much for that.

The resolutions of Gov. Morehead meet our entire approbation; and we adopt them as defining our position. "The interests of every portion of the Union, as guaranteed by the Constitution, ought to be respected, and must be maintained; and the Union of these States is indispensable to the happiness and welfare of the American people, and to the security of political liberty to the world,—and it must be maintained." The great heart of North Carolina can respond to such resolutions as these—but we are much mistaken if any merely sectional considerations can so corrupt the patriotism of her people, as to alienate their minds from that Union and Government under which the nation has flourished for seventy years, and under which they themselves have enjoyed so large a portion of civil and religious liberty, security of rights, prosperity, and domestic happiness.

WHIG MEETINGS.

We were not mistaken in supposing that Public sentiment was right upon the subject of our next Candidate for Governor. The people, in their primary meetings, are speaking a language not to be misunderstood. Indeed it is by no means prudent—it is trusting everything to blind chance—if we permit any one meeting, or any two or more presences, to forestall public opinion by an arbitrary expression of a preference for an individual, so exclusive, that an able and meritorious public officer is to be dismissed unceremoniously, without fault, without "time or reason, to make way for a particular favorite with no paramount claims upon the Whig party, but advocated on sectional grounds alone. Party organization must be broken up, and the Whigs split into factions, before every election for Governor will thus present an open field to every competitor—and we need hardly add when this occurs, the race of Whig Governors will be extinct in North Carolina. Our success depends upon our union—but if we depart from our time-honored usage in re-electing the incumbent, his administration feeble, and his popularity unimpaired, we open the widest kind of door to divisions which will strip us of power, and place the State of North Carolina under Locofoco domination.

The nominees of the Whig State Convention is our favorite, now and henceforth—the only favorite we ever have. We believe the Whigs of North Carolina will do justice and act right—and confiding in their wisdom, in Convention assembled, whosoever they set up—his name we carry at our Mast-head, and his claims we advocate with the utmost of our talents and ability. If that is the true Whig spirit, let the Whigs every where act upon it—and our word for it, the only chance the Locofocos have for success, namely, Whig divisions, will be taken away—and our final success placed beyond the shadow of doubt or speculation.

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"THE EVIL OF THE DAY."

This is the title of a very able article which has lately been published in the National Intelligencer; and which we regret our limited space has prevented us from laying before our readers. But the Editors, while they take strong Southern ground against the aggressions of the North on Southern property and Southern rights, express the opinion that the proposed Southern Convention at Nashville cannot, in any manner, add to the security already guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, sustained and enforced as its provisions doubtless will be, both in the first and last resort, by the Judiciary of the United States.

Our readers know, that those who are agitating the question of this Convention at the South, are not to be satisfied with constitutional remedies. Oh, no! the wrongs they suffer are such as can only be redressed by extreme and violent measures. They want nothing to do with the Supreme Court—that tribunal cannot reach measures not yet in embryo, much less perfected. Every day the wrongs to be redressed assume some new shape—and one cause of offence is no sooner taken away than another presents itself. "The Wilmot Proviso is broken down—the bill to compel the giving up of fugitive slaves will be passed—no measure will be pressed for interfering with slavery in the District—but then, after all, it is proposed to admit California, with the Constitution she has sent up,—and we are all adrift again—even though it cannot be pretended that such admission would be unconstitutional—for no one assumes that Congress can impose, by the constitution, any restriction upon her, except that her government shall be republican in its form. The power of Congress being discretionary, in this respect, undoubtedly that body is to judge as to the expediency of admitting California, with her present immense boundaries, limited and heterogeneous population, and all the other circumstances attending her peculiar situation and novel application. But the action of Congress will be obligatory, when had, and nothing in the case can be urged to justify re-rotation, or disunion.

The chief cause of grievance at the South in relation to California is, that she has sent up a Constitution prohibiting slavery; thus asserting the great principle that the people of a State, alone, have the right to establish such municipal regulations, and to decide such questions as effect their own peace, prosperity and happiness. And her admission as a State is resisted on the ground that it would destroy the balance of power between the North and the South, and by placing two Senators and Representatives in Congress from a free State, increase the difficulties of an adjustment of the many vexatious questions between the sections. We see no reason why California may not wait for a time—and, so far as a postponement of this question is concerned, we believe Southern men are right in insisting upon an adjustment of the whole territorial question involving slavery before they consent to her admission.

But that any part of California will ever be slave Territory, we must be permitted to doubt; and if that is the Southern sine qua non, whether by law or without law, we have a poor dependence.

In Mr. Clemens' very able speech in the Senate upon this subject, he says that Southern emigration to California has been prevented by Northern agitation on the subject of Slavery. This is true to a great extent—indeed, we have no doubt it has prevented Southern men from carrying slaves there. But we find that there were sixteen Delegates in the California Convention from slave States; twenty from Free States; and four from all the world besides. The Slavery restriction in that Constitution was unanimously adopted, and of course voted for by those sixteen Delegates from the Slave States. How could that be? what inference can we draw, except that they were convinced of the unsuitableness of the country for the institution of slavery?

Mr. TOOLE, of the Aurora, expresses his surprise at us for copying a fragment of one of his articles from the Salisbury Watchman. It was our misfortune, we suppose, that we did not see the article referred to in the Aurora. We can only account for it by supposing it was received at our Office during our absence from home—and the first news we had of it was the quotation in the National Intelligencer; after which we saw a part of it in the Watchman; and have since found our own copy. We shall lay it away for future reference.

We take the occasion to say, in a friendly spirit to Mr. Toole, that we do not approve of the sectional stand which he has taken; but his error may possibly be on the safe side. Time will tell. If Congress pass the Proviso; if slavery is abolished in the District; or interfered with in the States; if Congress do not satisfactorily, so far as that body can, redress our grievances and protect our rights and property;—let our Legislature get up a Southern convention, or call out an army, for our defence and protection, and we go for either or both—or for any other measure, "at all hazards and to the last extremity," to maintain Southern honor and Southern rights.

But let us exhaust all constitutional means first—and let us not provide for the assembling of a heterogeneous Convention like that proposed at Nashville, pending the settlement of the very questions at issue by the National Legislature,—a Convention confessedly irresponsible, and without power to bind the people of the States which may purport to be represented in it—and at which, if North Carolina is to be represented, it will be by Delegates not appointed by State authority, and not clothed with power to speak her voice.

We see it stated sometimes, that North Carolina will not consent to remain in the Union an inferior or degraded State—she will have equality as a sovereign in the Union, or independence out of it. North Carolina is a very great State doubtless—but when she declares her independence of this Union, her situation will be deplorable in the extreme. Some of our Editors use exceedingly brave language—they taunt, they threaten, they play the brigadoine to perfection. We look upon this as mere bombast—neither characteristic of the State nor people. North Carolina knows

her rights and will maintain them, without resort to such a remedy as the dissolution of the Union. But under present circumstances, you may poll the State to-morrow, and not sixty men could be found to vote for dissolution. Mr. Toole, and his aides may put that in their pipes and smoke it.

CENTRAL RAIL ROAD.

A number of our citizens left on Tuesday last to attend the Rail Road Convention, at Hillsboro, where it was hoped and expected the subscription would be made up and closed, and arrangements made for calling a general meeting of the Stockholders at Salisbury, agreeably to the terms of the Charter. We have never permitted ourselves to doubt that the people of North Carolina would build this Road—though the difficulty of obtaining the one million of Stock has been greater, than any reasonable man could have supposed. Great efforts have been made to enlighten the public mind as to our true interest in this matter. Not only has the press of the State been directed, with great research and ability, to the elucidation of the advantages we should derive from the road, and the warm advocacy of its claims; but our leading and distinguished men, of all parties,—the giant minds of which North Carolina may well be proud,—and upon which her main dependence must rest, in the hour of difficulty or peril,—have devoted themselves to the work with a zeal and devotion for which they cannot be too highly commended, and which entitle them to the gratitude of every generous North-Carolina heart. We can never sufficiently honor them—Swain, Morehead, Graham, Saunders, Graves, Dobbin, Gilmer, Caldwell, Hinton, and the rest,—these men, have sought to raise our good Old State from the depths of poverty and humility, and place her in the front rank, among her sisters, on the way to prosperity and greatness. And these are but a part. With them, let us never forget the gallant labors of the men of Wilmington, whose noble, public spirited efforts have never been exceeded, and never sufficiently praised by those who really love and honor our State. Wilmington has lately raised \$100,000 for improvement, in addition to the large sums she has heretofore expended; and is therefore well entitled to the prosperity she has now, and bids fair to gather in the future. May it be unbounded; so that she may become a great City, the pride of North Carolina and the South.

But Raleigh—what of her? We declare we are almost as a need to speak of what Raleigh has done. As a City, it is just nothing at all. We have temporized, and deferred action, and suffered the press to labor with and for us, without seconding their efforts—and the City of Raleigh stands this day, with immense interests depending,—a project, the success of which is to build her up, and its failure to sink and ruin her,—without any subscription to the stock of the Central Rail Road—and without even a resolution in its favor by the City Council.

Many citizens proposed a subscription of \$25,000 by the Corporation; but that amount could not be raised by taxation, under our present Charter. We were informed that \$10,000 could—but suppose only \$5,000 could be thus raised—was it not the duty of the City to subscribe it? yet we sat down absolutely without lifting a little finger to raise any sum at all—evincing a willingness to profit by the expenditures and labors of others, but no willingness to aid in the work ourselves. All honor to the individuals among us who have taken Stock—but shame to the great body of the people who were unwilling to be taxed that their condition might be bettered, and that a stream of trade and prosperity might pour into the lap of the City, of which they could not fail to be partakers.

GALA DAY IN RICHMOND.

The 23d of February was celebrated in Richmond with great display, and the utmost enthusiasm, in honor of laying the Corner Stone of a Monument to him who is first in the hearts of his countrymen. The President of the United States was present on the occasion, with Ex-President Tyler, and many other invited guests. The procession was grand and imposing, beyond the skill of the Richmond papers to describe, being composed of all the Military, the Masonic, Old Fellows, and Sons of Temperance Orders, Druids, Reckabites, Fire Department, &c. Loud and prolonged cheering reverberated through the Square as Old Zach entered, and was resumed at intervals as some patriotic sentiment was uttered by the speakers.—Gov. Floyd and R. G. Scott, Esq., delivered the addresses. The ceremony of laying the corner-stone was performed by the Masons, G. M. Jas. Points, Esq., officiating. This over, the military formed again and fired a feu d'art, and the vast concourse congregated on the Square began to disperse.

The Richmond Republican says: "If everybody in Virginia was not in Richmond yesterday, we will state that Old Zach is short old gentleman, not very corpulent, with hair almost white; a bright eye that seems without an effort to see everything that is going on; a mouth that speaks a whole universe of firmness; and a benignity of expression which we have never seen surpassed in any human countenance. We should say that his features exhibited the two qualities of benevolence and firmness in the most remarkable degree. He is just the sort of looking person that a very shy child would hold out both arms to, and come to from his mother without the slightest hesitation; and at the same time, he looks like a man, who, when aroused, might admit, but for the grand modesty of his nature, the language which the immortal dramatist puts into the mouth of Caesar:

"Danger knolls full well That there is one more dangerous than he. We were two lions litter'd in one day, And I the elder, and more terrible."

PARTY SPIRIT.

The Standard, in denouncing General Taylor and the Whig party as "traitors," has done more to kill his beautiful project of a Nashville Convention, as far as North Carolina is concerned, than any efforts used by the prudent and moderate men of the State who are opposed to it—because the chief objection they advance is, that it is called anticipatory of the action of Congress; and before any of the measures which would justify it, in their minds, have been consummated. They are not opposed to prompt and vigorous action on