



THE "FREE PRESS,"

By Geo. Howard,

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## Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

### Celebration of the 4th July.—

A highly respectable number of the citizens of Edgecombe county, convened at the house of Mr. Figures Philips, on Friday, the 4th of July, for the purpose of celebrating in a becoming manner, the Anniversary of our National Independence.

The Committee of Arrangement previously formed, met at an early hour to choose officers and adopt other suitable preparations, when: Mr. Frederick Philips was appointed President of the Day, and Gen. L. D. Wilson, Spencer L. Hart and Joseph S. Battle, were appointed Vice-Presidents.

The company being seated under a delightful shade, the President in a brief but very affecting and appropriate manner, called their attention to the object of the meeting.

Richard H. Battle read in a manner highly impressive, the Declaration of Independence.

Richard H. Lewis immediately arose and delivered an eloquent and appropriate Oration—a copy of which, by request, has been furnished for publication, and is subjoined.

The citizens then sat down under a large and pleasant arbor, to an excellent and plentiful repast, furnished by Figures Philips.

After dinner the cloth was removed, and the following toasts were drank.

#### REGULAR TOASTS.

1. The day we celebrate—fifty-two years have proved its blessings  
Tune—American Star.
2. The Signers of the Declaration of our Independence, and the principles it promulgates.  
Jefferson and Liberty.
3. The memory of Washington—"in war he was the mountain storm, in peace the gentle gale of spring." (Drank standing.)  
Washington's March.
4. The Heroes of the Revolution—may the memory of their deeds and invaluable services be handed down to posterity, and embalmed in the hearts of their countrymen of every age 'till time shall be no more.  
Auld lang syne.
5. The memory of Adams and Jefferson.  
Hail to the Chief.

6. The thirteen old States and their younger sisters—the brightest constellation in the galaxy of nations.

Star-spangled Banner.

7. The Republics of South America—may no other principles than those of '76 be recognized in the Western hemisphere.

Hark from Southern climes afar.

8. Patrick Henry, "the forest Demosthenes"—among the first excitors of the Revolution: the able defender of his country's rights.

Hail Columbia.

9. The Army and Navy of the United States.

Cheer up, my gallant band.

10. The state of North-Carolina—the first to declare her Independence; she will be the last to desert it.

North-Carolina.

11. Our University—possessing advantages equal to any similar institution in the Union: it deserves the encouragement of every patriotic citizen of the State.

College Song.

12. The rights of the States, against the present exorbitant Tariff.

South-Carolina—cheers.

13. The Union of the States—let the warning voice of our venerable Senator Nathaniel Macon be heard: it is vain to preserve the Union of the States by restrictive measures.

Three Cheers.

#### VOLUNTEERS.

By the President. May the Porte feel in a sensible manner the resentment of the Russians, and may the result be freedom to the noble and oppressed Greeks.

By L. D. Wilson, (one of the Vice-Presidents.) Washington and Jackson, the heroes of our first and last war of Independence.

Orator of the Day. The principles of the free institutions of our country, founded in nature: may they descend unimpaired to our latest posterity.

S. L. Hart, (another of the V. Presidents.) The Navy of the United States.

Exum Lewis. The Patriots of '76: may the blood and treasure which purchased for us the liberties and blessings we now enjoy never be forgotten or abused, but ever kept in mind while time shall last.

Reddin Pittman. John C. Calhoun: an inflexible republican, a successful legislator, and a profound statesman—worthy of the highest office within the gift of the American people.

Jno. N. Philips. Charles Carroll of Carrolton: he alone of that patriotic few survives the wreck of time.

Jos. Bell. The soil we live on: may it produce an abundance, and the surplus after supporting our families command a good price.

Benj. Wilkinson. Success to Old Hickory.

Hy. Pittman. The Orator of the Day: may he meet with all necessary encouragement.

L. R. Cherry. May our an-

cient hero Geo. Washington still be remembered.

A. A. Bellamy. Liberty and equality in these U. States: may they never cease to reign while the earth bears a plant or the sea rolls a wave.

Saml. Bellamy. United States: be Americans still, to Americans true—*non solum nunc sed semper*—in remembrance of this glorious day, turn off a crimson bumper.

Elias Bryan. The fair of N. Carolina, who are in favor of Andrew Jackson.

Edwin L. Moore. Inasmuch as our first parent Adam who was made of Clay was banished from Paradise for disobeying his sovereign, so in like manner may Adams the President who was made by Clay be banished from his earthly Paradise for his maladministration.

Robt. Bryan. Andrew Jackson, freedom's strongest advocate: may he be our next President.

Hy. Johnston. Gen. Jackson: may he be our next President.

Harrison Pittman. Old Hickory: may its branches spread thro' the Union, and all feel the effects thereof.

M. E. Manning. May the hero of New-Orleans, the modern Saviour of our respectable Republic, reign as the next President for eight successive years.

Robt. Sorey. The young gentleman who read the Declaration of Independence.

[There were about 120 persons present, and the utmost harmony and friendship was manifested until late in the evening, &c.]

#### ORATION.

Fellow-Citizens: The day we have assembled to commemorate, is fraught with the deepest interest to American liberty, and should ever be celebrated with a dignity and solemnity suited to the great national epocha which it is intended to perpetuate. It was proposed on this occasion, simply to read to you the Declaration of our Independence, as being sufficiently adequate to the purposes of the day and comprising, within its scope, by far the most instructive lesson, on record, touching the eventful period of that revolutionary struggle which severed the bonds of Union between Great Britain and her Colonies in North America. But as there may be some, in this assembly, on whom fortune has not so propitiously smiled, as to bless them with the invaluable benefits of an education and a consequent knowledge of the history of our common country, a deviation from the original design, has been urged as absolutely necessary. Trusting, therefore, to the indulgence of this very respectable audience, its attention is humbly solicited for a few moments.

A little more than two centuries ago, fellow-citizens, our forefathers, exhausted by the persecutions of religious fanaticism and

its concomitant scourge a civil war, emigrating from their native country Britain, sought an asylum, from their cruel and unrelenting fury, in this western hemisphere, where they might enjoy the rights of conscience and the blessings of civil liberty, free and unmolested. The vast tract of country, extending from the Atlantic ocean on the east to the Pacific on the west, from the lakes of the north to the Gulf of Mexico, and which now comes under the jurisdiction of the Republic of the UNITED STATES, was, at that time, little less than a boundless waste of wilderness, tenanted only by the savage beasts of the forest and the still more savage Indian, whose natural element, next to the chase, consisted in war and plunder. Undismayed by these appalling circumstances, they established themselves, at different periods, in distinct colonies, along the shores of the Atlantic. United to the parent state by the most fervent attachment, flowing from a national pride and the less extensive though more deep-rooted ties of domestic affection, which are so closely interwoven in the nature of man, and give to life its peculiar zest, they brought over with them, in their emigrations, charters from their sovereigns, by which they fondly hoped to maintain a connexion with the mother country, to secure to themselves the rights of British citizens and the protection of British arms. But they were soon destined to experience the frailty of hopes having for their support no other nucleus than the written obligations of kings. For scarcely had they disembarked from the vessels which transported them to this continent, when, in defiance of all sense of human equity, and in disregard of those great principles by which the conduct of nations as well as individuals should be regulated, their charters were openly violated, their commerce restricted and themselves treated with indignity and contempt, as though mere vassals of the British crown. Too weak, in this early stage of their career, to support, by arms, the rights and privileges guaranteed to them by their charters, their only remedy rested in petition, which generally proved of little or no avail. Notwithstanding the difficulties attendant on the first settlement of a distant and unknown region and in spite of the oppressions with which they were loaded by the mother country, the colonies continued to flourish and prosper to such a degree, that by the lapse of a century and a half they had attained to the number of THIRTEEN, peopling the hitherto inhospitable wilds of America with two millions of freemen. As yet, fellow-citizens, contrary to what you would naturally suppose, their attachment to the land of their