

# THE RUBICON.

"OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PRINCIPLES."

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We have been requested to insert the article which follows; it is extracted from the proceedings of a political meeting held in King and Queen county, Virginia.

Nothing more propitious to sound Republican doctrine could have occurred at this most interesting juncture, than the nomination by the Federal party of William Henry Harrison, formerly a Major General in the United States Army, for the office of President, and John Tyler, formerly a Captain in the Militia, for Vice President; inasmuch as the nomination brings at once before the people of the U. S. the real issue to be decided by them at the next Presidential election, to wit: whether the principles of Jefferson or of Adams, are henceforth to prevail in the administration of the Government; this is the question which no sophistry can conceal and no patriotism can blink.

The first great battle fought in this country after the formation of our government, was that which terminated in the election of Mr. Jefferson, the Republican candidate, and the exclusion of Mr. Adams, the Federal candidate. The second great war of principle, was that which led to the election of Gen. Jackson, the Republican candidate, and the signal defeat of John Q. Adams, the Federal candidate; and the war now waged, (to the knife, says Mr. Leigh, in the hit, says your Committee,) is that between Martin Van Buren, the warm supporter of Jefferson and Jackson, the Republican candidate, on the one side, and Wm. Henry Harrison, the supporter of the two Adamses, the Federal candidate, on the other side.

Your committee is not surprised, that those whose hopes of preferment hang on the ascendancy of the Whig party, and those whose Federal principles are most likely to be carried out by that party, should support the nominees of the Harrisburg Convention; but how any real opponent of a National Bank, or a Protective Tariff, or a system of Internal Improvement by the General Government, or the interference with slavery in any way by the American Congress, could be ejected into the advocacy of that nomination, your committee is unable to imagine, unless indeed, as Sir Wm. Temple says, "these easily follow and are caught, while others lay trains, and pursue a game wherein they design no other share, than of toil and danger to their company, but the gain and the quarry wholly to themselves."

If the principles of Jefferson, after forty years experience, are found inadequate to the uses of the people, then should they be supplanted by others more consonant with free government; and if the people of the U. S. are disposed to repudiate the doctrines of '98-'99, and to adopt the views and opinions of Adams and of Hamilton, they have an undisputed right to do so. If they wish for a National Bank, if they desire a Protective Tariff, if they are in favor of a system of Internal Improvement by the General Government, then most surely should they advocate the election of some man favorable to their views and wishes, and this committee doubt not, that such a man is William Henry Harrison of Ohio.—But nothing more disingenuous can be conceived, than the effort now making to poison the public mind against the man of the People's choice, and to foist on their confidence a man who, but four years since, was by many of these now clamorous Whigs, protested against as even too Federal for their strict digestions.

Your committee can but regard the existing state of things as a most forcible illustration of the remark of Sir Wm. Jones, that "party is based on principle, and faction is formed on self-interest"—and with a view to show that the Democratic Republican party which achieved the election of Mr. Van Buren, and now seeks his reelection, is based on principle, your committee will lay before the people facts and circumstances connected with the history of the Democratic Republican party, and with the life of Mr. Van Buren, which it now

becomes every lover of his country to be familiar with.

Mr. Van Buren was born in New York, on the 5th of December, 1782. In 1799, when a student of law in the office of Judge Wm. P. Van Ness, who was a high-toned Federalist, Mr. Van Buren, then but 17 years of age, took an active and efficient part in the support of Mr. Jefferson's election; and, at 19 years old, Mr. Van Buren was looked on as the daring advocate of the people's cause—making war on Federalism in the teeth of wealth and power, and formidable family alliances; and he was, at that tender age, selected by the people as their representative in a Republican Convention. In 1804, when first an Elector, Mr. Van Buren supported Morgan Lewis as Governor of New York, in opposition to Aaron Burr, on the avowed ground that Mr. Burr had been the candidate of the party opposed to Mr. Jefferson, and to the Democracy of the State. In 1807, Mr. Van Buren is found leading the Republican party in behalf of Governor Tompkins, and in 1808, when the Democratic party was in power, Mr. Van Buren was appointed Surrogate of the county. In 1809, when 27 years old, Mr. Van Buren stood at the head of the Democratic Republican party in Hudson, where he then resided. In 1811, in connection with George Clinton and other distinguished members of his party, Mr. Van Buren strenuously opposed the re-charter of the United States Bank, and in the following year, with Roman fortitude, he sustained Governor Tompkins in that bold and patriotic measure of proroguing the Legislature to prevent the metamorphosis of the Bank (of which we have now a striking parallel in the U. S. Bank of Pennsylvania). In 1813, the Federalists, with Mr. Clinton, supported the opposition candidate, and at that time a separation took place between Mr. Van Buren and Mr. Clinton, which, as to all political matters, lasted forever after. The Federalists then gaining the control in the Assembly, Mr. Van Buren, who had been well and warmly received by the Federalists, was removed from office. In 1814, the Republicans acquired the ascendancy in both branches of the Legislature, and in September, the Legislature, was by the Executive, convened to deliberate on the alarming crisis—and it was then that Mr. Van Buren, filled with ardent patriotism, and fully sustained by the people, urged the most energetic measures for the prosecution of the war, and while he was the champion of their dearest interests, he became the faithful recipient of their warmest confidence.—He was at that time appointed Attorney General for the State. In 1817, when De Witt Clinton was nominated for Governor of New York, Mr. Van Buren opposed his nomination, and the small satisfaction which his administration gave to the party that elected him, proves the wisdom of Mr. Van Buren's opposition.—The effect, however, as he well knew, of his opposition, was his removal from office; but office had no charms for him, if to be purchased or retained by the sacrifice of principle. In 1820, the opponents of Mr. Clinton, though they failed to prevent his re-election, yet they carried both branches of the Legislature, and thereupon a restoration to office was tendered to Mr. Van Buren, who respectfully declined to accept it.

In 1821, Mr. Van Buren was elected to the Senate of the U. S., and then and there his talents and his learning, and his devotion to the great democratic principles of our Government began to draw on him the notice and admiration of the people of the U. S.—At this juncture Mr. Van Buren foresaw from the neutral course of Mr. Monroe's Administration, the effacement of the outlines of Republican doctrine, and one of his first efforts was to revive the distinctive principles of the party in which he had been bred. All must now deplore that his efforts were not more successful; for, to that fatal neutrality must be ascribed all the party confusion which has since occurred.

When in 1824 Mr. Van Buren had given his unabating and disinterested support to Wm. H. Crawford; and when by management or mismanagement a President had been chosen for the people, (a President they never wanted,) yet as the election had been made according to the forms of the Constitution, Mr. Van Buren like a good citizen, uninfluenced as many of our modern patriots are, by man-hatred, avowed his determination to give Mr. Adams' administration a fair trial, and to judge it by its measures; but soon forced to resist the Federal doctrines and measures of that Administration, he brought on himself the combined hostility and united attack of the whole cabinet.

In 1827 Mr. Van Buren was re-elected to the Senate; in the course of this year, he delivered at Albany a public speech, in which he fully exposed his views of, and opposition to a protective Tariff; and was in consequence thereof, instructed to vote for the Tariff of 1828, which he did against

the convictions of his own judgment, but in obedience to the hallowed principle of instruction which some modern heretics have endeavored to immolate.

Yielding to the pressing demands of the Republican party, Mr. Van Buren was elected Governor of New York.

In 1829, he was appointed Secretary of State, which important office he filled with great credit to himself and advantage to the country, till June 1831; when, under feelings which shewed the elevation of his morality and the purity of his patriotism, he retired from that high trust, preferring the good of his country to his own aggrandizement. "When the mists of prejudice which hang over the pages of modern history, shall have been cleared away, this act will stand out in the lustre of personal magnanimity and public virtue." In 1831, Mr. Van Buren landed in England, as Minister to the Court of St. James; but that undying hatred which the Federal party have ever entertained for him from his boyhood, and that unholy alliance, which for a season prevailed in the Senate, combined to produce the rejection of his nomination on the 26th day of January, 1832—and from that moment, the people of the United States regarded Mr. Van Buren as the man who had been bruised in their service—who had been proscribed for his Republican opinions, and persecuted by the malignity of designing ambition; and with an enthusiasm, as unlimited as generous in itself, the people of the United States, in spite of the politicians, elected him President. And your Committee boldly affirms, that no people ever had better cause to be proud of their choice; for like Washington, forgetting all geographic lines; like Jefferson, adhering to the strict letter and true meaning of the Constitution; and, like Jackson, staking the success of his Administration on those measures which he considered of vital importance to his country, confiding in the virtue and intelligence of the people as the guaranty of his protection, he smiled at the drawn dagger of defamation, and defied its point.

Your committee will not stop to defend the doctrines of '98-'99, which brought the Republican party into power; and which the Republican party brought into practice.—It is confidently affirmed that Martin Van Buren, throughout his whole life, has been a warm and steady and unflinching advocate of those doctrines; and the Democratic Republican party, formed on principle, is only seeking to carry out its principles by re-electing Mr. Van Buren, who has fully sustained the dignity of the Presidential office. And now your committee will proceed to show that the faction which promised to war to the knife for the Harrisburg nomination, is formed on interest, and fighting for power.—To save time, your committee will not go behind the Harrisburg Convention. There Gen. Harrison was selected as the AVAILABLE candidate.—On these grounds:

1. As a non-slaveholder, who had avowed his great anxiety to see the surplus revenue of the U. S. applied to the colonization of the free blacks, and the purchase and emancipation of the slaves, with the consent of the States holding the slaves.

2. As the man who had first planted the anti-Masonic standard.

3. As the man who would not modify the Tariff until grass had overgrown the streets of the Southern seaports, or words to that effect.

4. As the supporter of the two Adamses and their Federal Administrations.

5. As the friend of Internal Improvement by the General Government.

6. As the advocate of the U. S. Bank as a fiscal agent, and adversary of the Independent Treasury.

If these were the only grounds on which General William Henry Harrison was nominated, your committee would agree that the nominators were influenced by the honest feelings, and exploded principles of the old Federalists; but when he is recommended on these grounds by those who travelled North and East and West from Harrisburg, and by those who travel South from Harrisburg, as a good Jeffersonian Democrat and a warm opponent of Abolitionism; and when your committee forces itself to the perusal of Gen. Harrison's letter to Harmer Denny, (which is but a literal transcript of Mr. Pelham's address to the voters of Buysell,) nothing can surpass the indignation of your committee at the daring and glaring attempt to impose on the people of the U. S. as a fit and proper man for President one, who is not only wanting in talents and information and business habits, but is worse than all, an ingrained Federalist, who has not the manly firmness to maintain his principles.

Your committee will forebear to enlarge on the Federal character of Gen. Harrison, which is so well known; but cannot fail to notice the use that was made of him at the last election. The cunning politicians who then moved heaven and earth to defeat Mr.

Van Buren's election, hung on two hooks—the one baited with Bank, Tariff, Internal Improvement and Non-Slaveholder—the other hook baited with State Rights, Senatorial Independence and anti-Jacksonism; but the two sets of bait floated so near each other as to prevent the biting at either.

One other consideration is believed to have influenced the nomination of Gen. Harrison—it was the expectation that Gov. Troup would be voted for in the South, and thereby an election by the people be defeated. But this speculation rested on the erroneous impression, that the people of the South hated Mr. Van Buren, more than they loved their country, in which, the anti-Masons, Abolitionists, and disappointed and rejected politicians will find themselves egregiously mistaken; for, though the warwhoop of faction may for a moment startle the unguarded, and alarm the timid, and confound those who are not imbued with sound Republican principles, it will pass by the great body of the American people as the idle wind which they regard not. What is the supposed principle which binds this faction together? Is the strict adherence to the American system the bond of union? or is it the principle of free trade and sailor's rights? What common object have the Factionist in view? Do they design to fight for or against the Abolition doctrines of the North? Do they intend to oppose or defend a Protective Tariff?—Do they stand pledged for a strict or a liberal construction of the Federal compact? or is it merely to get the little Duchman out of their way? Your committee will refer all these questions to the great arbiters, Time, who will give a true answer to all and each of them, but in the interim, the People will think for themselves.

The nomination of Vice President, it seems, was pressed on Benjamin W. Leigh then offered to Jas. Barbour, and by a sort of tacit consent, thrown on a gentleman who is said "to dance on the rainbow and call the comet his brother"—a gentleman who, when running against Littleton Waller Fawcwell for the Senate, was with prophetic accuracy compared to a little pine canoe, sharp at both ends, ready to go either way, whose penchant for the Senate, as the history of the country shows, made him willing to be elected by any party.

Your committee has to deplore, that inconsistency, however glaring, no duplicity, however contemptible, and no hypocrisy, however damning, will stand in the way of party combinations, and no sense of decorum or regard for moral worth will stay the torrents of abuse that the incongruous mass of heterogeneous politicians is wont to lavish on the Administration of Mr. Van Buren and the people who elected and still sustain him. There is one pleading voice under all difficulties; it is, that the allies dare not! no they dare not! make a war against the doctrine of '98-'99, which the people too well understand, but they are forced to levy dinner contributions to disseminate the poison concocted at Harrisburg. (A celebrated writer on poisons has said, that the best way to avoid the effect of poison is not to take it—Would not the people act wisely to improve this advice?) If any thing will open their eyes to the masked batteries from which their principles are assailed, it is the fact that, the great father (for the present benefit of the little godfather,) of the American system is now catering in the Old Dominion, for a man, who, but a few years since, was considered by him incompetent to the duties of Minister to Columbia—a man, who is loudly recommended as President of the U. S., because he has never stolen the public treasure, through this said gentleman is said to have remained at home 126 days, drawing a salary of \$24 65 per day, amounting to \$3,104 90, as Minister to Columbia: A gentleman, whose name was stricken out of a resolution of the Senate of the U. S. voting honors to the officers of the late war: A gentleman, whose vote stands recorded for selling a free man into slavery for fines and costs.

If any thing can open the eyes of the people to the crafty machinations of the politicians, who undertake to know better than the people themselves, on what principles the Government should be administered, it is the fact that your stages and steamboats, and railroads, and houses of pleasure, and fashionable resorts, and your commercial cities, are all crowded with clamorous, vituperating politicians, whose dislike of each other is only exceeded by their hatred of the man of the people's choice; while the honest, home-staying, unambitious, hard-working people of the country, who enjoy peace and plenty, and the benign influence of free government, are found at the polls—ever ready to sustain those Democratic principles, which, except in the dark days of the Adamses have illustrated our history.

We have serious thoughts of joining the Florida army.—Southern Gazette. As a man or a dog?—Louisville Jour.

The Western Carolinian gives the following account of "a meeting of the Republicans of Rowan and Davie," held in Salisbury on the 6th inst.

It was one of the most numerous and respectable meetings of the people which we have ever witnessed—an assemblage emphatically of the people, not composed of such materials as the "Harrisburg Convention,"—lawyers, doctors, and abolitionists, but plain and substantial farmers of the country, the old republicans of the land. Although but a few days previous notice was given, the number from the country was very large. It was a cheering sight to the friends of republican principles, an evidence that the spirit of liberty is abroad in the land.—There are seasons when darkness and gloom seem to hang over the country, when the vigilance of the friends of equal rights is relaxed, and the enemies of republican principles raise their voices in short-lived triumph; but whenever the people rise in their might, then are we satisfied that liberty is safe, and then are the shouts of federal exultation changed to the wail of defeat.

Never have we seen such evidences of awakened and intense interest, as are now manifested by the people in the good cause; and well may it be so.—The Abolitionists, those hateful and deadly foes of the South, leagued with the old Federal party, the unchanged and unwavering enemies of popular rights, are straining every nerve and leaving no means untried to accomplish their destructive schemes. From this league of fanatical mad-men, of Tariffites and Hartford Conventionists, who would make us "brewers of wood and drawers of water," to minister to their bloated pride and luxury, what can republicans, and more especially, what can Southern republicans expect but opposition at every point?—Their success would strike a death blow at the Union, and give a fatal stab to our Government.

The resolutions adopted by the meeting are strong and expressive.—We are in the very crisis of a revolution, in the midst of a contention, not for party or men, but principle;—a struggle for equal rights, and let every man who values his rights and holds them to be worth an effort, be up and doing. The strife is between liberty and monied madness, between the old Abolition fanaticism, the Republic is in danger, and to the people it belongs to see that it receives no hurt. If they are awake and aware of the peril, all will be safe—there is only danger in false security.

The Republicans of this district, have a heavy responsibility resting upon them. Let them see that it is discharged.—Their opponents are moving every thing; they will depend mainly on their usual arts to carry them through.—Their whole object is to deceive the people as to the true issue. We have only to stand fast on principle, and this alone, and triumph will again be with the republican cause.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.—A gentleman from Georgia, who was plaintiff in an execution against one of our citizens for about six thousand dollars, purchased his negroes at Sheriff's Sale at our Court House door on Monday last, and although his own debt was barely satisfied, he having to pay a large amount on older executions, to enable him to get a clear title to the negroes, seeing that the defendant was entirely sold out, with an interesting family of four boys, yet in their infancy, made a bona fide transfer of five of the negroes to the sons of the defendant. Such disinterested generosity in times like the present, stands like a green spot in the extensive desert of self-interest. The gentleman left off the next day before the facts became known, or poor as we are, we would have contributed to the purchase of a gold medal, to be presented to him. That man will go home conscious of having done a good action, and will have the blessings of hundreds showered upon his head. He has emphatically laid up treasures in heaven.—Yazoo Banner.

GRATITUDE AND PATRIOTISM.—A very poor and aged man, buried in planting and grafting apple trees, was rudely interrupted by this interrogation: "Why do you plant trees? You cannot hope to eat the fruit of them?" He raised himself up and leaning on his spade, replied, "Some one planted trees for me before I was born, and I have eaten the fruit; I now plant for others, that the memorial of my gratitude may live when I am dead and gone."

FRIENDSHIP.—The water that flows from a spring does not congeal in the winter; and those sentiments of friendship which flow from the heart, cannot be frozen by adversity.

"Hollo, Sam! what you d'ra dar?"—"Fishin'."—"Well, wat dat you got in yo' mouf?"—"Noth'g' but some wum's fat bait!"