



FOR THE REGISTER.

When a young author first determines to appear before a discerning public, a thousand varying emotions agitate his bosom; hope and fear alternately possess him. He resolves, he re-resolves, yet still remains inactive, until ashamed of his own indecision or impelled by a sense of duty, he hazards the event, and reluctantly commits his half-finished composition to the fluctuating wave of popular opinion.

Thus tremblingly do I enter the list, for I am 'all unused' to guide the author's pen; and humanity forbids my silence, & urges me to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves; but whose imploring silence addresses the feeling heart in a language which words can never equal; she tells me if I succeed in awakening compassion in but one bosom my labour will not be in vain; and if I fail I shall fail in a good cause. But why should I fail? The cause I advocate, is it not the cause of humanity? It depends not upon the exertions of an obscure individual; it is a common cause; it must prevail.

Is there a mother who, while she gazes with delight upon her smiling infant, kindles into rapture as in broken accents it first utters an indistinct articulation, that can refuse to pity her who, after days and weeks, and months, and even years, of painful expectation, beholds her child unable to utter a single sound save such an one as thrills her soul with agony; what can such a mother do? Can she whisper to her offspring words of consolation? Oh! no; the sound dies unperceived upon the ear; its lips are sealed, but the speaking eye tells what passes within; and while the bosom swells with anguish, intreats, 'oh help me mother!'

Is there a father, whose hopes, high resting upon the son of his youth, or the child of his old age, behold him ripening into manhood, promising to be the pride and prop of his declining years, who does not feel for the hapless father of the DEAF and DUMB? He, too, had his hopes, but alas!

'Like the dew on the mountain; 'Like the foam on the river; 'Like the bubble on the fountain; They are 'gone and forever!'

Is there one, 'who hath ears to hear,' who has never tasted the endearing charms of social converse, who never knew by sweet experience the thousand nameless sympathies of friendship?

'Where heart meets heart, reciprocally soft, 'Each other's pillow to repose divine.' If such there be? then there may be one, who does not feel for the deaf and dumb; for him, who in the midst of social blessings, finds himself a solitary exile, more an object of commiseration than the ship-wrecked mariner upon a desert isle; or the lonely prisoner of a dungeon's gloom; these may be cheered by hope, if not the hope of present peace, their's may be the hope of Heaven. But hope, that comes to thee, to me, to all; comes not to him, who has never heard of Jesus: 'for how can they believe on him of whom they have not heard?'

Let us exert ourselves that we may be the means of snatching them from ruin. They are left to our compassion, to prove our obedience to him who hath said—'inasmuch as ye did it not to the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me.'

This work will go on. Let us not permit another to take our crown from us.—The Lord loveth a cheerful giver and rewardeth the liberal soul with fat things, but they that withhold from the poor have reason to fear that this judgment fall upon their children, and their children's children, even as that of Naaman, the Syrian, fell upon Gehazi & his seed forever.

Remember, to say to the hungry and naked, depart, be ye warmed and be ye fed, is not an acceptable offering unto our God, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly, is well pleasing in his sight, for whosoever shall give but a drop of cold water to the least of these in the name of a disciple shall not fail of a disciple's reward.

THE STRANGER. Raleigh, Dec. 29, 1818.

FOR THE REGISTER.

CONVENTION OR NO CONVENTION.

That the Constitution of North-Carolina requires to be revised and corrected, must be manifest to all who have but a slight acquaintance with our political institution. It is defective in many parts and inapplicable to the present state of society. Setting aside minor considerations on this subject, it is radically defective in two important articles;—in the first place, it gives representation without the least regard to population, in the second, (and which probably grows out of the first) it gives too much representation.

Notwithstanding the high encomiums of wisdom and integrity applied to that enlightened body of men who framed our present Constitution, they were certainly guilty of an egregious oversight in giving an equal quantity of representation to the several counties of this state.

However this distribution might have suited the then state of society, it would be absurd to continue it longer.

Were it possible that those wise and honorable men who framed the present Constitution, could be raised up into convention again, at this day—some from amongst the living and others from the regions of the dead; how is it likely they would act on a subject of such vital importance to the state? Would they, in framing an instrument of this kind arrange it in such a manner as to give a decided ascendancy to the minority over the majority in the state government? Would they violate that strong principle which rests at the bottom of all our political institutions, viz. that representation should be apportioned to population?

In the first section of our bill of rights which is adopted as a part of the Constitution, it is said that "all political power shall be vested in and derived from the people only." Now I have an inclination to enquire what they could have meant here by the people? the solution is easy and I think conclusive. "All political power shall be vested in and derived from a majority of the free citizens of North-Carolina, and not from a minority as the present constitution would imply." Should it be denied that this minority prevails, I think it is easy to reduce it to demonstration.

There are sixty-two counties in this state, and for the sake of experiment we will select thirty-four of the smaller counties, which by the last census contained a population of 204,219—whilst the twenty-eight larger counties contained a population of 353,281, leaving an excess of population in favor of the larger counties of 149,062.

It has also been insinuated that the smaller counties pay more taxes than the larger. We will also try this position by a fair calculation. By the Comptroller's statement for the year 1815, the aforementioned thirty-four smaller counties paid a tax amounting to \$30,370 55, whereas the twenty-eight larger counties paid \$34,773 23, leaving a balance in favor of the larger counties of \$4,402 68. Here is light—here is demonstration, clear as noon day. Will any gentleman of correct principles commit himself so far then as to assert that each of these smaller counties is entitled to as much representation as each of the larger?

The result of the whole matter seems to be this; that in all our elections for Governor, Counsellors, Judges or Se-

nators to Congress, &c. we are under the control of this scant minority.

As to the stale objections which have been so often reiterated against touching the Constitution, as being a dangerous measure, they are all specious—they are all fallacious; for most of the original states have already revised their Constitutions by convention, and are now reaping the happy fruits of the amendments. And can it be possibly said the State of North-Carolina is so far gone in moral depravity, that it cannot be trusted with the management of its own public affairs? Moreover, is it reasonable to expect that those wise men who framed the present Constitution could penetrate so far into futurity as to make an instrument which should be perennial, which should suit the circumstances of society to all generations? This would be an hyperbole!

I would, in the next place, enquire whether the Constitution was made for the people or the people for the Constitution? If the latter, then are the people the slaves of the Constitution; they have by their delegated authority made an instrument which is calculated unalterably to bind themselves and their posterity to the latest period of time: but if the Constitution was made and adopted by the people and for their use, they certainly have a perfect right to alter and amend it until it arrive at the highest state of perfection as a standard of legislation.

We boast of a high privilege which we enjoy in this free and happy nation;—I mean the right of suffrage.—But how does this boasting sound when applied to the State of North-Carolina? It is true the larger counties enjoy the privilege of electing their members to the General Assembly; but their voice is not heard in our Legislature; they are overwhelmed by a torrent of Representation from the smaller counties which bears down every thing before it; so that our boasted right of suffrage amounts to a mere nullity.

And why all this torrent of representation unless some thing could be done worthy of ourselves and honorable to the State? Why call out a host of gentlemen from different parts of the State to prey on the vitals of a lean emaciated treasury, under the semblance of doing the public business, when one half the number would do it to better purpose, with more facility, more despatch and at half the expense?

We expend here at every session nearly thirty thousand dollars of the public money in erecting gates, bars and bridges, legitimising base-born children, &c. proper subjects for the jurisdiction of the county courts;—whilst the more important branches of Internal Improvement, Public Schools, &c. are left to languish under our eye. The high and dignified seats of our Judges have been frequently vacated thro' the parsimony of those who ought to have been pillars of the State. Our Judiciary has been in a languid imperfect state for many years back, whilst the wise and liberal of the community have been looking up with anxious solicitude to the helping hand of the Legislature to raise it out of the dust, and give it a tone which would calculate it for distributive justice. To the immortal credit of the present General Assembly, they have redeemed the pledge which reason and the fitness of things had been calling for, for twenty years back.

If the State of North-Carolina be so wretchedly poor that we cannot support government on a more dignified plan, let us retrench our representation by reducing the number of members and having a session only once in two years. This would produce a saving of nearly forty-five thousand dollars in every two years;—this in accompaniment with our other resources, would give a new spring to our finances and save us from the unpopular mode of raising a revenue by taxing the people.

These measures will require some amendments to the Constitution, but why should we hesitate, seeing sheer disgrace which is now staring us in the face, must inevitably overtake us, unless we have recourse to more energetic measures?

How this matter which relates to a convention for the amendment of the Constitution may terminate, I will not undertake to divine; but one assertion I will hazard with confidence, that the

subject involves a question of right which will never be suffered to slumber or sleep until some modification of the Constitution take place.

The people of the Western section of the State where the most of the larger counties lie, are a high-minded people. They are jealous of their rights, and their minds are at present highly agitated on this very subject.—They have no disposition to infringe on the rights of the smaller counties, but are inclined to make some concessions to them, provided this matter can be amicably settled. But as to their own essential rights, they are not to be put off. They are suitably aware that the physical power of the State rests with them, but they deprecate the necessity of calling it into action. This may suffice in defence of the principle contended for. As to myself, I claim some originality in this country. I had some agency in procuring its independence. Many an hour's sleep have I lost whilst I kept my nocturnal vigils watching over the destinies of this my beloved country. Were I an inhabitant of India, China or Japan, I might be induced to lower my claims to the rights of man, for want of a knowledge to place a proper estimate on the blessings I enjoy. But, when I see myself the inhabitant of a nation peculiarly favored by the best blessings of a beneficent Providence, who has spread the fair face of nature, with all its charms, before me for my accommodation, and feel myself under the influence of the most benign government ever devised by man; I cannot reconcile it to my feelings to surrender a single iota of that mighty boon which has been conferred on me by the God of Nature and Nations.

Senator of Lincoln.

FOR THE REGISTER.

CHEROKEE LETTER AND KING'S SPEECH. No. I.

Substance of a letter from the Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation, assembled in Council at Highwassee, November 21, 1818, to his Excellency Joseph M'Minn, Governor of the State of Tennessee, in reply to his letter concerning their lands and the removal of their Nation to the West of the Mississippi, &c. &c.

Your letter was to-day read in Council, and interpreted and explained to us. It interests us deeply, and we have considered it with profound attention. This is our answer. It comes from the center of our hearts, and though we may want smooth words, you will see in it the true sentiments of your red brothers.

Brother, we know that we are under the protection of the government of the United States, and we rejoice that we are. Our father the President and his Council are great, and good and generous, and wish to see their red children happy. We are bound to them by strong cords of love, and we shall always remember our obligations to them.

Brother, you say that you desire we should remain in friendship and permit those of our nation who wish to remove to the Arkansas to do so.—Brother, you are in the right. We think as you do. But why do you give us this advice? Has the conduct of any bad men made you think it necessary? The Cherokee nation is just & will do what it has promised. The Great Spirit sees us. But, brother, will he not frown upon us, if, as you propose, we compel our whole nation, against their will to leave the land where they were born, which contains the bones of their fathers, and go to a far distant place. Brother, we love our country. Let those remain here that choose to remain. We are not all hunters and wanderers. We are becoming farmers; and we love our homes.

Brother, you seem to think the Cherokees are bound to take reservations of 640 acres of land, or remove to the Arkansas. The treaty does not say so to our ears. Why did the treaty provide that a census of the nation should be taken on both sides of the Mississippi? Was it not that the nation should give up land on one side and gain it on the other, in proportion as they removed? We do not understand what you mean when you talk of taking private property for public

good. Our father the President does not mean to take from his children the inheritance of their fathers.

Brother, you speak of the census not having been taken, and say there are faults on both sides. What has been done? We know of no fault of ours; and we impute none to the U. States. Our father the President intends us nothing but good, and our confidence in him and in his government is unbounded.

Brother, we are changing our habits and modes of thinking, but this cannot be done at once. Your religion is good, but we cannot at once give up the opinions of our fathers. Had we been educated like you we should think as you do. Good white men are establishing schools in our nation. They are filled by our children who will think and act as our white brothers do. Even now the Cherokees are not savages. No.—We till the ground, our wives spin and weave, we have cattle and houses and furniture, and our children are learning the good things known by the white people.—But if you drive us into the wilderness beyond the Mississippi, the benevolent hopes of our father and his good people, that we shall become a refined, civilized and a religious people, will vanish.

Brother, we again say we cannot consent to leave our country as you desire; and we solicit you that the treaty may be observed and carried into full effect.

Brother, we wish to see you at the Agency the day after to-morrow. If you agree to this, cause the cannon to be fired, that we may know your intention.

Brother, may the Great Spirit watch over you and keep you in safety.

Signed by the Chiefs and attested by John Ross a member of the Committee of the National Council.

A TALK,

Delivered by Path-killer, the King of the Cherokee Nation, to his Excellency Governor M'Minn, at Highwassee, November 25, 1818.

Friend & Brother, We have received and considered your last proposition, together with all other communications which urge the Cherokee nation to surrender to the United States all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi. After a long, candid and deliberate consideration of all the points, & after having acquainted ourselves with the sentiments of the nation, we are again under the necessity of expressing our disagreement to your proposals. We repeat to your Excellency our anxious wish that you will assure our father the President of the United States, that in making up the opinion, we are only actuated by a desire to promote the best interests of the nation; that we now are, and trust we shall ever remain, the firm friends of our white brothers, the people of the United States, of whom, and of our father, the President, we implore mercy and protection.

JUST PUBLISHED GALE'S NORTH-CAROLINA ALMANAC, FOR THE YEAR 1819. And for sale, by the Gross, Dozen or single one.

STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA. Stokes County. Court of Equity—Fall Term, A. D. 1818. Joseph W. Winton, Plaintiff vs. William H. Winstanley, Defendant. It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that William H. Winstanley, the Defendant in the above case, does not reside within the limits of this State; it is therefore ordered, that publication be made in the Raleigh Register for six weeks successively, that unless the Defendant appears within the two first days of the next term, at the Courthouse in Germantown, commencing on the third Monday after the fourth Monday in March next, and either plead, answer or demur, the cause will be taken pro confesso at that term, and set down for hearing ex parte.

WAKE LAND FOR SALE. THE subscriber offers for sale the Tract of LAND on which he now lives, lying on Swift Creek, 9 miles South-west of Raleigh. It is believed, that for soil, beauty of situation, excellence of its Springs, Timbers and Great Range, it is surpassed by none in the County. There are considerable Improvements almost of every kind. Good Orchards of well selected Fruits, a Grind Mill, &c. Should any person apply, the land will be shown and the terms of sale made known, by Joseph Lane, sen. living near the land. JOSEPH LANE, Jun. August 10