

"Care for the plans of fair, delightful Peace, 'Unwar'd by party, to live like Brothers."

Proceedings of the friends of Convention, at a meeting held in Raleigh, December, 1822.

RALEIGH, Saturday, Dec. 21, 1822. In conformity to previous public notice, a meeting of the members of the General Assembly, who are friendly to calling a Convention, took place in the Senate Chamber this evening after candle light; when Robert Williamson, Esq. was called to the chair, and James Graham, Esq. was appointed Secretary. It was then moved that a committee of five persons be appointed to submit to the consideration of this meeting such measures as they may deem expedient, to ascertain whether it be the sense and desire of the freemen of North-Carolina to call a Convention; and the following gentlemen: Duncan Cameron, James Mebane, Charles Fisher, Robert Strange and James M'Kay, were nominated, & unanimously appointed a committee for that purpose. The meeting then adjourned until Thursday evening the 26th December.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The friends of Convention met according to adjournment, and the following Resolutions were submitted by the committee, and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, by the Constitution of this State, each county is entitled to elect to the General Assembly an equal number of representatives, without regard to the population of such county; and whereas, a very great inequality of population exists in many of the said counties, inasmuch that a minority of people inhabiting the greatest number of counties, elect a majority of the members of the General Assembly:

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, That the principle of representation in General Assembly, as fixed and established by the said constitution, whereby a majority of the free people of this State are subject, in all things, to the will of a minority of their fellow-citizens, is anti-republican, unjust, and oppressive, and ought, of right, to be so altered and amended, as to secure every freeman of this State an equality of privileges and influence in the government thereof.

And whereas it is required by the said Constitution, that there shall be annual meetings of the General Assembly, which experience has proven to be unnecessary for the public good, productive of great expense to the people, and calculated to prevent a wholesome system of legislation:

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, That the said Constitution ought to be so altered, that the General Assembly should meet once in two years only, unless special occurrences should render it otherwise necessary.

And whereas it is the undoubted right of a free people, at all times, to alter, amend, and reform their Constitution or form of government, whenever, in their opinion, it becomes necessary so to do, for the better security of their rights and privileges, and the promotion of their welfare:

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, That it is indispensably necessary to the security of equal rights and privileges, and to the promotion of the liberty and happiness of the people of this State, that a Convention, by their delegates, chosen on principles of equality, should be assembled, so to alter, reform and amend the Constitution of this State, as will more effectually attain the great and important objects for which civil government is instituted and intended.

And whereas the Constitution of this State contains no provision, by which the same may be altered, amended, or reformed; and whereas the General Assembly have, from time to time, refused to provide, by law or otherwise, any means for ascertaining the sense of the people of this State, as to the expediency of altering, amending, or reforming the said Constitution:

Resolved, as the opinion of this meeting, That it is expedient and necessary that some mode should be adopted, whereby the sense of the people may be fairly and distinctly ascertained as to the propriety of calling a Convention for the purposes herebefore mentioned: it is, therefore, hereby recommended to the freemen of the several counties in this State, who approve the same, at the next annual election, to elect delegates, to meet in the city of Raleigh on the second Monday of November next, then and there to devise some fit and proper plan for that purpose—and, further, to adopt such other measures as the said delegates may deem most advisable for the furtherance thereof.

Resolved, further, as the opinion of this meeting, That, in the election of delegates for the purpose aforesaid, each county should elect one delegate for every five thousand of federal numbers contained therein. But that each county shall have at least one representative.

Resolved, further, as the opinion of this meeting, That it is highly expedient, for the accomplishment of the great object contemplated by this meeting, that there should be a General Committee of

Correspondence, and a Committee of Correspondence in each county favorable to the said object.

Resolved, further, That the members of this meeting do hereby pledge themselves to use their best endeavors, by temperate and just means, to effect such alterations and amendments in the Constitution of this State, as shall secure to every citizen thereof, without regard to local situation, the enjoyment of equal rights and privileges, the inalienable birth right of every freeman.

After these resolutions were read, considered and adopted without a dissenting voice, it was then moved that a General Committee of Correspondence be appointed, and the following gentlemen, Duncan Cameron, James Mebane, Wm. Polk, sen. Bartlett Yancey, Charles Fisher, Emanuel Shober, Benj. Persons and Paul Barringer, were accordingly appointed to correspond with all persons throughout the State, who may feel friendly disposed to calling a Convention.

It was further moved, that a Committee of Correspondence in each county, not exceeding seven, be appointed upon the recommendation of the members of Assembly, from their respective counties, and the following gentlemen were appointed Corresponding County Committees in their several counties.

Anson.—Joseph Picket, Henry W. Harrington, Wm. Johnston, George Dunlap, Thomas Godfrey, John D. Moore and John Lee.

Ashe.—Col. George Bower, Thomas Calloway, Ambrose Parker, David Earnest, Wm. Edwards, Robert Sheave, Edward King.

Buncombe.—Samuel Chun, Samuel Davidson, Robert Henry, Philip Britton, Benjamin King, Garet Duce and Zephania Horton.

Burke.—Wm. W. Erwin, Isaac T. Avery, James Erwin, John W. Carson, Jno. Burgin, Andrew Baird and Wm. Dickson.

Cabarrus.—Joseph Young, Archibald Houston, Robert W. Smith, Sam'l Morrison, John Barringer, John Scott and John F. Phifer.

Chatham.—Rodrick Cotton, Edward Reeves, Aaron Lindley, Robert Palmer, Henry Moore, William Carter & Joseph Minter.

Cumberland.—John A. Cameron, John Smith, Neil M'Ray, Laughlin Bethune, Colin M'Ray, Josiah Evans and Robert Strange.

Caswell.—Bedford Brown, Wm. Nunly, Quinton Anderson, John P. Harrison, Romulus M. Sanders, William Warren and William A. Lee.

Davidson.—George Smith, Benjamin Rounsaville, John Monroe, Moses Welborn, David Mock, John Clemons & John Ward.

Granville.—Alexander Smith & Maurice Smith.

Gulfport.—John M. Moorhead, Daniel Clapp, James Nealey, George Swain, Nathan Mendenhall, William Ryan and Jos. Gibson.

Haywood.—Thomas Love, John Stevenson, William Dever, David Russell, John Moore, Joseph Chambers and Wm. Welch, sen.

Iredell.—William Falls, Jno. M. Young, George Lee Davids, Robert Worke, James Campbell, James H. Hall and Jas. Thompson.

Lincoln.—Lawson Henderson, Andrew Hoyle, Daniel M. Forney, John Heke, Alexander Corcle, Robert Johnston and John Wilfong.

Moore.—Arch'd M'Neill, David Kennedy, Cornelius Dowd, sen. John M'Leod, Malcom Shaw, Duncan Murchison and Murdock Martin.

Montgomery.—Edmund Deberry, John Culpepper, John Randle, George W. Davidson, John Crump, Thomas Hearn and William Mask.

Mecklenburg.—William Lee Davidson, Thomas G. Polk, Gay Maxwell, William Davidson, James Wilson, Thomas Lewis and Hugh J. M'Cain.

Orange.—Wiley Shaw, John J. Carrington, John M'Auley, William Holt, Andrew Hughs, Thomas Clancy and James Childs.

Rowan.—Francis Lock, Jesse A. Pearson, Henry Freeland, John Linn, Jas. Martin, John Giles and Alfred M'Kay.

Randolph.—Alex. Gray, Benj. Elliott, John B. Troy, Jacob Brower, Chas. Steed, Moses Swain and John Wood.

Rutherford.—John Moore, merchant, Joseph M. D. Carson, John M'Dowell, George Walton, Hugh Watson, Hugh Quin, jr. and Wm. Carson.

Rockingham.—Thomas Settle, Joseph M' Cain, John Bethel, Thomas Searsey, James Barnett, Robert Galloway, jr. and Theophilus Lacey.

Surry.—Thos. Wright, Obediah Martin, Meshack Franklin, W. P. Dobson, Solomon Graves, Nathaniel Bailes and Peter Clingman.

Stokes.—Andrew Bowman, Willis Pilkinton, John C. Blume, Michael Doub, Matthew R. Moore, John Evans and Aaron Coffin.

Wilkes.—Mountfort Stokes, James Welborn, Wm. Daveport, James Martin, Meredith Thurman, John Holloway and Lewis Carlton.

Wake.—John Hinton, Joseph Brasfield, Wm. A. Tharpe, John Martin, Matthew M'Callers, Ransom Hinton and Kimbrough Jones.

Resolved further, That one thousand copies of the foregoing proceedings be published in pamphlets for distribution, and also published in the Raleigh newspapers.

ROBT. WILLIAMSON, Ch'm. JAMES GRAHAM, S. C'y.

\* The Committees for Wake & Granville were not recommended by their Members.

ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT.

In obedience to the directions of the "Act supplementary to the act to establish the Treasury Department," the Secretary of the Treasury respectfully submits the following Report:—

1. Of the Public Revenue and Expenditure, of the years 1821 and 1822. The nett revenue which accrued from duties on imports and tonnage, during the year 1821, amounted to \$15,898,434 42

The actual receipts in the Treasury, during the year 1821, including the loan of \$5,000,000, amounted to \$19,573,703 72

Viz: Customs, \$13,004,447 15 Public lands, exclusive of Mississippi stock, 1,212,966 46

Arrears of internal duties and direct tax, dividend on stock in the Bank of the U. States, and other incidental receipts, 356,290 11

Loan authorised by act of the 3d March 1821, including a premium of \$264,703 70, gained on the same, 5,000,000 00

Making, with the balances in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1821, of \$1,198,461 21

An aggregate of \$20,772,164 93

The expenditures during the year 1821, amounted to \$19,090,572 69

Civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous, \$2,241,871 54

Military service, including fortifications, ordnance, Indian Department, Revolutionary & Military Pensions, arming the militia, and arrearages prior to the 1st of January, 1817, 5,162,364 47.

Naval service, including the gradual increase of the Navy, 3,319,243 06

Public debt, 8,367,093 62

Leaving a balance in the Treasury, on the 1st Jan. 1822, of \$1,681,592 24

The actual receipts in the Treasury, during the three first quarters of the year 1822, are estimated to have amounted to \$14,745,408 75

Viz: Customs, \$12,648,933 15

Public lands, exclusive of Mississippi stock, 1,298,484 56

Arrears of internal duties and direct tax, dividend on stock in the Bank, & other incidental receipts, 391,871 76

Balance of appropriations for the War & Navy Dep'tments, returned to the Treasury, and carried to the surplus fund, 405,119 28

The actual receipts into the Treasury, during the fourth quarter are estimated at 5,000,000 00

Making the total estimated receipts into the Treasury during the year 1822, \$19,745,408 75

And with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1822, forming an aggregate of \$21,427,000 99

The expenditures during the three first quarters of the year 1822, are estimated to have amounted to 12,278,653 32

Viz: Civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous, \$1,536,434 24

Military service, including fortifications, ordnance, Indian Department, Revolutionary and military pensions, arming the militia, and arrearages prior to 1st January, 1817, 4,930,210 68

Naval service, including the gradual increase of

the navy, 1,538,952 88 Public debt, 4,273,055 52

The expenditures during the fourth quarter, including the redemption of the \$2,000,000 of 6 per cent. stock of 1820, are estimated at \$6,000,000 00

Making the total estimated expenditure of the year 1822, \$18,278,653 32

And leaving in the Treasury, on the 1st January, 1823, an estimated balance of \$3,148,347 67

After deducting from this sum certain balances of appropriations, amounting to \$1,232,242 11, which are necessary to effect the objects for which they were severally made, or have been deducted from the estimates, for the service of the ensuing year, a balance of \$1,916,135 56, remains; which, with the receipts into the Treasury during the year 1823, constitutes the means for defraying the current service of that year.

2. Of the Public Debt. The funded debt which was contracted before the year 1812, and which was unredeemed on the 1st day of October, 1821, amounted to \$17,833,746 84

And that which was contracted subsequently to the 1st of January, 1812, and was unredeemed on the 1st of October, 1821, amounted to 75,852,458 18

Making the total amount of funded debt unredeemed on the 1st of October, 1821, 93,686,205 02

In the fourth quarter of that year there was issued Treasury Note six per cent. stock, to the amount of 390 40

Making an aggregate of 93,686,595 42

In the same quarter there was paid the sum of 262,738 75

Viz: Reimbursements of 6 per cent. deferred stock, \$257,180 60

Redemption of Louisiana stock, 3,558 15

Reducing the funded debt on the 1st January, 1822, to 93,423,856 67

From that day to the 1st of October last, there was issued three per cent. stock to the amount of 143 02

Making an aggregate of 93,423,999 69

During the same period there was paid the sum of 380,980 02

Viz: Reimbursements of 6 per cent. deferred stock, 300,980 03

Redemption of 6 per cent. stock of 1796, 80,000 00

Reducing the funded debt on the 1st October, 1822, to 93,043,019 67

It is estimated that, in the fourth quarter of the present year there will be paid 2,265,583 07

Viz: Reimbursement of six per cent. deferred stock, 365,588 07

Redemption of 6 per cent. stock of 1820, 2,000,000 00

Which will reduce the funded debt, unredeemed on the 1st of January, 1822, to 90,777,431 60

The amount of Treasury notes outstanding on the 1st of October, 1822, is estimated at 27,437 00

And the amount of Mississippi stock, unredeemed on that day at 26,755 94

3. Of the estimate of the Public Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1823. The gross amount of duties on imports and tonnage which accrued from the 1st January to the 30th September last, both days included, is estimated at \$19,500,000 00, and that of the whole year at \$23,000,000 00.

It is estimated that the amount of debentures, issued during the same period, exceeds the amount issued during the corresponding period of the year 1821, by \$86,000, and that the amount of debentures outstanding, on the 30th of September last, chargeable upon the revenue of 1823, is \$234,000, more than was on the same day in 1821 chargeable upon the revenue of 1822.

It is estimated the value of domestic articles exported from the U. States in the year ending on the 30th of September last, has amounted to \$49,874,079 00, and that foreign articles exported during the same period have amounted to \$22,356,202.

As the receipts from the customs in the year 1823 depends, 1st. upon the amount of duty which becomes due within that year, and 2d. upon the expenses of collection, and 3d. upon such portion of the amount of debentures chargeable in the first and second quarters of the year as are payable within the year; it is manifest that an increase in the amount of debentures chargeable upon the revenue of the year 1823, or a diminution of the importations of foreign merchandise during the two first quarters of that year, must necessarily diminish the receipts into the Treasury. As debentures can be issued at any time within twelve months after importation, chargeable upon bonds given for the duties upon such importation, it is impossible to foresee the amount which may be chargeable upon the bonds that are payable during the year 1823. The facts, however, which have been stated, justify the conclusion, that the amount of debentures which will be issued and charged upon the revenue of 1823, will considerably exceed the amount which was chargeable upon that of 1822.

From the same facts, it is also presumed that the importations of the two first quarters of the year 1823 will be less than the corresponding quarters of the present year.

Giving due weight to all the facts connected with the subject, the receipts for the year 1823 may be estimated at \$31,100,000 00

Customs, \$19,000,000 Public lands, 1,500,000 Bank Dividends, 350,000

Arrears of internal duties and direct tax, and incidental receipts, 150,000

To which is to be added the sum of 1,916,135 56

Remaining in the Treasury after satisfying the balances of appropriations chargeable upon the revenue of 1822, which makes the entire means of the year 1823 amount to 23,016,135 56

The expenditure of the year 1823 is estimated at 15,059,597 22

Viz: Civil, diplomatic, and miscellaneous, 1,599,317 35

Military service, including fortifications, ordnance, Indian department, revolutionary and military pensions, arming the militia, and arrearages prior to the 1st January, 1817, 5,134,292 73

Naval service, including the gradual increase of the Navy, 2,723,987 12

Public debt, 5,602,000 00

Which, being deducted from the above sum, will leave in the Treasury, on the 1st day of January, 1824, after satisfying the current demands of the year 1823, a sum estimated at \$7,956,538 34

Although the facts already disclosed justify the conclusion that the importations of the present year exceed the value of domestic articles exported during the year, yet there are no means of ascertaining the extent of that excess. If the custom-house documents were to be considered conclusive evidence upon this subject, it would be apparent that the nation has, through the whole period of its existence, imported more in value than it has exported. But the fact is incontestible that the U. States have enjoyed a more uninterrupted prosperity, and have increased their capital to a greater extent, than any of the nations with whom they have maintained commercial intercourse.

To show that the custom-house documents cannot be considered conclusive evidence in this case, it is proper to observe—1st. That the value of articles paying duties ad valorem, imported into the United States, is ascertained by adding to the invoice value 20 per cent. if from beyond the Cape of Good Hope, and 10 per cent from all other places; whilst the value of domestic articles exported is ascertained at the port of shipment without any such addition. 2d. The greatest portion of the importations and exportations are made in vessels of the U. States. 3d. The capital employed in the trade of the N. W. Coast and the Pacific Ocean, consists almost exclusively of the labor and enterprise of those engaged in it. Foreign articles, the proceeds of those enterprises, imported into the United States, are, therefore, only equivalent to the labor and enterprise by which they were procured. 4th. The value of domestic articles exported is more imperfectly ascertained than of foreign articles imported; because it has not been considered necessary to resort to the same sanctions to enforce a compliance with the regulations which have been prescribed for that purpose. To ascertain the relative value of imports and exports, it is necessary—1st. That the same additions should be made to the invoice value of the latter as are required by law to be made to the former. 2d. The freight of domestic articles exported in American vessels should be added to their value, after deducting from it the freight of foreign articles imported in foreign vessels. 3d. The value of foreign articles imported in vessels engaged in the trade of the Northwest Coast and Pacific Ocean, the proceeds of the labor and enterprise of those by whom they are navigated, should be added to the domestic exports.—4th. It is impossible to ascertain what addition should be made to the value of the domestic exports, on account of the omission of the exporters to state correctly the value of articles exported by them; but, after making a liberal allowance for foreign articles illicitly introduced, or inaccurately invoiced, it is believed that a considerable addition should be made.

If, then, to the amount of domestic articles exported during the year ending on the 30th of Sept. last, already estimated at \$49,874,079, the additions should be made which the preceding facts and considerations appear to authorize, the value of our domestic exports during that period may be estimated at nearly \$60,000,000.

Although no calculation has been completed, showing the average rate of duty upon the value of foreign articles imported into the U. States, it is presumed that an importation of \$60,000,000 of foreign merchandise will not produce a less revenue than \$17,000,000. As the receipts from the customs during the year 1823 have been estimated at \$19,000,000, it is probable that the receipts from the same source, in 1824, which will depend upon the importations of 1823, will not exceed \$15,000,000. Under the most