

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE AMERICAN PLATFORM.

Mr. Editor: A few days ago, after directing myself of all party prejudices (and you know that if prejudices I have in favor of any party, they are towards the old Whig party.) I took up the American Platform to read it carefully and understandingly, so that I might be rightly guided in casting my vote in the ensuing elections. The reason I had for so doing was not because I had lost confidence in the Whig party or in Whig principles; but because I knew that a new party had sprung up, differing in principles altogether, as I understood them, from those formerly professed and maintained by the Whig party. As I said, I took it up for examination; and at the first glance I discovered nothing material which I could object to, and thought, as is the fact, that some of the planks in that Platform were truly patriotic. Upon a closer view, however, I saw "right straight through," and observed at once that many of its parts, meant anything which was necessary to suit circumstances.

adopted by the Know Nothing, because the latter was open in its language, and told who they meant to proscribe, and what might be expected from that order by those proscribed, unless, as I suppose they would become hypocrites and sell their consciences by renouncing their religion; while the present avowal of principle is dark in its language, and may be construed as to be opposed to any religion which the "American" party in its wisdom may oppose.

I object, Mr. Editor, to the proscription of any religion. It is anti-American and anti-republican. Every man has a right, under our constitution, to enjoy his opinion of religion unmolested and without restraint. And when the precedent is once set; that a man is to be prohibited from enjoying the rights guaranteed to him as a citizen, because of his religion, then another and another of different beliefs, who may happen to be the weakest in number, will also be proscribed, until at last every vestige of religion will be driven from our now happy land, and infidelity, as it was in France under the "reign of Reason," stalk abroad in triumph over this vast extent of territory.

THE UNION.

NEWBERN, N. CAROLINA. WEDNESDAY, JULY 23.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR PRESIDENT, JAMES BUCHANAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT, J. C. BRECKINRIDGE, OF KENTUCKY.

For Governor, Thomas Bragg, OF NORTHAMPTON.

ELECTORS

FOR THE STATE AT LARGE: HENRY M. SHAW, OF CURRITUCK, SAMUEL P. HILL, OF CASWELL.

- Districts. 1st District, Wm. F. MARTIN, of Pasquotank, 2d " W. J. BLOW, of Pitt. 3rd " M. B. SMITH, of New Hanover 4th " GASTON H. WILDER, of Wake, 5th " S. E. WILLIAMS, of Alamance, 6th " S. E. WILLIAMS, of Alamance, 7th " R. P. WARING, of Mecklenburg, 8th " W. W. AVERY, of Burke.

County Nominations.

FOR THE SENATE, JAMES MILLER.

FOR THE COMMONS, CHARLES KELLY, H. CLAY JONES.

VOIERS OF CRAVEN.

You will be called upon soon to exercise the right guaranteed to you as freemen, to elect your next Governor, and who shall represent your interests in the ensuing Legislature. Let no personal preferences bias you in your selection, but reflect upon the principles entertained by each person who solicits your suffrages.

We recommend to you the ticket selected by the Democracy as every way worthy of your support, as men who are honest, capable and who will have a just regard for your interests. We have a farmer, merchant, and lawyer, gentlemen whom you all know as worthy citizens in their respective spheres.

Let every voter determine to do his duty to his country for one day. Try every man of you to turn out on election day, and see that no undue influences are used to defeat the Democratic Party. Let your fellow citizens in every part of the State see, that altho' living in the good old County of Craven, you are not craven-hearted; but that you are determined by voting for BRAGG, MILLER, KELLY and JONES, to rebuke and quell the storm of proscription at present existing about in spots.

ATLANTIC & N. C. RAIL ROAD CO.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Co., took place on Thursday last the 17th inst., at the Court House in Newbern. The meeting was organized by the appointment of W. B. Wadsworth, Esq., Chairman and Messrs. Clark and Ramsey Secretaries Messrs. Blackwell, Wooten and Jenkins were appointed a committee to report the amount of stock represented. After a call of Stockholders, the committee reported; that the amount of stock represented in person and by proxy, and the number of Stockholders present, were sufficient to constitute a meeting according to the provisions of the charter. Whereupon the Chairman announced that the meeting was duly organized. Council Wooten represented the State.

The President's report was then read, which gave a history of the organization and progress of the Company to date. As the report will soon be published, we will only say, that it is a clear and lucid statement of the affairs of the Company, and shows conclusively that President Whitford is minutely acquainted with all the operations of the Company. Col. Thompson, Chief Engineer, then read his report, from which we judge the Contractors have been up and doing, and that the construction of the Road is progressing with zeal and energy.

Messrs. Disoway and Carmer committee appointed to examine the Book of the Treasurer, reported that they had given them much attention, and find them correct, as well as the Treasurer's Report which had been previously read. The committee paid a very high and we think, well deserved compliment to Mr. Willis for the neatness and accuracy with which his Books were kept.

The Stockholders proceeded to the election of four Directors, which resulted in the choice of Messrs. Whitford, Moore, Green and Best; the Board of Internal Improvements having previously appointed Messrs. Ramsey, Oglesby, Jenkins, Stevenson, Latham, Wooten, Desmond and Chapman Directors on the part of the State.

In the evening the Stockholders met and were entertained by speeches from Governor Morehead, Messrs. Blackwell, Stevenson and Whitford; when the meeting was adjourned. The Stockholders then examined the works of the Company and progress about Newbern, and made an excursion to Bachelor's Creek and back.

In the evening the new Board of Directors met and re-appointed Mr. J. D. Whitford.

As the several reports soon to be published, will give all the detailed information relative to the affairs of the Company, we will close by saying to the Stockholders, Directors and officers of the Company, go on in your noble undertaking.

A Fayetteville paper takes us to task for our views in relation to the many new schemes of so-called improvements, which our State exchanges inform us are intended to be discussed at the sitting of our next Legislature; in its remarks in relation to us, it takes occasion to designate our views as "selfish."

In our editorial headed "Taxation," we did not intend to be selfish any further than a regard for the interests of the people was concerned. We think that the improvement spirit may be carried so far as to amount to oppression; the laboring classes on whom the greatest burden of all taxation falls, may be so ground down by high rents, exorbitant prices of provisions and heavy taxation, that speculators and capitalists possessing a spark of genuine humanity, might well afford to pause and reflect whether the schemes that they are proposing will result to the general benefit, or whether only a few large landholders will thereby be enabled to greatly enhance the value of their real estate. Persons are sometimes very patriotic when their own interests are concerned, either as landholders, or as expected officers, or contractors of a projected plan of improvement, and contracts may be sometimes carried on not in strict accordance with the public interests.

We certainly never intended to convey the idea, that we were in favor of closing the public purse, entirely to any enterprise of general benefit; but really "selfish" speculators cannot expect the State to build railroads and dam up rivers by every man's door. They cost too much.

No individual in the State would better like to see a judicious system of internal improvements speed over the whole extent of our State, where it would result to the general good, than we would; all we want is, that the same prudence be observed that a "prudent proprietor" would give to his own individual affairs. Let us do the thing gradually. It is possible for a man to eat too much pound-cake.

Whilst we would dislike to see a great many new schemes broached, we would respectfully say to our cotemporary;—that we do not classify the contemplated Railroad in Fayetteville to Beaufort, as a new scheme by any means. We think Fayetteville was rather stably dealt with by the last Legislature.

What a strange idea, that taxing the people "doubtly and trebly," makes them "doubly and trebly prosperous."

The Newbern Union compliments Martin Van Buren for supporting Buchanan for President. It says in this connection "we do not despair for our country." We do, when Southern journals sing invectives to such freeholders as old Martin Van Buren.—Wm. Herald.

Surely Mr. Herald;—"for while the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return."

DIRECTORS OF THE ATLANTIC & N. C. R. ROAD.

The Directors of this Company appointed by the Board of Internal Improvements, we are pleased to be able to endorse as solid, reliable, business men, and who will beyond the shadow of a doubt, conduct the affairs of the Road in a satisfactory manner.

In doing so, we however do not intend to detract from the merits of those gentlemen appointed by the stockholders on Thursday last. A better selection could not have been made. In fact, we do not believe that there is a road in the State, that can boast of more competent officers than that of the A. & N. C. Railroad. We hope soon to be able to take a trip to the mountains and back, and travel all the way by steam, in the cars we man.

"ELECTOR DECLINED."

Gen. Green, Esq., of Newbern, an old line Whig, was recently appointed Sub-Elector by the Democratic District Convention, but he declined the appointment in a card published in one of the Newbern papers.

The above we clip from the Wilmington Herald, and as far as it goes, is perfectly correct; but should be explained in order to come at all the facts. Mr. Green was appointed sub-elect for this County by the late Democratic District Convention, and he did decline in a card published in this paper, but he says;—that the principles of the Democratic Party approach nearer to the principles on which this government is founded than those of either the Know Nothing or Republican parties; and he further states;—that he will co-operate with the Democratic Party should the Whigs decline running a candidate for the Presidency; or should they nominate an individual, who cannot possibly be elected. These are the whole facts.

The Herald therefore need not chuckle over the idea, that the "Old Line Whigs" are going to support Fillmore. They do not intend to follow him into the quagmires of sectionalism and proscription. No, indeed!

Friends sending in Communications will please be short. Recollect that "brevity is the soul of wit."

Shocking Mail Arrangements.

A friend from Onslow informed us lately that at we would get quite a number of subscribers in his County, could any means be thought of, whereby the Union would reach them before the paper was a fortnight old.—The same seems to be the cry in relation to Bay River in this County. North Carolina, (particularly in the East) has received very little attention from the General Government. The matter should be attended to, and mail facilities given commensurate with the times. This in a great measure has kept our State down.

That sterling Democratic paper the "Southern Sentinel," thus gives an account of the "fine effect" Gov. BRAGG produced at Tarboro:

R. R. BRIDGERS, Esq., who is a candidate for the Commons from Edgecombe just informed us by letter that Gov. Bragg succeeded in producing a fine effect on the meeting at Tarboro. This is pleasing intelligence, as the Democracy of Edgecombe, confident in their own strength, like all strong bodies, are somewhat disposed to be indifferent. We are glad to learn that Mr. Bridgers is likely to arouse the whole county into an active exhibition of its power on the day of trial. God speed the cause!

In the published proceedings of the Know Nothing District Convention lately held in Washington, we notice that our fellow citizen J. D. Whitford, Esq., was appointed one of the District Executive Committee. We were not aware that our worthy President of the A. & N. C. R. R. Co., was a Know Nothing before.

"Retribution." A TALE OF PASSION.

Complete in one large duodecimo volume, neatly bound in cloth for One Dollar and Twenty-five Cents; or in two volumes, paper cover, for One Dollar.

T. S. PETERSON, Publisher, No. 102 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, has in press a work from the pen of Mrs. E. D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH, with the above title, which will be ready for sale on Saturday, August 16th.

From the review of a critic "who has read the manuscript" we are led to believe it to be an excellent work of the kind. Mrs. Southworth stands in the front rank of novelists.

Local News.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER.—During last week, two men named respectively Wiggins and Gatlin, were returning from Big Swift Creek Bridge to their homes at Piney Neck, in that vicinity, when an altercation ensued, and of course a fight. During the scrimmage, Wiggins fell and was immediately mounted by Gatlin, who proceeded to inflict severe and dangerous wounds with some sharp instrument. Wiggins is badly injured and up to our latest information Gatlin is at large, altho' the officers are in pursuit of him.

HURD RANAWAY.—Last Saturday afternoon as Mr. Francis Hawks son of Dr. Hawks of New York, was returning from the railroad between this place and Kinston, where he is engaged at work as Assistant Engineer; his horse took fright at something in the road, and ran away with him, throwing him from the buggy in which he was riding, and fracturing his thigh very badly.

We regret this as Mr. H. is a very useful citizen, and this accident will render him unfit for active life for some time.

CONCERT.—Prof. Coburn and his amateur assistants, gave a Concert on the evening of the 21st inst., which we learn was not very well patronized, owing to the extreme heat. The musical part of the community should encourage the Professor and his aids, as their music is said to be very good.

We invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mr. W. Hamilton, in to-day's issue. Mr. H. has just commenced business for himself in the Watch Making line, and we have no hesitation in saying, that he will satisfactorily perform his engagements.

MR. COWLING has his Daguerrotypic Gallery open at his old stand on Craven Street, where he will be pleased to see his customers. Persons wishing their likenesses taken will do well to call soon, as he intends leaving next Wednesday. Mr. C. is represented to be one of the best artists in the State, by those who have tried him.

ETHIOPIAN MELODY.—Passing down Pollock street last Saturday, we were much struck with the enlivening influences produced even on a warm afternoon in that fashionable thoroughfare by musical sounds. As soon as our physical had conveyed to our mental vision the occasion, direction and cause of the music, we beheld as the result thereof, that a "colored gemmen" from Broad Creek was leaning with a nonchalant air against the railing in front of the Episcopal Church, and immediately opposite Mr. Carmer's Apothecary Shop, engaged in compelling tolerably fair impromptu harmony from one of Fairbairn's [as we suppose] cheap fiddles. There was quite a throng of folks prom- enading on the opposite side, who seemed struck with the ethyranic earnestness of this descendant of Ham. We learn that he created quite a sensation in that locality during a large portion of that afternoon.