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STATE CONVENTION.

DEBATE.

Thursday, June 11.

The Convention having resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, Judge Daniel rose, on the resolution relative to Borough representation...

Mr. WILSON, from Perquimans, said he was content that every gentleman had some here disposed to legislate for the good of the whole...

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secure the election of his man, it matters not whether he lives within an hundred miles of the borough which returns him. Is there any thing like this here? It may be right to exclude Halifax, Hillsboro, Salisbury, &c. Why they were admitted, he did not know...

But it is said the wants of these towns will be provided for by the county representation. He would say, if the representative of the county was a faithful organ of the interests of those who elected him; he would have county duties enough to perform, without being embarrassed with town interests.

He alluded to the claims of Fayetteville, the people of which, upon the broad grounds of political justice, were certainly entitled to be heard in the Legislature through their representative. He was informed by a gentleman on that floor, for whom he entertained the most unbounded respect, that at the last election in Fayetteville more than 400 votes were polled...

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other. It is true, that Agriculture, to be profitable, requires the aid of Commerce; and that by the success of the one, the other flourishes. But in the transactions of business, in the operations of trade, causes of suspicion arise, fraud is imputed, envy and hatred follow, and the buyer and seller assume the character of antagonists. Those who pursue Commerce are collected in the towns, and invest their capital in lots and improvements, and in goods, wares and merchandize; and Agriculturalists reside in the counties beyond the limits of the town, and are dispersed through a widely extended territory, and invest their capital in land and negroes.

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Mr. McDiarmid moved an adjournment. Negative. Mr. Gaston, of Hyde moved to amend the amendment by excepting from its operation Newbern, Wilmington, and Edenton. The Committee refused to amend by a vote of 103 to 25.

Mr. Hogan now moved a reference of the Resolution and amendment to the Committee of 25 appointed on the subject of the basis of Representation. The motion prevailed, and the Committee rose and reported and the Convention adjourned about 4 o'clock.

The Convention having resolved itself into a Committee of the whole on the resolution in relation to the suffrage of free persons of color, Judge DANIEL moved a resolution to extend the right of voting for members of the House of Commons to free persons of color possessed of a freehold worth \$250.

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that free persons of colour never were considered as citizens, and no one has a right to vote but a citizen. The revolution in this country was made by British subjects. Many aliens and some free negroes entered into the service like other persons, who were not subjects.

The President said, he did not approve of the land qualification for voters. Suppose two respectable neighbours had each a son; that one of them had 50 acres of land, perhaps not worth more than 25 cents an acre, and the other had no land, but was a good blacksmith or shoemaker, and his standing in society irreproachable, why will you allow one to vote, and not allow the other?

The opinion of New York had been mentioned. If the clause which had been referred to, were to be again considered in that State, it would now be rejected. We are in a very different situation from that State—they have but few persons of this description—we have large numbers.

What, said he, can we do with these people? They are amongst us. We have no Moses to undertake their cause. He supposed they must remain with us. It is doubtful whether our southern country can ever be cultivated by white men; or that the vast quantity of our Swamp lands can ever be drained; or other internal improvements be made without them.

Gov. BRANCH observed, that no doubt the Convention had a right to act upon this subject. Free persons of colour have heretofore been permitted to vote in this State, and the question now is, whether this right shall be continued, abridged or abrogated.

The Judge stated, that during our Revolutionary War, a number of free persons of color rendered effectual service in the ranks of the army. He also spoke of measures lately taken by the British in liberating their slaves in the West Indies, and of the probability that the French would follow their example.

Mr. EDWARDS was glad the learned gentleman from Halifax had turned his attention to this subject. It was one upon which he felt some difficulty. An article in the bill of rights says, "that the people of this State ought not to be taxed or made subject to the payment of any impost or duty, without the consent of themselves or their Representatives in General Assembly, freely given."

Mr. WILSON, from Perquimans, rose to offer an amendment to the present proposition. He observed, that however much coloured persons might be elevated, their colour alone would prove a barrier to keep them in a degraded state.

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