

# North



# State.

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[WHOLE NO 406

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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 unsullied 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 places 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 burdens 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 partisans 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 partisans with hiberto

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, 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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## Assassination of Gen. Thos. C. Hindman—A Deputy Sheriff Killed—The Murderer Lynched.

MEMPHIS, Sept. 28, 1868.  
General T. C. Hindman, late of the Confederate army, was assassinated at his residence, in Helena, Ark., last night. The Superintendent of Police received a despatch this afternoon to arrest a man named Robbins, a passenger on the Shreve, who it is believed committed the deed. Robbins was arrested and sent back. He is from Springfield, Mo., and served under Hindman. He stoutly denies being the murderer.

LATE.  
A special dispatch to-night says:—Gen. Hindman was shot at ten o'clock last night, while sitting in the midst of his family smoking. His left hand, which held the pipe, was carried away by the charge of buckshot, two of which entered his neck, inflicting a wound from which he died eight hours afterwards. It is believed that he was assassinated by a political enemy.

A Helena (Arkansas) letter of yesterday says:  
"Yesterday morning Deputy Sheriff Joe A. Moley, with a posse surrounded the cabin of a notorious negro named Lee Morrison, who had killed several persons. Last winter he shot and maimed for life Sheriff Bart Taylor, while he was attempting to arrest him, and he recently knocked a jailer in the head and escaped to the hills, where he has been the terror to all white and black people. No sooner had the Sheriff's posse knocked at the door yesterday when Morrison fired, instantly killing Moley. The others then attempted to close in on him, when he made a desperate resistance severely wounding Perry Neagle and Andy Barnes (colored). He then escaped to the woods. The news spread like wildfire, and soon fully one hundred men were scouring the woods and succeeded in finding Morrison, whose arm was broken and he was otherwise injured. The vote was taken on the spot in favor hanging him, which was accordingly done."  
N. Y. Herald.

Impartial Suffrage.—The N. Y. World says that in the name of impartial suffrage, Congress has forbidden Virginia, Texas and Mississippi to vote at the coming election, and it is now desired to know whether the votes of those States are to be counted as making up the total vote of the Electoral College. If so, the total will be 317, and 159 necessary to elect. If not, the total will be 294, necessary to elect, 148. The point seems to have been left open as placing a discrepancy of eleven votes at the disposal of Congress, to manipulate according as, in the light of the election returns, the interests of moral ideas may require. If Seymour should get 148 votes, it would be no election and must go to the House; if Grant should get 148, it would be all right, a fair election, will of the people, glorious triumph and so on. Let us have peace, if we have to cheat for it.

Arrival of Emigrants.—About thirty-five Swiss emigrants, consisting of men, women, boys and girls, imported from Switzerland by Messrs. Thomas and W. F. Atkinson, of Wayne county, arrived in Goldsboro' Tuesday. They were at once conveyed to the farms of the Messrs. Atkinson, about ten miles from Goldsboro', where they will settle.

Ohio.—The Cincinnati Enquirer in an elaborate review of the election prospects in Ohio, claims fifteen Congressional Districts for the Democracy, concedes three to the Republicans and thinks one doubtful, with the chances in favor of the Democrats.

## HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS.

Judging from the large number of newspapers in this country, it is not surprising that the majority of mankind will see in the saying of a celebrated man, "that a country without a Government is better than one without a newspaper." Certain it is that we have more of the latter than of the former, though the quoted adage is not substantiated by this fact. The history of journalism is one of the most influential branches of the progress of mind. And yet, how seldom do we meet with any reference in our journals to this important subject.

Our authority for the facts we are about to relate is of a classic character, and our readers will have no reason to doubt. Italy is the cradle of newspapers. The war between Venice and Solymann II, gave rise in 1563 to the custom in Venice of communicating the military and commercial information received by written sheets, to be read at a particular place by those desirous to learn the news, who paid for this privilege in a coin, not any longer in use, called gazetta—a name which, by degrees, was transferred to the newspaper itself in Italy and France, and passed over into England. The first regular paper was a monthly, printed at Venice. The Republic becoming jealous of the paper ordered it to be no longer printed, and it was thereafter distributed in manuscript. Editors were first called *mainantes* (threatening), because they spread about defamatory reflections. Of course, there were many intentional lies in the early journals, a fault which is attributable much less to the writers than to the times in which they lived. Even to this day the peasantry of Germany say of a liar, "he lies like a newspaper," a remark complimentary to the knights of the quill. The English established their first paper, "The Mercurie," in 1588, though it was not regularly printed, being more on the order of our present Bulletin. During the civil wars of the Commonwealth, newspapers were more generally used, appearing under the title of *weekly news books*. The first German newspaper was printed in 1612, and was called, "Account of what has happened in Germany and Italy, Spain and France, the East and West Indies, &c." The French imitated the English in their newspaper system, and these two nations with the Germans, have ruled the newspaper world until the within the last few years, when the United States came in for a lion's share of the sovereignty. On the continent of Europe the primal object of journals was to communicate military intelligence, and to-day the prince pal and most important papers are those which are called "Official." Addison established a small sheet, mostly of a literary feature, which was intended to be read at the breakfast table. The world owes him everlasting thanks for the *Spectator*, which was the result of the great author's labors. A host of imitators succeeded Addison, and our libraries now contain the *Tattler*, the *Adventurer*, *Rambler*, *Idler*, *Bee* and others. Then followed the weeklies, and as science passed along with gigantic strides the people demanded monthlies, such as the *Edinburgh Review*, *North British* and a long catalogue of others in all countries. Afterwards, or about the same time appeared the illustrated weeklies, both serious and comic.—To-day, in the great newspaper panorama spread out before us, is blended every hue of nature at all calculated to please the mind and eye. Monthlies, reviews, official organs of government, political, commercial, scientific, dramatic, artistic, musical, illustrated comies, weeklies and magazines—these are the triumphs of civilization.

There is no possible excuse for ignorance in any one, not even in the blind. Information on every subject is at every body's door, and with information the unities of society are collected into a grand national mass. The four quarters of the globe are under the influence of intelligence, and it belongs to the press to educate both themselves and the people in the daily events of the world. Let the press discharge its duty, let the people sustain it with might and main, and the small gazette established three centuries ago, (then consid-

## REGISTRATION.

We have now about fourteen days in which to prepare for Registration. Let all Conservatives and Democrats remember that the great struggle begins on the 15th day of October. This is almost equivalent to the election. The people really commence voting on the 15th. Those who do not register cannot vote; and every man twenty-one years old, and who has been in the State one year, and in the county thirty days, can register. The clubs in the different counties should appoint canvassing committees in every election precinct in their respective counties—men who live in the precincts and who know all those who are old enough to register. These committees must see—they must know—that every vote is registered before the 3d day of November. It is true, one may register and vote on the day of election, but there can be no excuse for this delay when we have fifteen days for registration previous to the election.

We beg our friends to take right hold of this vital question. If we register and poll our full strength, we will carry the State by a decisive majority. There can be no doubt of this.—*Morning Star*.

For the Watchman & Old North State.  
HUNTSVILLE, Sept. 30, 1868.

Messrs. Editors: On Saturday the 26th inst., a meeting was held in Huntsville, Yadin county, for the purpose of forming a Seymour and Blair Club. William Harding was called to the chair and L. G. Hunt requested to act as Secretary.—William A. Robey was called upon by the chair to explain the object of the meeting, after which fifty-one members were enrolled and the following permanent officers elected:  
Isaac Brown, President; Thomas Williams, Isaac A. Jarratt and Henry S. Puryear, Vice Presidents; L. G. Hunt, Recording Secretary; F. A. Martin, Corresponding Secretary; Isaac Jarratt, Treasurer.  
The President was conducted to the chair by Wm. A. Robey, and Richard C. Puryear was called out to address the club. He responded in a brief but forcible speech which was received with great applause.  
The club then adjourned to meet on the following Saturday when we expect considerable additions to our numbers.  
L. G. HUNT, Rec. Sec.

## FACTS TO BE OBSERVED BY THE PEOPLE.

1. In the approaching election no man is disfranchised who ever was entitled to vote.
2. A new registration will begin on the 15th of October, and every voter, old and new, must register.
3. There are one hundred and forty thousand white voters in North Carolina, and seventy thousand colored voters, in round numbers, a majority of two to one.
4. Although the whole of the colored vote should be cast against the Conservatives, (which will not be the case), and thirty-five thousand white votes added, Seymour and Blair will still carry the State, if a full vote be polled.
5. Military Government has ceased.—The election on the 3d of November is to be free, as in former times.
6. Any person who shall assemble armed men at any place of election, on election day, is liable to a penalty of \$1,000 according to the Revised Code, page 308.—9.

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