

WHIG CONVENTION AND STATE REFORM.

The Greensboro Patriot, in an article upon this subject, after referring to several gentlemen whose names have been brought forward in connection with the office of Governor, goes on to say:

"Either of these gentlemen, or scores of others that might be named, are able and worthy to bear the Whig standard in the important campaign which approaches. If nothing but the topic of federal politics were likely to enter into the discussion, we should feel but little anxiety as to the choice; and, indeed, still less as to the result."

"But it is not to be disguised that an important matter of State policy will come in for a share of consideration in the approaching canvass. It cannot be kept out. The propriety and process of amending our State Constitution must be necessarily discussed, and must have a powerful bearing upon the Governor's election. It is useless to blink the question, or to try to slide over it in silence. In our humble judgment, it will be wisdom in the April Convention to come out and take a definite position, and nominate a man who has some definite views on the subject, and the independence to proclaim them over the State. If no reference be made to this subject in the 'platform' of the Convention, the nominee will be placed in a most awkward predicament either in the West or the East, or both; he will find that silence does him damage, yet be afraid to speak. And if any position be assumed by the Convention, it may be with a view to a binding decision, or will command no respect."

"And just here, we cannot withhold our disapproval, (to give no harsher name to the feeling,) of the proposition to 'leave it to the people to say whether they will have a Convention or not.' We are of those who have little patience with this temporizing process, when the actual and pressing issue is between amending the Constitution at once by a Convention of the People, and piecemeal amendments by the Legislature. We had enough of the latter in the last Assembly; and have no hope that party screws and sectional interests and prejudices will ever cease to be employed in similar operations."

"We have no disposition to conceal the well-matured opinion—nay, it is our duty as the representative of what we believe to be the popular judgment around us, to press the necessity of a candidly chosen candidate who shall come out boldly, in every corner of the State, as the advocate of a free Convention to reform the Constitution. We would not ask him to specify the particulars of reform—what propositions in this relation he might approve or disapprove—only, that he should insist upon the right and propriety of the People, without reference to section or to party, taking the remodelling of their fundamental laws into their own hands, and taking it out of the hands of party demagogues and legislative log-rollers."

"There is nothing sectional—nothing exclusively East or West, in this. We see nothing to prevent every Whig in the State, between Tennessee and the Atlantic, from cordially meeting upon this platform. From the course of some members of the last Legislature, a suspicion is forced upon the mind, amounting almost to a conclusion, that much as they deplore the conduct of Gov. Reid's 'free suffrage,' they finally embraced it in preference to an open Convention, with the hope that the passage of that particular amendment by legislative process would stop the clamor for reform; that demagogues would henceforth keep their fingers out of this process, inviting as Gov. Reid has proved it to be, and that the people would be satisfied with this specious but unsubstantial favor. A futile hope, and an unworthy conclusion, on the part of such legislators, which, we fear, will be found to have done much to unsettle popular confidence in one section towards leading men in another section, unless cordiality can be restored upon a common platform."

"It is not worth while to expect the Whigs to carry every thing in a State canvass on the mere strength of their name. The magic of party alone is not sufficient for Whig success. However excellent the name and principles of 'Whig,' and glorious the associations clustering around it, there is too much of intelligence and of personal independence among those bearing the title, to give blind and unquestioning obedience to the behests of king Party. Their past history presents a thousand exhibitions of this fact. It is characteristic of our party which commands respect, though it does not always secure success. Not so with the Democrats. They vote with their party, for their party men, under any and all circumstances. No matter how otherwise odious he may be, or how many objections may hang around him, if he be the party candidate, he is sure of the votes of the party, from the most intelligent and independent even to the most ignorant and servile in the ranks. This characteristic of the party was hardly ever made more manifest than in the case of Gov. Reid. The leading Democrats of the East cursed 'free suffrage' with bitter cursing, and hated the demagogues which proposed it with a holy hatred—yet they threw up their caps, and hurrahed, and voted for Reid! Could party drill be made more perfect? Catch the Whigs in the enactment of a similar farce, will you? No. Their self-respect and respect for the great cause connected with their name forbids it. Such sacrifices of all that is independent and high-minded are not expected at their hands."

"These remarks are not made in any spirit of detraction to the April Convention. But the question of State Constitutional Reform has taken a hold upon the popular mind and assumed an importance that will make it a paramount element in our State elections. We wish all concerned to become duly sensible of this weighty fact."

The Rev. James Jamison has assumed the editorial conduct of the Weekly Message, a paper started by the late Rev. S. D. Bumpass, and published in Greensboro, N. C., at \$1 per annum. If any of our friends desire to have a pleasant little weekly visitor at their hearth-stones, and aid the widow of one of the best of Methodist preachers, let them subscribe for this paper.—Southern Methodist Pulpit.

The Free Democracy of Ohio have recommended the Hon. John P. Hale for President, and Samuel Lewis for Vice President.

Under date of Jan. 23, we learn from Lancaster that the bills found by the Grand Jury against the Christiana prisoners for murder and riot, have been ignored, and the prisoners discharged.

SOME EXAMINATION

Of the Legislative action of the last General Assembly on the Convention Question.

Having given last week a pretty full account of the proceedings of both Houses upon this subject, we design a brief examination of some of the results which may be considered as developed by this action. And first we think it will be conceded that party ruled the votes given, in almost every instance, and not respect for the wishes of the people, or regard for the best interests of the State.

1. On Thursday, Dec. 31, in the House of Commons, Mr. Wiley offered an amendment to the Free Suffrage bill, by way of substitute, to take the sense of the people upon a Convention on the Federal basis. The following gentlemen, believed to be Democrats voted against it, namely:—Messrs. Avery, Cockerham, Durham, Fynt, Gordon, Harrison, Johnston, Jones, Kallum, Marshall, McLean, N. McNeill, Montgomery, Patterson, Pegram, S. Perren, Reinhardt, R. M. Saunders, Sheek, Sherrill, Stowe, Waugh, J. Williams and Winstead—24; just one-fifth of the whole House.

2. On the 20th of January, Mr. McLean introduced a bill to take the sense of the people upon a Convention upon the Federal basis, which bill passed its third reading on the 21st, every one of these Democrats voting for it; and it was sent to the Senate. When they gave this last vote, what was the object? Really and truly to submit the question to the people? No! To react upon the Senate, where the Free Suffrage bill had been rejected; and where it was then fluttering in the wind, upon a motion for reconsideration by an Eastern Senator; and not because they intended the people should have the opportunity of deciding at the polls the question of Convention or no Convention. We say these were party votes, and nothing else—intended for effect—and the fact is undeniable that the last vote, namely for Convention, did alarm and intimidate Eastern Whig Senators, and cause them to reconsider, and finally vote for, the Free Suffrage bill—the hobby and pet measure of the Locofoco party.

Why,—was worse trading ever heard of in a free country? After the Free Suffrage bill was rejected in the Senate, a Senator, who was its friend, proclaimed in his place that if the bill was not passed he should vote for a Convention! It was then operated; the convention bill was thrust through the House; in the Senate, the vote was reconsidered; and the free suffrage bill did pass. And it is this abominable log-rolling that the people are called on to sanction in the Free Suffrage bill.

3. We learn, by the course of proceedings in the last Legislature, that the battle is to be fought upon the question of a Free Convention, against the Legislative mode of amendments; because, all the opponents of Convention voted against submitting the question to the people. Why should we spend time about the outworks, when we may attack the citadel itself.—The very votes given by these opponents of Convention, on this preliminary matter, prove their fear of the strength of the Convention question, and go far to convince us there is no need of first appealing to the polls. Let us go before the people, and that high principle that the people alone are competent to amend their own fundamental laws in Convention assembled. Whoever denies this, takes anti-republican ground, and elevates the legislative delegated power to supremacy of rule never intended to be conferred by the people who created the Legislature.

4. All amendments to the constitution ought to originate with the people. We admit, when the people have clearly settled upon any one amendment beyond dispute, there is a mode provided for engraving it into the constitution by the legislative enactment. But who derives, from this article of the constitution, a right in the Legislature, to steal the power of the people over the fundamental law, and originate amendments at their pleasure? Will the free people of any State submit to such usurpation? Who dares to gather public sentiment from the party complexion of a General Assembly, or from any political contest? How contradictory are the results of party votes in our State? In 1850, the Democratic Government is elected by some 3,000 majority. In 1851, the Whigs elect 6 out of the 9 members of Congress. In 1848, the Whig candidate for Governor barely carries the State; three months after the Whig candidate for President carries it by near 9,000 majority. Will such varying turns of the development of public sentiment do to depend on as authority for altering the organic law? Will it ever justify a party, unscrupulous as party politicians usually are, in originating, and endeavoring to force upon the people, any amendment to the constitution?

These, among other comments occur, in examining the proceedings of the last Legislature. But we design short articles, and may recur again and again to the subject.

THE REV. SAMUEL B. MCPHETERS.—The following extract from the St. Louis Correspondent of the "Presbyterian," Philadelphia, relative to the highly gifted and esteemed young Diviae, whose name heads this paragraph, will be read with pleasure by his many acquaintances and friends in this City. "May success attend all his efforts in his Holy Mission in the far West!"

"On Sabbath evening, the 14th instant, the Rev. SAMUEL B. MCPHETERS was installed pastor of the Westminster Church. The night was the coldest of the season; nevertheless, the house was well filled, and the services peculiarly impressive. The attachment of this congregation to their minister has been steadily increasing since he came amongst them, and is well deserved. The earnest piety, the eminently social qualities and entire devotion to his work cannot fail to render Mr. McPheters a successful pastor, and one greatly beloved by his flock. The increase of this church is steady, and their prospects never were better than at the present."

The widow of Fennimore Cooper died suddenly at Cooperstown, on the 20th instant, of asthma.

FREE SUFFRAGE, &c.

We suppose the subject of free suffrage, together with other reforms, will be again discussed in the ensuing campaign. Like the Greensboro Patriot, we go for an unrestricted convention. If the constitution needs amendment—if the people call for reforms—let us do things in the right way and make all the required changes at once. We do not believe in amending the constitution by piece-meal, merely to gratify the ambition of demagogues, whose deficient abilities prevent them from getting into power unless they can ride into office upon some such hobby as free suffrage.—Give us an unrestricted convention.

We go for Free Suffrage; but with it we want other reforms. If we abolish the property qualification in votes for Senators—let us be equally generous in abolishing the same qualification as to members of the Senate and House of Commons.

What advantage is the late act on free suffrage to the people? It gives every man the right to vote for Senator!—a right which nine-tenths care very little about and never thought of until it was started as a hobby for demagogues to ride into office upon—but it does not give the poor man (that's the word the free suffragers use) the right to stand in the legislature. Why have we no right to go to the legislature if such people elect us? Simply because they haven't got the land. The favored few—the lordly land-holders, are only fit for legislators. The mass of the people—many of whom would make more able legislators than those privileged gentlemen—are not qualified for representatives! And why? Ah, they don't own any land—they can't vote, and that ought to satisfy them.

We think a man without an acre of land may make quite as able a representative as one who owns thousands. As it is, because a man is possessed of no land, however well qualified he may be in other respects, he is debarred the privilege of representing us in the legislature—while a mere nincompoop, who happens to own a hundred acres of chinkapin land worth fifty cents an acre, can aspire to the dignity of a law-maker, and take his seat as a legislator. He can be elected. Is this right?—is it what we understand by equal rights? There are other reforms necessary, which will be noticed in due time.

LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.

The Hon. Henry Clay was one of the earliest and most eloquent advocates of the colonization of free persons of color on the African continent and has contributed largely to the promotion of that object. His known friendship for the object of colonization has led to frequent consultations with him, and he is ever ready to give advice or aid.

In a letter addressed to him by Mr. Abraham Morrison, of Johnston, Pa., that gentleman proposes that the sum of half a million of dollars be raised by voluntary subscriptions of \$500 each, for the establishment of a permanent academy or institution for the thorough education of African youth, to be sent to Africa after the completion of their education, to promote the cause of colonization and christianity. This writer proposes to contribute \$500; and Mr. Clay thinks that the scheme, if it could be carried into effect, would be productive of much good; but he doubts whether so large a sum could be raised.—There are schools in the colonies, and Mr. Clay is informed that measures are in progress in New England to establish one or more High Schools in Liberia. He says:

"What is now, I think, most needed for Africa, for her race in this country, and for our race, is a greater amount of pecuniary means and other facilities to transport colonists to Africa. I am glad that you have directed your attention to this interesting subject. If the recent decision of Indiana excluding the blacks from her borders is to be followed, as I have no doubt in process of time it will be, by most if not all of the States, what will become of the poor creatures? In the name of humanity I ask what is to become of them where are they to go?"

"Pecuniary means and other facilities to transport colonists to Africa," are precisely what are wanted. If Congress will supply facilities of transportation by means of the proposed line of African steamers, we think that the pecuniary means necessary would be furnished either by the States, or by individual subscriptions. We consider the Ebony line, as it is called, the most important movement which can now be made on the subject of African colonization.

Mr. Clay it will be seen, refers to the exclusion of colored people from Indiana, and has no doubts that the example of that State will be followed by most, if not all the other States—in which case, he says: "In the name of humanity, I ask what is to become of them—where are they to go?"

A bill is now before the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to exclude future emigration into that State of persons of color; and the period will soon arrive when the free colored population in every State will be compelled to enquire, where shall we go? They see that the net is being gradually drawn closer and closer around them, and yet they foolishly defer providing for an event which they must see to be inevitable. Prudence and common sense should induce them to secure a safe and happy retreat whilst they have yet the ability to choose for themselves. To remain in the United States will be impossible, and those who act most wisely who seek an early settlement in the African colonies.

Should the bill now before the Pennsylvania Legislature pass, it will not only prevent free people of color, but fugitive slaves, from seeking a refuge in that State; and the next move may be to require all persons of color in the State to retire from its limits. The people every where are anxious to get rid of that class of population; and they must, in time, be ejected from the several States. A line of steamers to Africa would open the door for their exit from this country, and their entrance upon a happier and better state of existence. We therefore hope that the humane project will be submitted at an early day to Congress, and that it will be passed.

Baltimore Clipper.

Gen. Sam Houston has been unanimously nominated for the Presidency by the Democratic State Convention of Texas.

RALEIGH AND GASTON ROAD.

We subjoin the Report of the Superintendent of this Road to the President and Directors at the late meeting. Mr. Bird is an active and energetic officer, and where so much interest is felt in his operations, we are sure his Report will be read by our citizens with much satisfaction.

GENTLEMEN:—On the 23rd day of September last, you did me the honor to appoint me Superintendent of your Railroad, with instructions to commence forthwith, the reconstruction of the track, and to carry on, at the same time, the transportation of freight and passengers on the old track, as well as it could be done in its dilapidated condition.

On the 1st of October, the road was transferred to us by the State authorities, and making an examination into its condition, I found it even worse than I expected. Owing to the imperative nature of the act, which required the officers of the road to expend on it, no more than the revenue, they had been compelled to run it so close, that when they handed it over to us, there were scarcely any materials on hand, to keep the road in repair, or even keep the cars running. The few engines in use, were on their last legs, the cars were nearly all worn out, and indeed in their bad condition, and the still worse state of the track, it was really wonderful that cars, and even new cars, were ordered; but I must bear testimony to the ability and zeal with which the road had been managed, under the circumstances, for it only had been kept up by the most unceasing exertions of all the officers from the President down. The task of attending to such a road was disheartening enough; but when we add to this the constant complaints of the public, which they had not the means to satisfy, there are few men who would not have given it up in despair.

On examining the old track I found it so dilapidated, that it would have cost nearly as much to put it in any kind of repair, as it would to rebuild it on the old plan, and I was obliged to content myself with ordering timber and spikes, sufficient to keep it up as it had been done. Materials were purchased to repair the engines and cars, and the state of the track was such, that no machinery could stand it long, and I considered it would be a waste of money to put on any more repairs than were absolutely necessary to keep the road going as it had been.

The main thing necessary was to rebuild the track as fast as possible. The contract for the iron rails having been entered into at the meeting of the stockholders, I proceeded to make contracts for rails along the whole line, to be delivered in time for the iron, and not wishing to lose any time in waiting for that, I purchased from the Seaboard and Roanoke Rail Road Company, T. rails, sufficient for six and a half miles; and also from them and the Petersburg Rail Road Company, sills sufficient to lay them. A force of workmen was organized to do the work, and we commenced laying rails about the 1st of November. At the same time I ordered from Norris and Brothers, a locomotive engine, and from Mr. Wells, of Petersburg, a number of flat cars, all of which were wanted to haul materials on the new track, as fast as it was laid. The engine has been received and is now most usefully employed in doing the work for which it was ordered; and when the road is done it will be ready to take its place in doing the regular transportation, for which it is well adapted.

Up to the 1st of January, we had laid the rails procured from the Seaboard Company, and then commenced on a cargo of iron, which we had the good fortune to procure from the Southside Rail Road Company. By the date of the annual meeting, we shall have laid nearly eight miles of road. I expected to have had three or four miles more than this, but the inclemency of the season has prevented it.

The six and a half miles we laid up to the 1st of Nov. cost \$31,924, including iron and all charges. Of this \$2,178 was for the labor of laying it. This is greater in proportion than the rest of the road will cost for we had to employ white labor nearly all together, and that at a high price, as it had to be assembled in a hurry. This was done as it was not only an object of the greatest importance to lay the road as fast as it could be done, but it was so near hearing time, that we would soon be able to dispense with such an expensive force. We have succeeded in hiring negroes enough, at fair prices, to do the labor, and are now engaged in organizing the force so as to work it to the best advantage.

A cargo of our iron has just arrived, and the contractors inform me that several more cargoes have been shipped, and we may look for them every day. We have an abundance of sills now delivered, and if the iron comes as fast as expected, we shall be able to continue laying rails every day, and as the spring advances we shall, of course, be able to lay them faster. With ordinary good weather, and no delay in receiving the materials contracted for, we expect to have the road completed by September next.

Respectfully submitted, H. D. BIRD, Superintendent.

A PERSISTENT TRAVELLER.—A gentleman from New Orleans arrived in the cars at Richmond Sunday evening, en route North. Learning that the Potomac was one mass of ice, he next morning took the train for Port Waltham, in hopes of reaching the steamer Augusta, which connects with the bay boats to Baltimore. Finding that the Augusta, owing to the "cold obstruction," was inaccessible, he went to Petersburg, procured a ticket, and proceeded to Weldon, where he met the Seaboard and Roanoke train for this place, arriving here on Wednesday. To his great dismay, however, he found the navigation of the bay frozen up. Nothing daunted at this event, yesterday morning he took the back track to Charleston, determined to go on board the steamer which sails direct from that port to New York. If he failed in this attempt, he was resolved to take passage in the Isabel to Havana, and proceed in that way to the point of his destination. Upon being asked why he was so urgent to attain the end of his journey, he replied that he had started to see the famous *dansuse*, Lola Montez, and that he would do it all the way to the last tremble. We wish him a happy deliverance. Norfolk Argus.

RALEIGH TIMES.



RALEIGH, N. C.

FRIDAY JAN. 30, 1852.

CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

Any of our city subscribers who are not served regularly with "The Times," will please give notice at the Office. We have a new carrier on the route, who may possibly not know all the residences.

CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

We have seen the names of the following distinguished gentlemen, among others, suggested to the Whig State Convention, either by public meetings or by the newspapers, as the candidate of our party for Governor, namely:—John A. Gilmer, of Guilford; John Kerr, of Caswell; Wm. H. Wainwright, of Craven; Kenneth Rayner, of Hertford; R. B. Gilliam, of Granville, David A. Barnes, of Northampton; and Alfred Dockery, of Richmond. This is a goodly list; and a standard-bearer may be selected from among them, under whose lead the Whigs of the State may rally, with quite a prospect of wrenching the government from the present "unlucky hands."

As the Convention will meet here on the 26th of April, it is right for every one to express their choice, and canvass, if they please, the merits of their favorites, that the Convention may be better prepared to select the man who, to competent qualifications and weight of character, may be deemed able to join the all-important faculty that he can be elected. Though the Presidential question will, of course, enter into the campaign, it would be idle for the Whigs to expect a canvass upon national issues alone; and our situation as to State policy is such, that there are interests which it is highly important to consult in the choice of a nominee,—interests of such weight as, in our judgment, of themselves to settle the question of his election, without reference to his opponent, who will doubtless be Gov. Reid.

As a good Whig, whatever we have to say shall be said previous to the meeting of the Convention; for, when the candidate is finally nominated, we recognise the duty of supporting him fully, by all the means in our power, whether our individual choice (if we have one) shall be gratified or not. But we like to see a prospect of success ahead,—we must have hope, to inspire our exertions,—our enthusiasm must be such as to awake zeal and endurance—and to keep us alive and active.

Upon what platform are we to stand as to our State policy?—for recollect that it is FREE SUFFRAGE REID we are to oppose.—Will the Convention "skip" this question?—and leave their candidate and every other man to his own devices upon it? We admit that nothing is wanting but union and organization. How are they to be brought about?

It is mighty useless for any body of men in North Carolina—supreme folly in any portion of the public press—to attempt to ignore the Convention movement in the State. We defy the art of man to keep it out of the canvass. The Democrats take the field with "Read and Free Suffrage by Legislative enactment," upon their banner—and what is our candidate to say to it? Is he to stand "mum" when it is flouted into his eyes at every gathering in the State? Is he to approve it, and go for it too? Then the people would be very apt to take the "real simon pure" at once, and discard the imitation.

And yet we see some papers in the State trying to make it appear that this is a very small matter, and no bar whatever to "union and organization." Unless they mean to give up the contest, they will think better of it, and take their ground openly and fairly upon the subject. But one straight forward course will carry us safely through, leaving the Eastern Scylla on one hand and the Western Charybdis on the other. Statewide everything like sectional influences, and publishing the Whig party upon the broad Republican ground of popular rights, their false position upon which broke them down in the last canvass. Will they take that course?

THE TWO MODES.

The last Whig State Convention did not come up to public expectation upon the subject of amending the Constitution. They were rather timid; they did not exhibit a proper confidence in the people's judgment and discretion. Neither did the Democrats—but then Reid's proposition was simple and direct, going to do away with a disability of voters, which all of them could understand, and many of them had deeply felt.—It appeared to offer them a present good—how fallaciously it has since proved!—and the people lost sight of the fact that the adoption of this change was but as an entering wedge towards giving up the whole of our present constitution had been founded. The property qualification for voters being given up, that for members follows;—they stand or fall together. Time, certainly has produced a great change, in regard to this proposition. The people find it is not so easy attainment as they were led to believe. And it will go high to be thought shortly that a Convention is the readiest and cheapest mode of effecting even this change.

On the other hand, the resolutions of the Whig Convention involved a complication of steps dilatory, not to say wearisome in their working. They declared, in substance, that the Legislature should adopt some mode, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, for taking the sense of the people upon free suffrage, and the election of State officers, Judges and Magistrates by the people. How was this to be done?—Was the Legislature to put each subject into separate bills, and have a specific vote upon each? Or were they all to be put into one bill, and the people vote for or against the whole? or how? There was an indetermi-

ation—a vagueness about the manner of putting these things, unsatisfactory as well as difficult. We fear that that Convention, as a body, were not very favorable to any amendments of the Constitution—at any rate, they lacked the knowledge which has since been eliminated upon this subject—and the next that meets will be better prepared to understand public sentiment; and, we hope, will fully act up to it.

It must be borne in mind that the Democrats propose the mode of legislative enactment for all amendments to the Constitution. As a party, they are already committed to free suffrage and the election of Judges by the people for a term of years. They passed free suffrage in the last Legislature—the election of Judges is reserved for future proposal. If these were the only measures proposed, the question would be narrower, and there would not be so much dispute about the mode. But there are several other amendments which have been bro't forward; and the mode no longer remains an insignificant question. By Legislative enactment, one at a time, twenty or thirty years will be required for the adoption or rejection of them all; and who wants to see the Constitution subjected to such a process? Far better have a Convention at once, when the whole subject may be settled in two years; after which the public mind will be at rest; our Constitution as perfect as the condition of the age will allow; and our Legislators, no longer perplexed with disputes on this subject, may devote themselves to the development of the resources of the State, its improvement, and advancement in all that tends to its high prosperity and greatness.

MR. BUCHANAN.

Several of the Democratic papers in the State are endeavoring to recommend this gentleman to the people for the Presidency; and one of them in placing his name at the head of his columns, launches out into a lengthened eulogy upon him, extolling him as "immensely beyond the reach of defamation or detraction." If this be so, Mr. Buchanan must have risen to an elevation never before attained by mortal man—the best and purest of whom have always been exposed to abuse and calumny. The same Editor admits that "of the doctrine of availability," for "the true standard of qualification;" an "abandonment" which the Democratic party, of all others, may be least expected to make at any time, and are now utterly unprepared for.

We are inclined to believe that Mr. Buchanan is a tolerably sagacious politician. On one hand, he has kept in so well with the Free Soilers and Abolitionists who relate to the Baltimore Convention from that State are said to be in his favor. On the other, he bid extensively for the Section interest in the famous letter he wrote to the Richmond State Rights Association, in which he tickles up the fancy of old Virginia, by declaring that an adherence to the resolutions of '98 is all that is necessary to preserve the Union! That was amazing sly—better than the Nicholas letter, which, according to the Georgia Telegraph, was intended "for exposition one way at the South and another at the North."—Buch writes his letters to suit the particular section they are sent to—he goes for pleasing.

He may possibly do, however; for we regard him to be about as unscrupulous as the party to which he belongs. But what will Cass say—and what reason can our Editors give for now dropping him? He was the very man before, and suited them exactly—what crime has he committed since, that he is to lose their love in this unceremonious, ungrateful way? Does he love the Union too well? Cass is a patriot, after all said and done; nobly and manfully he has stood up among the great and good men of the country for the Constitution and the Laws; and his national reputation is far above that of Buchanan in the eyes of the country.

Our own opinion is that Cass will die hard—and we to be the rival for whom he is massacred! If the Democrats drop their greatest and best statesman for any one of those small politicians, Buchanan, Dallas, Douglass, Houston or Stockton, an elephant in harness will be very difficult to drive, and they will find Cass disposed to create vast "noise and confusion" in the ranks.

EXCLUSION OF NEGROES.

In the House of Representatives, on the 19th, Mr. Clingman moved to suspend the rules to enable him to offer the following preamble and resolution: Whereas some of the States of the Union have, in their constitutions, provided for the absolute exclusion of free negroes from their several territories, while others have sought to obtain the same object by legislation; and whereas complaints have at times been made of these things by other States and nations: Therefore,

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the House of Representatives, it is the unquestionable right of each one of the States of the Union to exclude, either wholly or partially, from her territory negroes, whether free or slaves; and that the exercise of this right affords no just ground of complaint to any other nation or State.

The motion was not agreed to, yeas 60; nays 85. All the members from this State voted in the affirmative, except Messrs. Ashe and Daniel, who appear to have been absent.

A bill is before the Legislature of Pennsylvania to prevent the immigration of negroes into that State. The bill imposes a fine on any person employing such negroes, or encouraging them to come into the State; and imprisonment of the negroes themselves. This bill seems intended to prevent fugitive slaves, as well as free negroes from taking refuge in Pennsylvania.

WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.

It has been proposed in several papers to change the mode of appointing Delegates to the National Convention; and, instead of District Conventions, that those in attendance at the Whig State Convention, from each Congressional district, appoint the Delegate and alternate. This is said to be a more convenient mode.

We confess we like the old plan best; we like the people to be active and efficient in their movements. It is not best to trust too many things to one set of delegates, sent for a different purpose. We do not know but the next proposition may be to give these same Delegates to the State Convention the power of agreeing upon Electors, as well—and the same reasons may be urged in favor of it. What are we to gain by the innovation? On the contrary we shall lose much if, by any means, we discourage the primary meetings of the people, by interposing any plan which renders unnecessary their assembling together and taking efficient steps for perfect organization. Our people are accustomed to District Conventions for nominating Delegates to the National Convention and Presidential Electors—the fairest and most correct mode; there is no need of great haste; and no reason certainly why the people should have only one set of Delegates, during a six months canvass, into whose hands everything is to be confided.

Unless better reasons are suggested for the change, than any we have seen, we think it ought not to be hastily made.—The old plan has worked very well, and the people generally carried it out right.—They can do the same now.

So far as our Congressional and Electoral districts are concerned, we propose both Conventions be held at Louisville on Tuesday, the 6th day of April, being the week of the Superior Court. There are Courts in every county concerned, at which meetings can be held for the appointment of Delegates, and one set will answer for both Conventions, properly instructed by the meetings of the people. February county court we can have meetings in Wake, Warren, Granville and Halifax; Franklin and Northampton, March County Court; Edgecombe, Nash and Johnston, at March Superior Court—and all very properly, and in ample time.

Such are our views; they seem reasonable; and, we trust, something like this course will be adopted.

ELECTION OF MAGISTRATES.

Ought not the people to elect those who impose taxes upon them, and control the expenditure of the money drawn from their pockets? If there be any oppressive and heavy taxes laid upon the people in this State, it is done by the Magistrates. The State taxes, in hardly any county, amount to a fourth of those levied by the county. The heavy taxes are those imposed upon the people by Magistrates, over whose appointments they have no control, and who owe them no obedience or responsibility. At present, they cannot be removed or impeached; and are absolutely, for life, independent not only of the people, but the Legislature by whom they are designated, and the Governor by whom they are appointed. They are not limited in the amount of taxation; and a bench of Magistrates may raise what amount they please; and, if they spend it as they please, who is to call them to account?

Now our members of the Legislature, who share with the Magistrates the taxing power of the State, are directly responsible to the people, in accordance with the principle upon which the battles of the Revolution were fought, that the people must be represented in the taxing body,—such representation giving them the control thereof. But how are the people represented in the bench of magistrates? Only because they are citizens, and bear a share of the burdens they lay—but to the people they are in no way responsible.

It is well known that many of the Magistrates of the State are wholly unfit for the important duties entrusted to them.—But there is no mode provided by which the people can get rid of them—except by conviction of an infamous crime, or for corruption and malversation in office, when their office is thereby vacated under the constitution.

Let us look for a moment, at the trust and power reposed in their hands. They have the power of taxing the people at their pleasure, under the name of county expenses; and we have already said they levy and collect four or five times as much as the Legislature does from the people. They build court-houses, jails, poor houses, bridges, and lay off and regulate roads; they regulate the patrols, and govern the whole police of their several counties.—They preside in the county courts; have exclusive jurisdiction of the probate of wills; grant letters of administration; appoint guardians, and control the settlement of their accounts; and direct and control the management and settlement of estates; and, upon the proper discharge of their duties depends in a great measure, the peace and safety of society. They exercise original jurisdiction in all cases of debts and actions on account, to a certain amount as single magistrates, but to any amount