

vindicate my character and motives from your aspersions; and as a man to whom fame is dearer than life, I will make the last use of that life in doing justice to that reputation which is to live after me, and which is the only legacy I can leave to those I honour and love, and for whom I am proud to perish.

[Here he was interrupted, and told to listen to the sentence of the law.]  
My lord, will a dying man be denied the privilege of exculpating himself, in the eyes of the community, of an undeserved reproach thrown upon him during his trial, by charging him with ambition and attempting to cast away, for a paltry consideration, the liberties of his country? Why did your lordship insult me? or rather insult justice, in demanding of me why sentence of death should not be pronounced? I know, my lord, that form prescribes that you should ask the questions; the form also presumes a right of answering. This no doubt may be dispensed with—and so might the whole ceremony of trial, since sentence was already pronounced at the castle, before your jury was empanelled; your lordships are but the priests of the oracle, and I submit, but I insist on the whole of the forms.

[Here the Court desired him to proceed.]  
I am charged with being an emissary of France! An emissary of France! And for what end? It is alleged that I wished to sell the independence of my country! And for what end? Was this the object of my ambition? And is this the mode by which a tribunal of justice reconciles contradictions? No I am no emissary; and my ambition was to hold a place among the deliverers of my country; not in power, nor in profit, but in the glory of the achievement! Sell my country's independence to France! And for what? Was it for a change of masters? No! But for ambition! O, my country was it personal ambition that could influence me; had it been the soul of my actions, could I not by my education and fortune, by the rank and consideration of my family, have placed myself among the proudest of my oppressors? My country was my idol; to it I sacrificed every selfish, every endearing sentiment; and for it, I now offer up my life. O God! No, my lord; I acted as an Irishman, determined on delivering my country from the yoke of a foreign and unrelenting tyranny, and from the more galling yoke of a domestic faction, which is its joint partner and perpetrator in the paricide, for the ignominy of existing with an exterior of splendor and of conscious depravity. It was the wish of my heart to extricate my country from this doubly riveted despotism.

I wish to place her independence beyond the reach of any power on earth; I wish to exalt you to that proud station. Connexion with France was indeed intended, but only as far as mutual interest would sanction or require. Were they to assume any authority inconsistent with the purest independence, it would be the signal for their destruction; we sought aid, and we sought it, as we had assurances we should obtain it; as auxiliaries in war—and allies in peace.

Were the French to come as invaders or enemies, uninvited by the wishes of the people, I should oppose them to the utmost of my strength. Yes, my countrymen, I should advise you to meet them on the beach, with a sword in one hand, a torch in the other; I would meet them with all the destructive fury of war; and I would animate my countrymen to immolate them in their boats, before they had contaminated the soil of my country. If they succeeded in landing, and if forced to retire before superior discipline, I would dispute every inch of ground, burn every blade of grass, and the last encroachment of liberty should be my grave. What I could not do myself, if I should fall, I should leave as a last charge to my countrymen to accomplish; because I should feel conscious that life, any more than death, is unprofitable, when a foreign nation holds my country in subjection.

But it was not as an enemy that the succours of France were to land; I looked indeed for the assistance of France; but I wished to prove to France and to the world, that Irishmen deserved to be assisted! That they were indignant at slavery, and ready to assert the independence of their country.

I wish to procure for my country the guarantee which Washington procured for America. To procure an aid, which, by its example, would be as important as its valour, disciplined, gallant, pregnant with science and experience, who would perceive the good and polish the rough points of our character; they would come to us strangers, and leave us as friends, after sharing in our perils and elevating our destiny. These were my objects; not to receive new task-masters, but to expel old tyrants; these were my views, and these only became Irishmen. It was for these ends I sought aid from France, because France, even as an enemy, could not be more implacable than the enemy already in the bosom of my country.

[Here he was interrupted by the Court.]

I have been charged with that importance in the efforts to emancipate my country, as to be considered the key-stone of the combination of Irishmen; or, as your lordship expressed it, "the life and blood of conspiracy." You do me honour over-much. You have given to the subaltern all the credit of a superior. There are men engaged in this conspiracy, who are not only superior to me, but even to your own conceptions of yourself, my lord; men before the splendor of whose genius and virtues, I should bow with respectful deference, and who would think themselves dishonoured to be called your friend—who would not disgrace themselves by shaking your blood stained hand—

[Here he was interrupted.]  
What, my lord, shall you tell me on the passage to that scaffold, which that tyranny, of which you are only the intermediary executioner, has erected for my murder, that I am accountable for all the blood that has, and will be shed in this struggle of the oppressed against the oppressor?—shall you tell me this—and must I be so very a slave as not to repel it?

I do not fear to approach the omnipotent Judge, to answer for the conduct of my whole life; and an I to be appalled and falsified by a mere remnant of mortality here? By you too, who if it were possible to collect all the innocent blood that you have shed in your unhallowed ministry, in one great reservoir, your lordship might swim in it. [Here the Judge interfered.]  
Let no man dare, when I am dead, to charge me with dishonour; let no man attempt my memory by believing that I could have engaged in any cause but that of my country's liberty and independence; or that I could have become the puffed minion of power in the oppression or the miseries of my countrymen. The proclamation of the provisional government speaks for our views; no inference can be tortured from it to countenance barbarity or debasement at home, or subjection, humiliation or treachery from abroad; I would not have submitted to a foreign oppressor, for the same reason that I would resist the foreign and domestic oppressor; in the dignity of freedom I would have fought upon the threshold of my country, and its enemy should enter only by passing over my lifeless corpse. Am I, who lived but for my country, and who have subjected myself to the dangers of the jealous and watchful oppressor, and the bondage of the grave, only to give my countrymen their rights and my country her independence, and am I to be loaded with calumny, and not suffered to resent or repel it—No, God forbid!

If the spirits of the illustrious dead participate in the concerns and cares of those who are dear to them in this transitory life—O ever dear and venerated shade of my departed father, look down with scrutiny upon the conduct of your suffering son; and see if I have even for a moment deviated from those principles of morality and patriotism which it was your care to instil into my youthful mind; and for which I am now to offer up my life.

My lords, you are impatient for the sacrifice—the blood which you seek, is not congealed by the artificial terrors which surround your victims; it circulates warmly and untroubled through the channels which God created for noble purposes, but which you are bent to destroy, for purposes so grievous, that they cry to heaven. Be yet patient! I have but a few more words to say. I am going to my cold and silent grave: my lamp of life is nearly extinguished; my race is run; the grave opens to receive me, and I sink into its bosom! I have but one request to ask of my departure from this world,—it is the charity of its silence!—Let no man write my epitaph: for as no man who knows my motive dare vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them—and me repose in obscurity and peace, and may my tomb remain unadorned, until other times, and other men, can do justice to my character; when my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not till then, let my epitaph be written.—I have done.

#### DISTRICT CONVENTION.

Exton, N. C. Sept. 16, 1833.  
Convention met.—Present, from Curators—David W. Borden, James—John H. Bryan, John M. Bryan, Geo. S. Attmore and Wright C. Stanley.  
James—James W. Howard, Lemuel H. Simmons, Nathan Fosene, Haden M. McDaniel, Hardy Bryan, Owen B. Cox, Emanuel Jacman, Francis Du Val.  
Lesoir—Issac Croom, Geo. Whitfield, Wm. B. Kilpatrick, John Cobb, John Williams, Neelham Whitfield, Nathan G. Blount.  
Wayne—Thomas Kennedy, John W. Sasser, Jas. Griswold, Sampson Lane, H. W. Husted.  
Gov. Swain being present, was invited to preside over the deliberations of the Convention, and on motion of Col. I. Croom, conducted to the Chair. H. W. Husted was appointed Secretary.

On taking the Chair, the President addressed the Convention in energetic language on the great importance of Internal Improvement to the State of North Carolina, and the means in her power of improving her condition. After which, on motion of Col. I. Croom, Resolved, That the President of the Convention appoint two of the Delegates in attendance, from each of the Counties represented, to compose a committee, whose duty it shall be to report on all Resolutions referred to them, and further to report any plan or project of Internal Improvement which they shall believe entitled to the consideration of the Convention. Whereupon, the following members were appointed: From

Curators—David W. Borden, James—John H. Bryan, John M. Bryan, Geo. S. Attmore and Wright C. Stanley.  
Lesoir—Issac Croom, Geo. Whitfield, Wm. B. Kilpatrick, John Cobb, John Williams, Neelham Whitfield, Nathan G. Blount.  
Wayne—John W. Sasser, Sampson Lane.  
On motion of Sampson Lane, Esq. The name of Wm. Gaston was added to the above Committee.

On motion of John Cobb, Esq. the following Resolutions were read: Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the Internal Improvement of this section of the State, by means of Rail Roads, is preferable to any practicable improvement of the River Navigation.

Resolved, That the Convention recommend to the Legislature to extend liberal aid to the Internal Improvement of the State by Rail Roads—the funds to be raised by loan or taxation. Which Resolutions were, on motion, referred to the above General Committee. By Owen B. Cox, Esq. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, a Rail Road ought to be constructed from the Harbour of Beaufort, through Trenton, and thence the most convenient route to Raleigh.

Which Resolution was referred to the General Committee. On motion of Jno. H. Bryan, Esq. Resolved, That the General Committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of constructing a Rail Road from Newbern to Waynesborough. On motion of Col. Croom, Resolved, That the General Committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of constructing a Rail Road from the Town of Beaufort, through Trenton and Kinston, to Waynesborough. On motion, adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Tuesday, Sept. 17. Convention met agreeably to adjournment.

Mr. Croom, from the General Committee, submitted the following REPORT: The General Committee to whom was referred various resolutions submitted to the Convention, beg leave to present the following report: Your committee believing that a numerous and respectable body of their fellow citizens are looking with deep solicitude to the proceedings of this Convention, were fully impressed with the importance of the trust confided to them, of submitting plans of internal improvement to the favorable consideration of this body, which, if sanctioned, may conduce permanently to the 'welfare or wo' of a large and important section of North Carolina.

In encountering these oppressive and responsible duties, they derived no small aid from the confidence which rectitude of purpose and the noble desire to do good, never fail to inspire. The Committee first considered the expediency of improving the navigation of the river Neuse. From every examination they were able to bestow on this subject, they were satisfied of the impracticability of rendering it such a channel of communication as the wants of the community imperiously require. This stream is filled with logs, stumps, and snags, from Newbern to Smithfield, a distance of two hundred miles. In most of what are called the straight reaches, logs have settled to the bottom, and by presenting obstructions to the floating sand, produced accumulations of it over and between these logs, so as to produce permanent sand-bars commensurate with these sections of the river. These straights vary in length from a fourth to a mile and a half. The crooks of the river are still worse. They are filled with logs and trees which are kept naked by the greater force of the current in such places, and render the navigation dangerous where there is plenty of water for boats to pass over the shoaler places. These bends are so frequent and abrupt in many places, that it is believed it would be entirely impracticable for a steam-boat to travel in the night if all the logs were removed. During six months of the year and often more, the navigation is utterly impeded from the forgoing causes connected with the want of water. Your Committee believes that it would be an Herculean task to remove these obstructions, that it would be attended with as much expense as difficulty, and that when accomplished would secure but few benefits. But a small portion of the low grounds have been reclaimed, so that the banks of the river are lined nearly its whole course with the original forest growth. These are daily falling in and settling at the bottom. The low grounds too, which on one side or the other and often on both, are co-extensive with the navigable part of the river, are covered with deposits of old logs and brushwood, which are swept into the river by every freshet. In addition to all these objections, it is believed, that if the waters of the river could be compressed into one half its present volume for a considerable portion of every year, it would be too shallow to float a steam-boat. For these reasons, connected with the important fact that this river leads to no point possessing uncommon commercial advantages, the Committee are decidedly of the opinion, that it would be highly inexpedient to incur any expense in improving the navigation of the river.

The attention of your Committee was next directed to the questions, whether a rail road would answer the wants of our community? and what would be the most judicious location for such rail road? They are gratified to have it in their power to state, that on both these questions they had but little difficulty in arriving at conclusions clear and satisfactory. As a mode of internal improvement for the transportation of persons and produce with safety, cheapness, and celerity, rail roads confessedly stand unrivalled. They

command no less the approbation than the admiration of all intelligent and observant men. It is sufficient to say in favor to this system, that although in its infancy in this country, there are already more than fifty millions of dollars vested in this species of improvement, that is already extending both in this country and Europe, and though many of the rail roads now in operation in this country cost exceeding thirty thousand dollars per mile, there is not one the stock of which is not above par. Indeed there has been no instance of rail road stock selling at par any where. This section of our State affords great and peculiar advantages for the construction of rail roads. It is level, it abounds with the best timber, and provisions and labour are plentiful and cheap. Northern rail roads are built with southern pine, after an expense is incurred for grading, far exceeding what with us would be the entire cost of constructing. With them too, labour and provisions are higher.

The Committee readily agreed upon what they think the most eligible route for a rail road. They believe that Newbern District possesses distinguished advantages in this respect. Beaufort inlet and harbour are not only the best in North Carolina, but the best to the South of the Chesapeake, with the exception perhaps of Pensacola. There are 18 feet over Beaufort bar at low water, and in its spacious and commodious harbour 500 vessels can ride with ease and safety. We cannot refrain from expressing surprise that this favored spot should have been so long neglected, and that North Carolinians should have been such ingrates as to charge Heaven with having denied them the facilities necessary to create and sustain a great commercial emporium. Add to these that Beaufort is so healthy, as to be a place of resort in the sickly season, and nothing is wanting but the produce of the country to insure its rapid advancement and the prosperity of that portion of country connected with it by rail road communication.

Influenced by these views and considerations, your Committee beg leave to report favourably to the accompanying resolutions: Resolved, 1st.—That in the opinion of this Convention, the improvement of this section of the State by means of rail roads is preferable to any practicable improvement of the river Neuse. Resolved, 2d.—That this Convention recommend to the Legislature to extend liberal aid to the Internal Improvement of the State by Rail Roads—the funds to be raised by loan or taxation. Resolved, 3d.—That in the opinion of this Convention, it is expedient to construct a rail road from Beaufort through Trenton and Kinston to Waynesborough. Resolved, 4th.—That it is expedient to construct a rail road from the town of Newbern so as to intersect the rail road from Beaufort to Waynesborough. Respectfully submitted, ISAAC CROOM, Chm.

Resolution 1st.—of the Committee, adopted by the Convention unanimously. Resolution 2d.—Adopted unanimously. Resolution 3d.—On motion of Mr. Gaston,—Amended by striking out all after the word "from"—and substituting the words "the waters of Beaufort Harbour, so as to join the contemplated Rail Road from Raleigh, at or near Waynesborough." Which amendment was adopted, yeas 13, nays 11. Resolution 4th.—Rejected. On motion of Mr. Croom, Resolved, That the Internal Improvement Committee appointed by the President of the Raleigh Convention, for the several counties interested, be authorized forthwith to open Books of subscription in their respective counties, for a Rail Road from Beaufort Harbour to Waynesborough, by the most eligible route—and to appoint Sub-Committees to solicit subscriptions for the same purpose.

On motion of Jno. H. Bryan, Esq., it was unanimously Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to his Excellency Governor SWAIN for his zealous co-operation in forwarding the cause of Internal Improvements, and for his able and courteous discharge of the duties of the Chair. On motion of George S. Attmore, Esq. Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Secretary of the Convention for his faithful discharge of the duties of his office. On motion of David W. Borden, Esq. Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the papers of the State favorable to Internal Improvements. Convention adjourned.

H. W. HUSTED, Sec'y. To the Editors of the Richmond Whig. Goodland, 31st August, 1833. On the night of the 25th ult. the dwelling house of William Simms of this county, was consumed by fire. He and his wife were aroused from sleep by the smoke and heat—the adjoining room was in flames—he escaped through the door, taking his coat and pantaloons in his hand.

Mrs. S. jumping out of the window with her infant in her arms. Three of his children by a former marriage were asleep upstairs—the stairway in flames—Simms fired his gun in hopes to arouse them, but in vain—he then got an old ladder from an adjacent house, on which he ascended—burst in the window, and got the two eldest children down without difficulty—he returned for the third, a little boy about six years old—he was running about the room in search of the door, some moments elapsed before S. could get hold of him, at that instant the flames burst into the room—burnt his (Simms) eye-brows and hair, and scorched his face—almost suffocated, he reac-

ed the window and got down with the child. The house with the whole of its remaining contents (except a counterpane which was within the reach of the window, and which for the night was Mrs. S.'s only clothing) was soon a heap of ashes.

**FOREIGN.**  
From the New York Courier, Sept. 2. The ship *Splendid*, Captain Britton, from Liverpool, which sailed on the 14th August, and the ship *Tamerlane*, Captain Priener, from Havre, which sailed on the same day, arrived yesterday. Being both transient vessels, we have not received by either our usual regular supply of Journals. The extracts which follow are made up from those our news collector has been able to obtain from their respective Captains.

The consideration of the Bank Charter Bill has again been resumed by the House of Commons, and some important alterations and amendments have been made to it; that most deserving attention is the exemption from the operation of the usury laws, the discounting of bills and notes of three months date, and less. In the course of the discussion, one of the members, Sir J. Wrottesley, urged strongly the necessity and utility of making the currency of England of an entirely decimal character, similar to that of the United States.

The accounts from Portugal state that everything indicated that the Government of Donna Maria will soon be settled on a permanent basis.—General Molellos, who had lately been despatched from Lisbon with 3,000 men to oppose the advance of the Queen's army into Alentejo, had joined the Queen's party. The Duke of Ferreira had received orders to march from Lisbon with a force of 10,000 men for the North, when it was believed he would be joined by the major part of the Royalists party, still continuing before Oporto; the besieged were not apprehensive of any further attack being made. General Bourmont continued to suffer from the effects of a wound which he received during his assault on the 25th ult. on the city, and Don Miguel was supposed to be at Braga, but no direct information of his present quarters has been received.

We extract from our last London dates the following summary of the news from the Continent of Europe: "The principal portion of the Paris and German papers is occupied with the disturbances that have broken out in Switzerland, and which are by this time we trust appeased. For the origin, nature, and progress of these unhappy events, we refer our readers to the extracts from the Journals, to be found in another place, observing that although there is no positive evidence on which to charge the neighboring great Continental States with fomenting the disputes that have during the last two years kept the Swiss cantons in a ferment, the obvious policy of Austria and Prussia—the foresight evinced in the precautionary military measures they adopted, and the position which they have in consequence actually assumed, furnish plausible grounds for the belief, which we are assured universally prevails in Paris, that the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin were not strangers to the plot which has just now exploded in Switzerland.—The defeat of the insurgents, as they must be termed, will, however, have obviated the Austrian, Prussian, or Bavarian interference.

The principal article of news from Germany to be found in the papers before us, consists of a statement that the Austrians were concentrating their forces at Feldkirch, within half a league of the frontiers of the Grisons. A Bavarian corps of observation was being formed near Linzau, three leagues distant from the (Swiss) Canton of Gall. The dutches of Berri, it was said, was about proceeding to Prague. The Archduchess Sophia was confined of a Prince on the 20th ult. The death of the Duke Alexander of Wurtemberg (uncle to the King) has been formally announced to the French government.

Our Madrid letters contain no news of importance from Portugal with which we were not previously acquainted. Several Cabinet Councils had been held in Madrid to consider the course proper to be adopted under the new aspect of affairs in Portugal. It was resolved (one of our Correspondents states) that should Don Miguel present himself on the Spanish frontier, he should be refused permission to enter. This, however, was supposed to imply only that he should be compelled to perform quarantine, but it was clearly understood that no military aid whatever would be afforded him.

King Ferdinand was said to be much better. His Majesty received in a private audience on the 31st ult. the Ambassadors of France and England, who delivered to him letters from their respective Sovereigns. Seldom or never has the price of cotton goods risen so much as during the last two months. The rise is from 15 to 25 per cent, while that on yarn is from 20 to 30 per cent. The reaction is not expected to take place till after the shipment of yarn for the ports of the Baltic have closed. Then very probably prices will revert to about their former level.—*Glasgow Chron.* Paris, August 12.—A superior agent of Police, accompanied by some

men left this for Portugal a few weeks back. Two have gone by land and five by way of London. The object is to watch the movements of M. de Bourmont and some other revolutionists who accompanied him. It is said the Government have received information from these persons who think they have discovered a project for landing in Vendee with the remains of the French General Bessier in the services of Don Miguel.

These reports coincide with an account which appears in a paper of the morning, stating that a certain number of police agents have been sent to some of the departments of Ancient Brittany. At the same time some of the Carlists assert that they have received news that Bourmont and his principal acolytes have departed for Italy by way of the Mediterranean.—The Constitutionnel of this morning announces news of the utmost importance, if it should turn out to be true. This journal pretends that the German Diet has already given orders to interfere in the affairs of Switzerland. Up to the present moment, none of the letters which have arrived this morning from that part of Germany make any mention of the matter, which, besides, it would have been rather difficult for that High Diet to have already taken such measures, as a great number of the representatives were absent from Frankfort.

Paris, 10th August. The Monitor announces that the King will leave Paris on the 25th instant, arrive at Cherbourg on the 28th, and stay there on the 1st, 2d, and 3d of September. His Majesty will return and take up his residence at St. Cloud on the 10th. We hear that the King will be accompanied by Marshal Soult and Admiral de Rigny.

We have received Madrid Gazettes to the 1st instant. They announce the entrance of the Constitutional army and fleet into Lisbon; but add that the communication between the two countries is for the moment entirely interrupted, owing to the communication by the guerrillas of two parties alternately occupying the intermediate country.

We learn that Don Miguel's Count at Bayonne has declared allegiance to Queen Donna Maria.—The Helvetic of Porrentruy gives the following from Basle, under date of the 6th instant:—We have received further details of the sanguinary conflict which took place on the 5th. The number of soldiers put hors de combat was said to amount to 500. Amongst the killed are Colonel Landerer, Sarrazin and Vieland, Capt. Wettstein, Lind, Hindenlay, and M. Gideon Barhart, and Captain Ronus and Locking, are seriously wounded. At Pratteln the incendiaries of Basle burnt six houses and murdered the wife of Dr. Steffen.

The expedition was commanded by the Federal Col. Vischer. The reverse was under the orders of Col. Westnauer. Col. Burkhardt led on the advance guard. The company d'Erlach suffered considerably. Having got himself entangled in a defile, it had, at the same time, to sustain the fire of a redoubt in front, and of the sharpshooters on both flanks. The troops of Basle had received orders to give no quarter. The contest was carried on with the utmost obstinacy; no quarter was given, and no prisoners taken.

The Lausanne Gazette also gives accounts from Basle, which states that the country parties made many prisoners. They add that several pieces of cannon were taken by the same party whose artillery was under the direction of 15 Poles. The combat lasted six hours. M. Barer, who commanded the country party, received a severe wound in the face. Two days ago the inhabitants of the districts of Gellenden delivered up to the Government of Lieстал eight quintals of powder, and a considerable quantity of arms. They are engaged in dismantling the people of the valley of Reigoldschwyl. The patriotes of the country troops march to the very walls of Basle. The Government has got traces of a conspiracy which has very extensive ramifications. The object of the conspirators is to create a reaction in the heart of the town, and deliver it up to the country troops. Arrests succeeded each other incessantly. Terror reigned throughout the town, and most serious events are expected.

The government has just published a proclamation to revise the course of the people, and justify the criminal attempt that has cost so much blood. Its language indicates alarm at the attitude assumed by the opposite party, who have steadily opposed its obstinate measures, and is about to demand an account of the blood that has been shed. The commissioners sent by the Diet M. Mayerburg, of Schaffhausen, and M. Steger, of Lucerne, have been assaulted in the streets of Basle, by an unbridled soldiery.

The same journal contains the following from Bern: "The Chambers of the State has just published two letters—one announcing the reception of Kussnacht, and the other prescribing that, by the decree of the Diet, dated the 5th instant, the occupation of the town and country of Basle by the Federal troops had been ordered. It is also expected that the same measure will be adopted with regard to the town of Schwytz, which is the seat of the conference of Sarnen."

According to the accounts from the Vorarlberg, the Austrian troops are being concentrated at Feldkirch, and a league from the frontier of the Canton