



By HANES & BRUNER,

"The Old North State Forever."—Gaston.

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THE STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

THE PLATFORM.

We the Delegates of the Democratic and Conservative people of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, do

Resolved, 1st. That we approve of the nomination by the National Democratic Convention of Horatio Seymour for President, and Frank P. Blair for Vice-President of the United States: that, in these men we recognize statesmen of experience and eminent ability, of sound political principles, of unswerving public and private character and unbounded patriotism, and as such we recommend them to the hearty support of the people of North Carolina.

2d. That we approve of the platform of principles adopted by the said Convention; it speaks in no doubtful sense, its language is explicit and meaning clear—The issues presented to the country are plainly and unmistakably defined, and with a free and fair election we confidently believe they will be endorsed by a large majority of the people; and with that endorsement must come such a change in the administration of the National Government as will restore the Constitution and give peace, harmony and prosperity to the country, and especially to the down-trodden States of the South.

3d. That it is our earnest desire and intention to bring about these wholesome and necessary changes by the peaceful means of the ballot box; and all efforts to produce a contrary belief, coming from what quarter they may, are but the tricks of interested partisans of a desperate political faction, bent upon perpetuating its power by any means and at all hazards. They are attempting to alarm the people of this State by the false cry of revolution and war, threatening them at the same time with military force; while in other States of the South, they have not hesitated to take from the people the election of Electors of President and Vice-President, and to confer it upon Legislatures, the members of which were elected under military rule, without freedom of choice and with no regard to the question of Presidency, in order to secure the electoral votes of such States for the Radical candidates in disregard and defiance of the just rights of the people of such States and of the whole country.

4th. That it is our frank purpose now, and has been, since the close of our late civil war, to accept and abide by, in good faith and without disturbance, the legitimate fruits and consequences of that war; to yield to the Government of the United States a cheerful submission and allegiance, and to perform all the obligations of good citizens to their rightful government. And we do proclaim that, in asking recognition on terms of equality in that grand copartnership of States which constitute our Federal Union, we do so with no hostile intent; on the contrary we wish to share its benefits and its duties, to rebuild our waste place under the protection of its flag; to re-establish the old era of good feeling in our common country, to thwart the designs of unpatriotic men every where who seek to perpetuate discord and division, and to participate in the blessings as well as the burthens of the government.

5th. That we have seen with indignation the complete overthrow of our late excellent system of State government and laws, and the adoption of others in their stead heretofore unknown to our people, unsuited to their condition and utterly adverse to their habits, their wishes and their interests; and with this change has come the election to high places of profit and trust of men in most instances without character or qualification, and not a few of whom are mere adventurers from abroad, having no interest in common with the people of the State, and no fitness whatever for the stations which they have reached by means most unworthy and disreputable.

6th. That the attempt by the Governor of this State, aided by his extreme partizans in and of the Legislature, to have himself clothed with authority to appoint, organize, equip and keep on foot a large standing force of not less than 6,000 men, to be selected and officered and commanded by him, with power to any member of the said force to arrest any citizen without authority or warrant from any civil officer or Magistrate, was a measure clearly violative of the Constitution of the United States as well as that of the State; dangerous to the liberties of the people and well calculated if not intended, to produce bloodshed in our midst; and as such it deserves to be reprobated by all well disposed citizens of the State.

7th. That the measure subsequently introduced and which is now pending, and will in all probability be adopted, however artfully disguised, is but the same measure under another name, with one or two of its objectionable features altered; but which yet clothes the Governor and his creatures and partizans with hitherto

unheard of powers, which are susceptible of great and dangerous abuse in the hands of men who have shown but too plainly a disposition to rule the people of this State by the bayonet, and as we believe to attempt the control of the next election by that means. We most earnestly recommend to the people of the State and especially to our political friends, to give no occasion or excuse for the use of military force; but nevertheless to yield none of their just rights.

8th. That the Governor of this State, having proclaimed it as the policy of the Radical party to suffer no one to hold any office, appointment or place in the State, however humble, who will not lend his aid and promise his support to that party, and which policy he and his political friends are now vigorously enforcing to effect the exercises of the elective franchise, it is the sense of this Convention that the people have the right to counteract such policy by all lawful means, if they think proper so to do. That any citizen of the State, therefore, has a manifest right, of which he cannot be lawfully deprived, to employ, or not to employ, or cease to employ, any person whatever when any existing contract terminates—and that any attempt on the part of the Legislature, by any pretended law to deprive any citizen of such right, or to impose any penalty or penalties for so doing, will be in violation of the Constitutional rights of the citizen.

9th. That to obtain success in the approaching Presidential election, every effort should be made by our friends to perfect their organization, and no legitimate means should be spared to bring every voter, favorable to our cause, to the polls. To that end we most earnestly recommend to our friends to organize at once Seymour and Blair Clubs in every county and every District, with active canvassers, whose duty among other things it shall be to see that all our friends entitled to vote are duly registered and brought to the polls, and that unqualified persons are not allowed to register or vote.

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July 8, 1868. [w-tf-370]

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SPARKLING CATAWBA SPRINGS,

Sept. 10th, 1868.

Mr. Editor: Since you left here, Sir, I can assure you the people of Catawba have not been idle. We have enjoyed a fine frolic lately in the form of a nice fancy ball; several masked, whilst others merely took fancy characters without masking. I only wish you could have been here, I know you would have enjoyed the gay sight, quite as much as did your humble correspondent.

The whole affair was gotten up with very little preparation, the guests having suddenly decided upon the day, and giving little warning beforehand. As you are perhaps aware the time was indefinitely postponed at the request of several who were anxious to participate in the excitement. Accordingly, at the earliest possible time after their arrival, the night was decided upon, and busy fingers worked with a will endeavoring to get up some costumes suitable for the occasion. We met in the ball-room, and the first object that greeted my almost bewildered sight was the famous Dr. Kierstead, in his wonderful costume, informing every one that for only twenty-five cents his "King of All Pain" would cure any and everything in the line of pain, or ache, that had ever beset poor frail humanity.

I am quite certain no magician in his most terrifying habiliments could have been more frightful in appearance than was this celebrated personage.

He suddenly stepped up to two young men and informed them that they were suffering intensely from good looks, and it was necessary that he should apply his remedy immediately, and he proceeded to do so, but the two gents seemed to have no objection to that agony, and decamped leaving the Dr. standing in the centre of the room holding aloft his precious bottles, whilst the whole company was convulsed with laughter. Strange to say this terrible "Cure All" had under his special escort a pure looking creature, gleaming with icicles, and from whose ears hung drops that had apparently frozen as they fell, into beautiful diamonds. Thus in pure white, cold and sparkling, with light step and slow, moved Miss W. of Richmond, as Winter, whilst her freezing appearance seemed in no wise to diminish Mr. O's faith, (otherwise the faith of the "King of All Pain") to relieve every sufferer from the effects of her blighting touch.

Walking in with royal dignity, supporting with courtly ease and grace a tall Aurora, Charles the First made his appearance. "Tis somewhat remarkable, but there was really a striking resemblance in this gentleman's face to an ancient Oil Painting, I once had the pleasure of examining which was said to be a very fine portrait of that unfortunate king. As he passed me in making the circuit of the room, I told him of the likeness, and remarked that I hoped he would not be executed on the occasion.

No danger of the head, but there might have been of the heart, had not some fair lady been united to him for better or for worse."

His was a handsome costume of black velvet, with deep lace collar, heavy-face cuffs, and a few rich appropriate ornaments. Netwithstanding his responsible position, Mr. Y., was one of the most agreeable gentlemen in the room, and had the original character been possessed of half his cheerful manner he never would have come to the block.

The Aurora, Miss L. W. of Richmond, looked quite pretty in pink, over which was a thin dress of white, and from her head hung a long veil of pink studded with tidy dew-drops.

Sir Roger de Coverley was there, and as he occasionally glanced over towards the "Lady of the Opera," he looked as

though to-night more than "much might be said on both sides of the subject."—The "Lady of the Opera" as her name indicated, was dressed in Opera style. An elegant fawn-colored silk, with white opera cape, hair beautiful, decked with natural white rose-buds, and the whole toilet exquisite as it was, being set off still further by a handsome set of pearls was truly one of the most attractive of the evening. The lady was Mrs. W., of Virginia.

Powhatan, and Sir Walter Raleigh promenaded the room in blissful companionship. Powhatan, Capt. M. of Wilmington, took his character well, and the lively Mr. C., of your place, finished his up by dropping his rich scarlet cloak at the feet of the fair Aurora, who did not at first seem to understand why this child of earth, should thus approach her but dark Night, with her stary veil swept by, and laughingly exclaimed Queen Elizabeth and Sir Walter! At this Aurora's face brightened and the gallant Sir Walter picked up his cloak with as much satisfaction as though he had truly preserved her majesty's feet from a puddle of muddy water.

Mrs. W., of Richmond, as "Night," appeared to great advantage. Her complexion, eyes and hair were in keeping with her costume, which consisted of a long black train, over head and shoulders swept a black lace mantle profusely spangled, and a crease gleamed just above her brow. "Autumn" represented by Miss H., of Jefferson county, Va., was very good. A dress of pure white, ornamented with bouquets of natural Autumn leaves with here and there a spray of berries, a garland of the same about the waist, and on the head. In her ears hung small clusters of pearl grapes.

"The Woman in White" appeared spectre like in a corner.

"Lady of the Cross," "Fortune Teller," and the "Abbess of St. Hilda," met in a social chat.

"Midshipman Easy," in his sailor's garb looked as independent as any of the noble sons who have their names on "the deep blue sea." Mr. B. who took this character is, I believe, a general favorite here.

Daughter of the Regiment was personated by Miss W., of Baltimore. Her dress was a white skirt, short, and trimmed with scarlet and black, a scarlet jacket trimmed in the military style with black, a cap ornamented with scarlet and gold on the right, and a sweeping black plume on the left. At the waist, on the left, hung a small drum, while through the belt on the right was thrust a revolver. The gentlemen seemed to take a fancy to both these instruments, frequently thumping on the one, and threatening each other's lives with the other.

"Major Jones" looked as though he might again renew his courtship.

"Young Scotch" was quite merry, "Lost Heir" with his beautiful large teeth and huge bone, to say nothing of the oyster-shell by way of toys, might have wandered a long time, ere his mother would have known him. "Grey Jacket" called up sad sighs and stifled memories. "Wandering Jew" wore an absent look, as though he was wondering when his wanderings would cease. "Minerva" frowned upon us all in her sternness, "Lord Douglass" certainly had the dignified bearing, and size of the Douglass of old, and he appeared quite able to overpower a half dozen warriors. This was the Hon. B. C., I believe, also from your town.

A "California Miner" was evidently ready for his work. A "Crusader" did not seem to need the eloquence of Peter the Hermit, or Walter the Penniless, to urge him to battle for the "Holy City."

"Norma" and "Jephtha's Daughter" sat side by side. The first looked pure and innocent, whilst from her dark eyes shot a gleam that might have dazzled some poor fellow if it had not been known that Mr. V. then in Wilmington, had the right to say eyes off, my property! He has since arrived and contributes much towards our pleasure.

"Jephtha's Daughter," so meek and sweet, was a fit offering for some purer shrine. Our best wishes follow you Mrs. M., to your happy home in Wilmington.

A flower girl kindly dispensed her floral treasures. "Rory O'Moore" and "Kathleen Bawn" eyed each other across the room. She did indeed look as "soft as the dawn" with her lovely innocent face shaded by soft golden locks.

A "milkmaid" looked quite coquettish, and two very lively souls were "Mr. and Mrs. Flabtrab," natives who indulged freely in the contents of a snuff box.

They acted their parts well, and were greeted with shouts of laughter.

A "Spanish Don" stately and silent looked on with an approving smile. But how shall I describe the last to enter!—Imagine the "Witch of Endor" heading four members of the "K. K. K." and you have the sight. Don't ask me to describe them, I could not do it. The band struck

up simply an outlandish tane, and these people commenced a wild dance, the like of which has not been seen since the days of Shakspeare.

No Indian war dance could have been more horrible, and they could have had no idea how much silence increases terror, or they would have preserved it as unbroken as did these hideous objects.

They would disappear and in the intervals between the sets would rush back and go through the same ghostly appearance.

But before the close, refreshments in the shape of ices, and wines were handed, and every one appeared to enjoy the same, notwithstanding that they seemed to have come from every point known to the compass.

I tell you we had a nice time, and I am sorry all the people of your town were not here to enjoy it with us.

I could tell you of much that has happened since you left, but I fear you are already crying out "enough, I've room for no more."

A gay bridal party is expected to-morrow, and I guess there is much fun in store for us.

Hoping that you may find it convenient to visit us again.

I am, as ever,

SLY OBSERVER.

JESSE R. GRANT—HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

The Shoe and Leather Reporter for the current week contains the third letter of Jesse R. Grant, giving the exploits of that remarkable old ninny up to his twenty eighth year.

This is the letter in which was to be related the wonderful incident which had, "perhaps," something to do with the taking of Fort Donelson.

At twenty-five years of age, after dinner, Jesse R. got on his horse and rode about six miles to a