

RALEIGH REGISTER

AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful peace, unwarped by party rage, to live like brothers."

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Politics of the Day.

Election by the House.

One of the most common arguments urged by the friends of Mr. Van Buren, in favor of his claims to support, is, that to elect him is the only way of defeating an election by the House of Representatives; and the evils of such an Election are magnified and dwelt upon until many good people actually think that it would be better to take "Old Nick" himself, than trust the chances to the House. We invite the attention of such to the following extract from Mr. BELL's able Speech in Congress, that they may see to whom they are indebted for the rejection of an Amendment to the Constitution, the object of which was to deprive that body of any agency in deciding these contests:

There is another subject, Mr. Chairman, which I feel bound to avail myself of, on this occasion, to notice more particularly than I have yet done; it is another one of that series of pretences and impostures which I have so often alluded to: I refer now to the alleged mischief and danger of terminating an election of President by this House. No subject has been more artfully handled, and portrayed in more alarming colors in the South and Southwest, during the last fall and summer, by the partisans and adherents of the Vice-President, than this one: none, sir, has produced a more decided effect upon the public mind. It is well known that in those sections of the Union, especially, an election by the House of Representatives was made particularly odious by the representations and denunciations of the election by the House in 1825. It was one of the standing themes of every political declaimer during the last year. The evils of such a catastrophe as another election by the House have been a subject of constant regret and lamentation in the columns of every leading journal in the interest of Mr. Van Buren. I should not be far wrong if I should say two-thirds of all the honest and sober-minded planters and farmers in the whole South & Southwest, who are disposed to support the nomination of the Baltimore Convention, would assign as the reason of their course, if they were asked, their horror of an election by the House of Representatives, and their fears that, by supporting any other candidate, they will only contribute to bring about this result. Knowing the extent of this feeling, the partisans of Mr. Van Buren have in many districts rested his cause entirely upon this point. A French war was described as an infinitely less evil than an election by the House of Representatives. It has been, and is now, asserted by the zealous and interested advocates of the Vice-President throughout the country, that an election by the House would be carried by intrigue, bribery and corruption; and that the voice of the People will be unheeded in the contest. The Government journal printed in this city (the Globe) has of late uniformly represented an election by the House of Representatives as the greatest calamity which could befall the country. I propose now to unveil the course of the party in power upon this subject, and to expose their artifices and insincerity.

It is very well known to those who look beyond the surface, who pay only due regard to professions, and examine the real motives of human action, as they are exhibited in the course of the present self-styled republican party, that they advocate the propriety and necessity of adhering to the practice of nominating a President and Vice President by Caucus or Conventions, not for the purpose of preventing an election by the House of Representatives, but upon the ground that as they allege, in no other way can a party be kept together, or the power and patronage of the Government be secured to their own members or followers. This is the true motive, and this is the true secret of the extraordinary efforts and influences which have been made and brought to bear on the People, of late, in order to give popularity and permanence to the practice of such nominations. To avoid the evils of an election by the House, is the professed object of the party. That has been the great political bugbear which has been held up and paraded thro' the country to frighten the People into an acquiescence in the nomination of such a body as the late Baltimore Convention. The truth is, that without the benefit of

the terrors created by the frightful image of an election by the House, which has been so constantly kept before the eyes of the People, the nomination of the Baltimore Convention would have found no countenance. And this, sir, is the secret of the continued and marked neglect with which the repeated recommendation of the President, in relation to such an amendment of the Constitution as would hereafter prevent an election of President and Vice President by the House, and secure it to the People, has been treated by the party. The history of this proposition is remarkable, and highly instructive as well as curious.

It cannot be forgotten that, from 1825, till the commencement of the present Administration, this proposition was a favorite policy of the party which brought General Jackson into power. The whole subject was, during that period, ably and fully discussed both in Congress and in the public journals. When Gen. Jackson was elected by the people, no one doubted but one of the first acts which would distinguish the action of Congress would be, to recommend such an amendment to the States for their adoption.—Gen. Jackson, in his first message, urged the subject upon the attention of Congress in the strongest and most persuasive language. In his second, and in each succeeding message he has done the same thing. Regarding the discussion of the subject as having commenced in 1825, it is now upwards of ten years since it has been before the country in the most imposing form—in the annual messages of the President. The arguments and language of the message upon this subject are worthy of particular notice; and I must ask leave to refer to them. [Here Mr. Bell read several passages from the message of the President upon this subject, all of which went to show how important it was, in the opinion of the President, that such an amendment of the Constitution should be made.] Well, sir, what has been the result—the effect of these repeated and urgent recommendations? In the early part of the Administration, many earnest and well-meant efforts were made to get the House to take up and act upon this subject. Propositions in a variety of shapes were presented; and it has been a part of the regular forms of the House, at the beginning of every session, to appoint a select committee upon this subject; but, sir, the truth cannot be disguised or disputed, that those efforts were the efforts of individuals only; that the regular annual appointment of special committees has been a mere form; and at no time could the party be rallied in favor of the proposition. There was always somewhere, and from some motive, a power and an influence which thwarted the action of the House upon this question.

Soon after the opening of the last session of Congress, this subject began to excite increased interest, and certainly demanded prompt attention from those who seriously and honestly believed an election by the House of Representatives ought to be avoided. It was then, sir, that it became manifest, that the Jackson party would be divided upon the subject of his successor; and an honorable Senator from Tennessee was brought to the notice of the country as a candidate for the Presidency, and supported under such circumstances and upon principles which forbade the hope that his friends would surrender his pretensions to the man who it was foreseen would be the favorite of the contemplated Baltimore Convention. This was a conjuncture to test the principles of the party upon this subject. The danger of a division in the ranks of the party in power was manifest. That an election by the House would be a result of this state of things, could not certainly be foreseen; but all must have seen that such a result might take place. As early as the 10th of December, 1834, a select committee was appointed to consider of and report upon this subject. Special care was taken to appoint a clear majority upon the committee who were known to have avowed themselves favorable to an amendment of the Constitution, which would exclude the election from the House. The following gentlemen composed the committee: Messrs. Gilmer, Archer, Binny, Beardley, Gurnham, Johnson of Kentucky, Speight, Hubbard and Carr. Five of these gentlemen are the known supporters of Gen. Jackson, and of Mr. Van Buren as his successor; and all were understood, when the committee was appointed, to be in favor of the recommendation of the President, which it was their exclusive and special duty to consider and report upon. The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. Gilmer, of Georgia) though not a supporter of the Administration, was known to be a gentleman of great sincerity, talents, and energy; and he was also known to be a zealous advocate of the proposition submitted to the committee. I have a personal knowledge that unusual efforts were made by the Chairman of the committee, and by various other individuals, to prevail upon the committee to agree upon some report at an early day of the session, that it might be before the House and acted upon before the close of the

session. The friends of Judge White, especially, fearing the use which would be made against him of the argument that by dividing the party, the election might be brought into the House, exerted themselves in every fair and honorable way to procure a decision upon the question by Congress. Several of the members of this committee, who had always avowed themselves in favor of the measure, were privately appealed to; but all was vain.—The answer was, they could not agree upon the details of the measure—no two, it was said, could agree. Now, sir, every member of the least experience in legislation knows that, upon any important question whatever, involving details, two men can rarely be found to agree upon all of them. It is notorious, that no committee of this House would ever report upon any subject of importance, if a majority of its members were expected to unite upon all the details of it. All that can be expected in such cases is, that a majority shall agree upon the principle of the report. The House is always expected to alter the details according to the views of the majority. It was no adequate excuse to say they could not agree upon details. I will not be so unjust as to say that all the members of the committee who had before that time professed a desire to see the Constitution amended, in this respect, wilfully combined to prevent any action upon the subject last session. Of a committee of nine members, and six only of them being friendly to the principle of a measure, any two of the six were able to defeat any action upon the subject. A report from the committee, I feel warranted from the circumstances, in asserting, was defeated by the management of some portion of the members of it who were at the same time, avowed advocates of the expediency of such an amendment of the Constitution.

The farther history of this question is this: Mr. Gilmer the Chairman of the committee, failing in all his efforts to get the committee to make a report in any shape, came into the House on the 31st of January, and asked that the committee might be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, on the ground that they could come to no agreement thereupon; and on the same day, he was permitted to lay a resolution, containing a proposition for an amendment of the Constitution in relation to the election of President, upon the table. I well remember that, at first, one of the prominent members of the committee, and who was also a prominent member of the dominant party, refused to give his consent that Mr. Gilmer should even lay his resolution upon the table; but he became ashamed of his conduct and withdrew his opposition. Thus the subject was before the House; and it was at any time in the power of the majority to take it up and decide upon it. On the 13th of February, Mr. Gilmer, finding that it would not do to postpone the subject any longer, without losing sight of it altogether during the session, moved to suspend the Rules of the House, in order to proceed to the consideration of his resolution. Against this motion there were only fifty-six votes—and, of these, thirty-seven were the known supporters of Mr. Van Buren for the Presidency, or, in other words, of a nomination by a Convention; and fifteen of these thirty-seven were members of the New-York delegation. The resolution was that day taken up and read a second time, and postponed to the 19th of the month; but it was superseded by other business until the 25th of February, when Mr. Wilde, of Georgia, moved that all the orders of the day be postponed, for the purpose of considering this subject.—Upon this motion there were 112 yeas, and 92 nays; of the latter, 49 were supporters of Mr. Van Buren, and twenty-four of them members of the New-York delegation. The subject that day underwent considerable discussion, but the House came to no decision upon it. On the 27th of February, Mr. Gilmer again moved that his resolution be taken up and, on taking the question, the vote stood, yeas 99, nays 101; of the nays, 60 were for Mr. Van Buren, and 24 of them from New-York. On the same day, however, at a later hour, Mr. Gilmer's resolution came up in the regular order of business, a motion was made to dispose of it finally by laying it on the table. In favor of this motion there were only 38 votes; and 30 of them were the friends of Mr. Van Buren, and 13 of that number from New-York. After further debate upon the resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Vanderpoel, of New-York, that the House adjourn—evidently with a view to evade the question upon the resolution. Upon this motion the votes stood, yeas 59, nays 112; of the yeas 49 were for Mr. Van Buren, and 20 of them from New-York. The subject was further debated, but no decision was arrived at. Now, sir, upon a view of all these circumstances, can there remain the shadow of a doubt that this question was wilfully and designedly evaded at the last session by the very party which now profess to hold an election by the House in utter abhorrence? The neglect of Congress to act upon this subject, prior to the last session, might admit of some apology; there were so many exciting and important questions of another

kind continually arising to absorb the chief attention of Congress, and, besides, there had been no prospect of an election by the House until the commencement of last session. But there is no justification for the course of the party at the last session upon this subject. It is but too clear that the party in favor of Mr. Van Buren for the succession determined to have the full benefit of the fears which existed in the country of an election by the House, in compelling a submission to the decrees of the Baltimore Convention; else why was it, that not the slightest notice was taken, by that vigilant guardian of every thing that concerns the party (the Globe) of the question presented by Mr. Gilmer's resolution, when it was under discussion? Not one paragraph was penned, during the sitting of Congress, upon the importance of amending the Constitution so as to prevent an election of the President by the House of Representatives. Why were not the usual denunciations uttered through that organ, against those members of the party who voted in every instance, to prevent the consideration of, and to defeat altogether, the resolution of Mr. Gilmer? Sir, a large portion of the party upon that question showed that they were opposed to a measure which Gen. Jackson had earnestly urged upon Congress in every annual message since he came into office. Why were they not pointed out and denounced as anti-Jackson? There can be but one answer to this question: it was no offence for any one to oppose that proposition at the last session. That this question was designed to be blinked, was manifest to me, from the course of particular members—a course which I could account for upon no other ground. When Mr. Gilmer's resolution was under discussion, at one time there appeared to be a serious determination on the part of the House to carry it. My colleague (Mr. Polk) who is now the presiding officer of this House, and who cannot be charged with a disposition to thwart the views of those in power, made a speech, which was evidently intended to put an end to the further consideration of the subject at that session. He complained that the time was too short to give the subject that examination which its importance demanded. He thought he had, with the slight attention he had given the resolution, detected an error; and there might be many more. He dwelt emphatically upon the importance of not permitting the resolution to go from the House in an improper shape. "For then it would be gone forever!" When he concluded, a gentleman who sat by him rose to move that the resolution be laid on the table; but the Chair gave the floor to another member. Now, sir, further delay and further time to examine into the details of the resolution could only be had by dropping the question until another Congress. That was evident to all. But, Mr. Chairman, the party are not only answerable for the failure of the proposition at the last session, but they are responsible for its failure at the only time which has arisen within the last ten years, or which will probably arise within the next ten, when a fair prospect existed of succeeding in it. Such was the anxiety of the members of the opposition that this plea of the danger of an election by the House should be taken away from the party known to be in favor of Mr. Van Buren, in sustaining the contemplated nomination of that gentleman by a Convention at Baltimore, that many of them, who had always before that time been opposed to such an amendment of the Constitution as was proposed, were willing then to see it adopted. It will be found that more than fifty members of the opposition voted to sustain Mr. Gilmer's resolution; and there cannot be a doubt that, if the party in power had not deserted their own principles upon this occasion, the proposition would have been carried by the requisite majority. We have seen the same neglect, so far, at the present session. According to custom, we have a select committee upon the subject; but half the session is passed by, and we have no report from it. But I am free to say, sir, that I regard the course of the Committee, at this session, of but little consequence. If we were now to adopt a proposition for amending the Constitution in relation to the election of President and Vice President, it can hardly be calculated that the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States could be got to act upon the question, in time to operate upon the next Presidential election. There might have been some prospect of a favourable result, if the committee had reported at the beginning of the session; but it is now too late to hope for success to any such measure. There are too many interests still combined to defeat it.

THE PEOPLE MOVING: PASQUOTANK COUNTY.

Pursuant to previous notice, a large and respectable number of freemen of Pasquotank, convened at the Court House in Elizabeth City on the 30th ult. to take into consideration the expediency of sending delegates to a Convention, to be held in

Hertford, on the second Tuesday in June next, for the purpose of appointing an Elector on the White Ticket.

The meeting was organized by appointing JOHN POOL, Chairman, and GILBERT ELLIOTT, Secretary. John B. Muse explained the object of the Meeting, and then presented the following Preamble and Resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS the time is rapidly approaching, when the people will be called upon to make a selection for President and Vice President of the United States, it behooves all persons, who love their country better than their party and the full enjoyment of liberty, of speech, of conscience and of suffrage, better than the smiles of power to pass fully, freely and impartially the merits of those persons whose names may be offered to them.

The names which have been presented to the people of North Carolina, are, MARTIN VAN BUREN and HUGH L. WHITE. Mr. Van Buren has been nominated by a Convention of irresponsible persons, assembled at Baltimore, many of whom took their seats without any authority from the people, and upon the mere invitation of some of the party leaders for the mere purpose of palming a candidate upon the American People. A most dangerous precedent for the rights of the people, for it enables the President, for the time being, to nominate his successor, and if he thinks proper, to insure his success, by bringing the whole patronage of the Government to bear upon the election. It is in the memory of most of us that in 1824, when in compliance with the practices of the Republican party at that period, Mr. Crawford was recommended by the representatives of the people duly elected, the State of North Carolina, and this County in particular, successfully resisted the dictation of an improper interference with their rights. It is left to the candour of the people to judge with what consistency after that vote, they can now support a candidate thus recommended—so much more exceptional both in manner and form. In addition to this, it can be shown from documents that Mr. Van Buren from his conduct and known principles, (so far as he has permitted them to be known), has no claim upon the support of the South. He is the leader of a party whose known and acknowledged principles is, "that to the victors belong the spoils of office;" or, in other words, that no person however capable or honest, shall be appointed to office, except he belong to the party." One of the cardinal principles of the present Chief Magistrate on his coming into power, as set forth in his inaugural address, was, "that the patronage of the government should not be brought into conflict with the freedom of elections." Since he has insinuated himself into the confidence of the President, all Mr. Van Buren's principles and practices have evinced a most decided hostility to the republican doctrine; and the history of the times shew, that all the patronage of the Government has been used to advance his political promotion. Upon charges of the most slight and frivolous persons have been removed from office, without a hearing, and others appointed in their places, whose only recommendation was, that they have shown the most entire devotion to his favourite.

In 1812 when this country was engaged in a war with Great Britain, and when it was so necessary to unite her people and to concentrate all her energies and resources and when his opponent, (Judge White) was fighting the enemies of his country in the tented field, Mr. Van Buren was intriguing at Albany to defeat the election of President Madison, by supporting De Witt Clinton, the then Federal candidate for the Presidency.

Mr. Van Buren also, while in the Legislature of New York, voted to instruct Mr. Rufus King, then a Senator in Congress from that State, to oppose the admission of Missouri, or any other Territory into the Union, without making the prohibition of Slavery, an indispensable condition to admission; thus evincing a most decided hostility to Southern interests, and he has farther, in a letter recently addressed to several citizens of our own State, re-organized the right of Congress to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia—a measure which, if persisted in and successful, must be dangerous to the Union, and to our domestic institutions—therefore for these and other reasons—

Resolved, That we will oppose Mr. Van Buren's election, and do recommend to our fellow citizens the Hon. HUGH L. WHITE, of Tennessee, an able patriot, integrity and republicanism we have the fullest confidence—and whose opinions on all the important questions now agitating the country are in accordance with those entertained at the South.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the talents, purity and republicanism of the Hon. JOHN TYLER, of Virginia, and will use all honorable means to secure his election as Vice President of the United States.

Resolved, That we approve of the nomination of Gen. EDWARD B. DUDLEY, of New Hanover, as candidate for Governor, who has ever been a firm, staunch and consistent Republican, and who has always preferred the interests of his country to that of party.

Resolved, That ten persons be appointed by the Chairman as Delegates to meet in Convention at Hertford, on the second Tuesday in June next, for the purpose of appointing an Elector on the White Ticket.

In pursuance of the foregoing resolutions the following persons were appointed Delegates to the Convention. John M. Skinner, Edmund Blount, John B. Muse, Joseph H. P., John Pool, Doctrine R. Perry, Job Carver, John Weeks, Dr. Thomas P. Hinton, Wm. S. Hinton.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Herald of the Times, and that the Editors of the Raleigh Register and Star be requested to publish the same.

CRAVEN COUNTY.

Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of the town and county opposed to Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson was held at the Court-House in Newbern, on Friday, the 13th inst. The meeting was organized by calling the Hon. John H. Bryan to the Chair, and appointing M. A. Outten, Secretary.

After a suitable Address from the Chair, It was Resolved, That a Committee of four be appointed, to confer with delegates from the other counties of the district, for the purpose of selecting and nominating a suitable person for an Elector of President and Vice President.

The following gentlemen were accordingly appointed—

William S. Blackledge, M. E. Manly, John L. Pasteur and Samuel Hyman.

Resolved, That the meeting recommend to their fellow-citizens Blount Coleman, Esq. of Lenoir county, as a suitable person to represent this Electoral District on the White Ticket.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to communicate with gentlemen throughout the county, for the purpose of ascertaining the will of the people preparatory to the nomination of candidates for the General Assembly.

John T. Lane, John Brinson, Alderson Ellison, Church Chapman, J. L. Pasteur, M. C. Boy, Wm. M. Herriage, Wiley M. Nelson and Samuel Hyman, compose the committee.

Resolved, That this meeting approves the nomination of Gen. Dudley as a candidate for the office of Governor of the State, and will assist in promoting his election.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Newbern Spectator.

JOHN H. BRYAN, Ch'rs.
M. A. OUTTEN, Sec'y.

\$30,000 WORTH OF STAPLE & FANCY DRY GOODS, AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

THE SUBSCRIBER has just returned from New-York, with his
SPRING AND SUMMER SUPPLY
OF STAPLE AND FANCY
DRY GOODS,

Embracing for the season, all that is either fashionable, tasty or elegant, both for Gentlemen and Ladies Summer Apparel; and which taken altogether, is by far the most splendid and extensive assortment he has ever offered in this City. These Goods having been purchased in such large quantities, and on such advantageous terms, will enable the undersigned to dispose of them invariably at the lowest cash prices. Purchasers are therefore respectfully invited to call and examine the assortment.

D. B. SMITH.
Raleigh, May 24th, 1836. 28-6w

Cloths, Cassimeres, &c.

50 Pieces Broad Cloths and Cassimeres, of every style & quality, comprising many new and fashionable shades.

ALSO
BEAUTIFUL FRENCH BOMBAZINE, CASHMERE, CASHMERE, CRAPE CAMELETS, ANDALUSIANS AND MUNICIPAL CORDS,

Together with every variety of PLAIN AND PLAITED STUFFS, for Gentlemen's Summer wear. Just received and for sale by

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Also, a superb lot of plain and quilted
Mosses Vesting.

Raleigh, May 24th, 1836. 28-6w

Splendid French Muslins AND PRINTED CAMBRICKS, Of new designs.

40 pieces of beautiful French painted Muslins, of entirely new designs.
25 pieces 4 line French printed Cambricks, a new article for this market, and Goods, as well for elegance and durability, of the very first order.
300 pieces of Gingham, Calicoes and Chintzes, embracing many new and beautiful styles.
Splendid Belt and Bonnet Ribands,
Thread Laces, Edgings and Insertions,
Gold Bead Bags, of new style.
Just received from New-York, and for sale by

B. B. SMITH.
Raleigh, May 24th, 1836. 28-6w

RICH FIGURED SATINS AND SILKS.

50 pieces of rich figured Satins and Silks, of every shade,
20 pieces ditto plain ditto,
10 pieces Gros de Rhine, Gros de Paris, and Mutton Black Silks, of the richest lustre,
Beautiful Satin Luxors, and Hyder Ally Silks,
10 dozen Super elegant Gauze and Hernian Handkerchiefs.
Splendid French worked Muslin Capes and Collars, just at hand from New-York, and for sale by

B. B. SMITH.
Raleigh, May 24th, 1836. 28-6w

READY MADE CLOTHING.

A handsome lot of Ready-made Clothing comprising fine Broad Cloth Frock and Dress Coats, Pantalons and Vests. Also, Summer Clothing of every description, including Collars, Bosoms & Stocks of extra quality, just received from New-York, and for sale by

B. B. SMITH.
Raleigh, May 24th, 1836. 28-6w

HATS AND SHOES.

10 Boxes of William Rankin's celebrated Hats of every description, and
10 Trunks of fine Shoes comprising an elegant assortment, just at hand from New-York, and for sale by

B. B. SMITH.
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TO CABINET MAKERS.

A JOURNEYMAN Cabinet Maker of industrious habits and good character, may meet with a permanent situation, on application to

WILLIAM THOMPSON.
Raleigh, May 20, 1836. 28

N. B. An APPRENTICE to the above business will also be taken, if early application be made. It is necessary that the youth should be at least 15 years of age.

W. T.