THE WILMINGTON POST.

W. P. CANADAY,
Editor and Proprietor.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 1875.

Jeff. Davis in the Senate and B. D. Hill in the House are as pure a brace of stiff-necked, unreconstructed specimens of Southern chivalry as one would care to see.

The Republican party to-day has the power of electing the next President already within its grasp, with a great deal of assistance expected from the coming Democratic Congress.

DEMOCRATIC PERTURBATION

The late elections in the north seem to have thrown the whole Democratic party on its beam-end. Most of their prominent men and all their newspapers are indulging in a very promiscuous style of talk, and their opinions as to the cause of the Democratic overthrow and what is to be done under the circumstances, are very miscellaneous and various and antagonistic. Governor Tilden says nothing. Gen. old Bill Allen simply indulges in profane language, the purport of which is that everybody but himself are d—d fools. Hendricks chuckles that every Democratic Presidential candidate who espoused the "rag money" scheme is dead. Thurman is glum. General Gordon is rather more free and demonstrative than anybody. He says that the Ohio and Pennsylvania Democrats have made an egregious blunder in taking up the "rag baby," and that they ought to have made their canvass on the issue of corruption, and mal-administration in the Republican party. We do not know that any of our prominent North Carolina Democratic politicians have been "interviewed," or have developed. Vance is cracking jokes as usual. Matt Ransom is attending fairs, and even the loose mouth of Merrimon has not yet opened. But the newspapers are all talking.

As nearly as we can make out it is generally thought among them around the south that this overthrow of the Democrats in the late elections gives positive assurance that they will elect their President in 1876, and is the very best thing which could have occurred. It is one of those "blessings in disguise" such as they enjoyed so many of near the close of the war, when Vicksburg fell, when Sherman swept across Georgia, when Hood staggered before Thomas, and when Fisher capitulated. Exactly by what process of ratiocination they arrive at this gratifying conclusion is not apparent. But generally speaking it is evident that they intend to take Gordon's advice and go back to their old line of "reforming" and purifying the government, and denouncing the corruption of the present administration That suits them. For it is one of the curious and refreshing phenomena of these times that the class of men, who for four years did their best to destroy the national government entirely, are now extravagantly solicitous to see it "reformed" and better conducted. Their stock in trade—their staple—is corruption. They are political buzzards who have no comfortable life unless they feed on garbage, and, as advised by Gordon, they propose to return to their old platform as the grand basis of the Titanic struggle for getting possession of the government in which they propose to indulge next year.

"Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad," and, "there are none so blind as those who wont see," are trite maxims but not the less true, and are especially applicable to our Democratic friends just now. No more did the finger write upon the wall during the orgies of Belteshazzer than it has in the late elections. But these fellows do not see and understand it as the eastern king did. They propose to pursue still the same course as heretofore undismayed by the omens which have been flashed before their eyes. They will go on driving the negroes from the polls as they have just done in Mississippi, disfranchising by legislative acts as they have done in Georgia and Texas, making under cover of law direct invasions of rights guarantied by the constitution as they have done in North Carolina, all under the madness and insanity of supposing that their plot will not be discovered by the people of the country.

We can tell these people what has defeated them at the north. It is the manner in which they have conducted at the south. Take out that element from the late elections and there would have been a totally different state of things. In the reconstructed parts of the United States the Democrats have never "accepted the situation," but have constantly shown whenever they had the opportunity what they would do if they had entire control of the national government. If the southern Democracy could have their way they would leave not a vestige of the late amendments to the Constitution and they would reverse all the leading measures which resulted from the reconstruction acts. This is evident from their acts and their constant declarations. And the people of the northern states, having first in their credulity believed to the contrary, and having subsequently become convinced of their error have given an intimation of their purpose. Strange as it may seem, the leading feature in the next Presidential canvass will be whether the measures of adjustment after the war—the amendments to the Constitution and the principles of the reconstruction and congress acts are to be sustained. Under the cover of these criticisms upon the Republican party and these acrimonious denunciations of special acts a support of the principles on which the rebellion was based is the issue which the southern Democrats will force upon the country. With what success they will appear, we have some indication in the late northern elections.

Features of the Elections

The lessons of the elections cannot be intelligently written until the full returns have been received and compared with the votes polled at the previous elections. All that is now visible is that the people who did not vote at all last year, or who then voted wrong, have, some of them, repented of their foolishness and returned to their first love. They have reasserted their fidelity to and confidence in the principles of the republican party as in contrast with that opposition to them which is effected by the Democratic party & disaffected Republicans who have joined them. We fail as yet to see in the results of the fall election anything which can be construed into a condemnation of the Administration. The States [illegible] which Democratic majorities have been carried each of them for the administration of Gen. Grant, while those of the Opposition, which the people have just emphatically disapproved, contained more or less elements of the republican policy. For example, there being mainly republican majorities taken as an expression by a majority of the people strongly favorable to the administration.

When we take into account the powerful efforts that were made by the Democratic and pseudo Independent Press to obtain a different verdict, we cannot refrain from congratulating all true republicans upon their firm adherence to principles even when their old favorite journals and editors have endeavored to beguile them from the ranks with all the blandishments of sophistry and all the damnable lies of calumny. The New York Tribune, the Evening Post, Mr. Geo. Wm. Curtis of Harper's Weekly, the Herald and nearly all the weekly pictorials have employed their whole endeavors to procure such results as should injure Gens. Tilden and Gaston and reflect upon the Administration at Washington. It is true that they fought Tammany and inflation with the republicans, but the result shows that their efforts would have been powerless without republican aid. So if they are entitled to any credit for the defeat of Tammany, they are obliged to share this with the party which they attempted to defeat in New York, while that party has succeeded in Massachusetts in spite of them. Mr. Bowles and Mr. Curtis were sure that nothing would save the republican party in that State but the nomination of Mr. Charles Francis Adams for Governor. The work of Tammany and a few other gentlemen that Governor Alex. H. Rice, a man of the people, is far more popular with the masses than even Mr. Adams would have been, while they may also flatter themselves that their readers are men of independent thought and action, who cannot be bought and sold as sheep in the shambles of political dreamers and mercenaries. It is too much to ask these partisan journals who are so fond of arrogating to themselves all the wisdom ever possessed by the republican party since the death of Mr. Greeley, Seward and Sumner, why they cannot accept the lesson exposed first by the fate of Greeley and Sumner, and lastly by the elections of Tuesday? The people of this country demand information upon all subjects from the press, but they will accept dictation from no man or set of men. They do not perceive the necessity of education and information if they are obliged to act upon the judgment of others regarding their political and religious courses instead of being guided by that reason and intelligence with which God has endowed them. To do so would be to ignore and seek free moral agency, free thought and individual responsibility. The American people are [illegible] of such action. If they [illegible] certainly would not be fit [illegible] governments. [illegible] highest [illegible]

"Where one murder is perpetrated in Georgia, ten are committed in any State, East or West." This is the language of the Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist. And this is the way the Southern journals permit things to go before the public. There is not the slightest warrant for the above. It was bold and unscrupulously uttered falsehood, and a disgrace to the originator. When a public journal so far forgets itself as to let off such a sentiment as the above, seriously, it is high time that public attention should be called to it. It is time to put other matter flowing from such a source to the test. Hence, all the utterances of the Constitutionalist and its line of thought, must go for naught, contained in the article, a column long, which deliberately embodies the statement that, "Where one murder is perpetrated in Georgia, ten are committed in a State, East or West."

Members of the Franco-American Union gave a grand banquet at the Hotel du Louvre Saturday night, at which many prominent French and American gentlemen were present. Toasts to the [illegible] of the two great republics were offered and responded to with that enthusiasm and earnestness which bears witness of the existence of the deepest friendship and attachment between the two nations, and the result of the magnificent and cordial entertainment will have a felicitous influence on the course to be pursued by France in our coming Centennial.—*Washington Chronicle.*

PROTEST

Of the Republican Delegates to the Constitutional Convention Against the Action of the Revolutionary Majority of that Body.

The undersigned, delegates to this convention, respectfully protest against the right, the authority and action of this body in proposing to alter or amend the Constitution of North Carolina, for the following reasons, to-wit:

1. We protest that this convention was called without the wish of the people, in whom resides the sovereign power, and in opposition to their will. The voters of the State had but recently declared themselves opposed to the alteration of the fundamental law by the conventional method, by an overwhelming majority, and soon thereafter had endorsed and sanctioned the amendment of the same by legislative enactment. As a consequence, we consider the call of this convention by the legislature, without submitting the question to the people, and without having been so instructed after the question had been mooted in the legislative canvass, though legal in form, to have been in spirit and effect, revolutionary. We believe it to have been a usurpation of power never intended to have been delegated to that body by their constituents, and an attempt to foist upon the people the domination of an unscrupulous party under the specious watchword of "Constitutional Reform."

2. We protest against any action on the part of this convention, because, in the canvass which preceded the election of the delegates, the issue was squarely made on the hustings and before the people as to whether such convention was necessary or desirable, and the voters of the State, by a large majority, declared against such convention. While it is true that by an accident, hereafter to be considered, the Democratic party has a nominal majority of the delegates upon this floor, yet the returns of the election in the various counties of the State show unmistakably that the *minority* of the delegates represent *a majority of at least six thousand of the qualified voters of the State.* In the House of Representatives which called this convention the Democratic party had a majority of more than two thirds. Of the delegates to this convention, elected only twelve months afterwards, without any extraneous circumstances to affect the result, a majority of those *actually elected*, upon the face of the votes polled in the State, are opposed to the action of the legislature in this respect. In our opinion, a more overwhelming rebuke could not have been uttered against the moral usurpation upon which this convention rests!

3. We further protest, because this convention is not entirely composed of delegates elected by the people. The seats of three of the delegates upon this floor are claimed to be unlawfully held. In one case, the seat is contested on the ground of legal votes unlawfully rejected and unlawfully received by the judges of election in the county of Surry. A vast amount of testimony has been submitted by the contesting party tending to show the truth of its allegations. No effort has been made to investigate the truth of these claims.—Two men, well known to have been fraudulently returned from Robeson have been allowed to retain their seat during the entire session. Holding the balance of power, they constitute the pivot on which the action of this convention turns. But for their votes it would have adjourned without making any alteration of the constitution, returning that instrument to the people unchanged, according to the expressed will of the majority of the qualified voters of the State. To have its defects eliminated by the safe and deliberate method of legislative enactment, by which every change which is sought to be effected must be *separately* submitted to the people for ratification or rejection, instead of their being compelled to swallow a vast amount of chaff of reform with a few grains of wheat. But for the votes of these men the entire expense of this convention would have been saved to the already overtaxed people of the State.

4. We protest because the will of a majority of the legal voters of the county of Robeson, a constituent part of the sovereign people of North Carolina, has been defeated by the combined action of four Democratic Commissioners of said county, and Democratic Sheriff and the Democratic delegates upon this floor. The said Democratic Commissioners, by an unprecedented usurpation of authority, rejected the votes of four townships, though the same were duly returned by the judges of election duly appointed to hold the same, for the evident purpose of smothering the voice of the people and securing the ascendency of their party in this body. By the words of their own record they are convicted of a fraudulent conspiracy against the rights of the people. A Democratic Sheriff executed the fraudulent action of the Commissioners, and two men who had not been elected came here bearing his certificate. The officer who qualified the members elect, feeling bound by this *prima facie* evidence of their right, admitted them to take the oath and they became part of this body, giving the Democratic party a majority of ONE therein. This majority, thus fraudulently constituted, has persistently neglected and refused to investigate the fraud on which its power was based during the entire session.

5. We protest because the sitting members from the county of Robeson have been permitted against the earnest reiterated protest of the minority to hinder, delay and finally to defeat the investigation of the fraud by which they hold their seats, voting in their own interest, upon questions affecting their own cases, and in defiance of the will of the people.

6. We protest because this convention, called professedly for constitutional reform, has been organized and operated solely as a party machine. Measures agreed upon in secret midnight conclave have been forced through under the whip and spur of the previous question, regardless even of pretense of deliberation. In some cases questions of the most vital importance were rushed to a vote without allowing more than twenty minutes for their consideration, against the protest and entreaty of the minority. To call this convention a deliberative body, is an insult to common sense. In order to obtain even a brief an impatient hearing upon the gravest questions, the minority were driven to adopt the dilatory measures known to parliamentary law and intended as a check upon party and ill considered legislation. By a rigorous application of the party lash, the convention has been made a mere automaton by which the behests of party caucuses have been ratified and recorded.

7. We protest because almost every act of this convention has been in direct subversion of the rights and authority of the people, designed and intended to take the power from the many and vest in the few. The entire tendency of its action has been to restore to power that oligarchy under whose control the rich grew richer and the poor grew poorer in the olden time.

8 We protest against the obliteration of the lines which mark the jurisdiction of the various courts under our present constitution. Except in a single instance these are now clearly and distinctly defined and the adjudications of the courts have very nearly determined that. A disruption of these lines will necessitate another long and tedious period of litigation to determine that of the various courts which may be established by the legislature. The multiplication of tribunals will render the people uncertain in what form their rights are to be administered and the ever changeful character of legislation will soon put all knowledge of the powers of the various courts beyond the ken of all except members of the legal profession. Even under the restricted powers granted in the present constitution, the legislature has managed to confuse and mystify the criminal jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace that few can now tell where it begins or how far it extends in certain classes of cases. We believe there should be but few classes of courts, and definite jurisdiction, in order that the people may learn to know their powers and determine for themselves the tribunal in which they must assert their rights. To give the legislature power to establish courts at will is, in our opinion, only to make confusion worse confounded—to inaugurate a chaos which will bring prosperity only to the lawyer, and only to him at a needless expense of the people.

9. We protest against the destruction of the courts of Justice of the Peace and against leaving it in the power of the legislature to create other courts in their stead.

10. We protest against its being left in the power of the legislature to elect the Justices of the Peace and the Judges of the Inferior Courts, and against the extension of the term of office of these functionaries to the period of eight years. We believe the people to be quite as competent to elect clerks of courts and petty judges as they are to choose legislators, governors, sheriffs, congressmen and other officers, and that such officers should be frequently elected and made directly responsible to their neighbors for their official conduct. The claim that the people may instruct the legislature upon this subject and thereby have their wishes in regard to this matter carried out, is simply puerile, when we consider the fact that under the present infamous gerrymander the democratic party would have a majority in the Senate though the popular vote should be *thirty thousand* against them.

11. We protest also against giving to the legislature power to establish one system of courts in Currituck and another in Cherokee—one system of administering justice in one county and another in another. Its only effect would be to confuse, hinder, delay and defraud the people to enrich the lawyers who are suffering from leanness of purse under the present simple and easily understood system.

12. Though we would not have objected to some formal changes in regard to them, we protest against the abolition of the Courts of Probate—the simplest, cheapest and most expeditious method of dispatching business within their jurisdiction which has ever been invented—which saves more to the people than all the professedly economic measures adopted by this convention could. It is a tribunal which is always open to the suitor at his own convenience, and one in which the ordinary business of the settlement of estates may be transacted by the citizen of ordinary intelligence without the aid of an attorney.

13. We protest against the legislature being given the power to establish one system of county government in one county and another in another as the exigencies of party or personal interests may dictate to the changeful mind of a modern legislature.

14. We protest against a legislature, one branch of which, under its present organization, must long remain hostile to the institution, being given the power to destroy the township system. We consider this system—the division of the counties into self-governing municipalities of convenient extent, as the great bulwark of our liberties, and the nurse and guardian of general intelligence and prosperity. Training, as it of necessity does, every citizen in the discharge of public duties—encouraging him in the legitimate assertion of his personal rights—familiarizing him with the forms of law, and teaching him to yield a ready obedience to the legally expressed will of majorities—it is a constant exponent of the principles of republican representative government. We deem this an institution peculiarly essential to a State, *one-third of whose voters were slaves and three fifths of whose voters cannot read the ballot which they cast!* We vehemently protest against any action which can in any manner interfere with the continuance and development of this beneficent institution in our State.

15. We protest against the scheme of leaving to the legislature, a body of whose constitution is such as to defeat the will of the majority even though thirty thousand of the popular vote be against them—the work which should be done by this body.

16. We protest against the abolition of the office of Lieutenant-Governor and giving his functions to a President of the Senate, elected by that body, which is so organized as to defeat the popular will and choose a man to perform gubernatorial functions hostile to the wishes of the people. The expense of the office is utterly insignificant. Three or four hundred dollars a year is all the saving which could be effected by the change, less than two mills to a voter, less than one-fifth of a cent for each million dollars of property assessed for taxation in the State! To save this pitiful, beggarly sum, it is pretended that the office is to be abolished! The truth is, as every one knows, that vacancies and interregnums are frequent in the office of Governor, and this is simply a scheme to allow an infamously gerrymandered Senate to elect a democratic Governor when a majority of the State would have decided otherwise. It is part of a subtle scheme to disarm the people—to seize, in the name of economy upon the power they have held heretofore for their own protection, to revive an aristocracy which the people hate! If any officer should be elected by the people it is he who takes the place of the Chief Executive, who becomes the Governor in case of the death, impeachment, absence or incapacity of that officer. Nothing is more usual than for the Governor to step from that seat into the Senatorial chair, and when that is done his successor should be a man chosen by the people and not one whose skirts are stained with the infamous gerrymander who made the Senate of North Carolina a stench in the nostrils of civilized humanity!

In conclusion, we protest against the constitution, spirit and action of this convention.

O. H. Dockery,	A. McCabe,
B. F. Jones,	R. F. Lehman,
John H. Smyth,	R. N. McCanless,
P. T. Massy,	J. M. Bateman,
William Barrow,	J. C. Blocker,
W. P. Mebson,	G. H. Granthman,
G. R. Bliven,	T. J. Dula,
A. M. Lowe,	J. W. Bean,
I. J. Young,	J. Q. A. Bryan,
W. M. Black,	M. C. Hodge,
J. W. Albertson,	Wilson Carey,
W. J. Mundea,	R. W. King,
J. O. Crosby,	J. W. Thorne,
J. R. Page,	J. F. Scott,
J. J. Horton,	A. S. Davis,
N. B. Hampton, of Polk,	R. P. Buxton,
W. T. Faircloth,	J. J. Nowell,
J. E. O'Hara,	J. O. Wilcox,
A. McDonald,	J. M. Justice,
A. W. Tourgee,	Jonas Hoffman,
J. A. Bullock,	Rufus Barringer,
W. H. Wheeler,	James E. Boyd,
J. J. Godwin,	W. M. Kerr,
S. H. Manning,	A. S. Holton,
	Geo. Z. French,

The Result of the State Elections.

The elections which took place on the Second inst. prove that the so-called "tidal wave" has been arrested and that the democratic party is not so strong in the country to-day as it was one year ago. In the October elections the democracy gained nothing and lost Ohio. In the November elections it has lost Pennsylvania; it has lost Massachusetts; it has lost quite a proportion of its strength in New York. The returns leave no doubt that the democratic State ticket is elected, but the majority is so much reduced that the victory can justify no exultation. Another such victory, another victory at an equal cost of democratic votes, would leave the party powerless, even in New York. The new Senate will have a republican majority, and if the Assembly is democratic it will be by a narrow a margin that the party will be crippled and humiliated. It is something to have saved the State ticket, but this election shows that the democratic party has no such secure hold of the State that it may not lose it next year.

A broad survey of the political field in the light of these elections is not necessarily disheartening to the democrats, although it betokens a closer Presidential contest than the democratic party would have any reason to fear if it had kept all the States it won last year. The loss of Massachusetts is of little consequence, Governor Gaston's election one year ago having been merely a surprising accident, of which a repetition could not have been expected in securing a republican State. But the loss of the two great States, Ohio and Pennsylvania, is a more serious matter. The democrats might have entertained reasonable hopes of holding both of these States, after having once wrested them from the republicans. But the loss of Pennsylvania and Ohio makes a great difference in the prospects of a political party whose opponents have a secure hold on a considerable number of the other States. The republicans control States enough to enable them to elect the next President, with the aid of New York, and the result of the voting on the Second inst. is not such as to take New York out of the list of debatable States next year. The Presidential election will be more equal and far more doubtful contest than if the democratic party had continued to hold all the ground it gained in 1874.

The certainty of a close contest will have a salutary influence on both parties, for neither will think it safe to make experiments on public fee ing when a few thousand votes in some of the doubtful States may turn the scale. The republican party will not be so anxious for President Grant, nor the democratic party to make an inflation platform, nor will either party dare to present candidates whose character for integrity is not unimpeachable against all assaults. A near approach to equality in the strength of parties is about the best guarantee of good government we can have under institutions such as ours. When a political party becomes so strong that it has no reason to fear its opponents, and its nominations are equivalent to an election without regard to the character of the candidates, the gates are flung open for the entrance of corruption. The most wholesome state of politics in a country where universal suffrage prevails is such an approach to equality in the strength of parties that the transfer of a small number of votes from one side to the other will change the result. In such a condition of parties it is always in the power of a few honest, independent citizens to give victory to the most deserving side. Neither party can afford the risk of putting forward bad candidates, and the temptations of office are the more likely to be resisted when the incumbents are watched by an opposition powerful enough to cashier them for slight deviations from rectitude.—*New York Herald.*

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