Free Trader Watchman

Independent Democrat.

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VICKSBURG, April 7th, 1843.

H. H. WORTHINGTON, Esq.

Editor of the Columbus Democrat.

My Dear Sir: I have observed with much regret, that there is great dissatifaction in various parts of the State, in regard to the time of meeting and the nominations made by the democratic convention that assembled at Jackson on the 22d of February last. It is well known to those with whom I conversed, at the time the primary meeting was held at Jackson, recommending the call of a State convention, that I was opposed to the selection of so early a day as the 22d of February for the meeting. Jefferson's birth day was my choice of time, and even a later day was in my opinion, preferable to an earlier one. But after it was determined not to postpone the time as proposed by the meeting at Pontotoc, I wrote to many friends in the north, urging them to lay aside their objections to the time of meeting, and send a full delegation from every county to the convention. I was assured that such would have been the action of that part of the State, but for the proposed postponement, on account of the Small Pox and its subsequent recall My object in urging the north to send delegates, was not only to have every section of the State fully represented, but to give all the weight that such a representation necessarily would to the action of the convention, and its selection of nominees to fill the various State and Congressional offices.

To the action of the convention, I of all others should not object, nor do I. The flattering manner with which I was tendered a re-nomination to the station I hold in the twenty-seventh Congress, requires of me the return to the convention of my most heart felt gratitude, which is hereby tendered. It would be my pride and pleasure to serve the people of this State, as a member of the twenty-eighth Congress, a station I acknowledge I prefer to all others within the gift of the people or government of this country. My highest ambition has been gratified by the convention, so far as its action is concerned, yet I cannot disguise the fact from myself, that a large portion of the democratic party of the state are dissatisfied with the location of the nominees of the convention, a dissatisfaction which if not allayed and conciliated, by a proper and becoming spirit of self denial on the part of the nominees, may result in the defeat of the whole ticket. Without intending to claim any peculiar credit for my action in this respect, my object in addressing you this communication, is to decline the nomination tendered me by the convention, for reasons which I will state as briefly as possible.

The residence of a candidate for office should, in my opinion, be no bar to his selection, provided those by whose votes he expects to be elevated to the station to which he aspires, do not urge good and and substantial objections to him on account of location. It is well known that a great majority of the democratic voters in this state, reside in the northern and eastern counties. When they recommend persons for office who reside in the western and southern counties, where the whig party have a large majority, the residence of the nominees is, and should be no objection to them. The north and east urged the claims of several of their distinguished citizens, both before and after the meeting of the convention. They demanded as a right, that citizens from their sections of the State should be selected, to fill an equitable proportion of the offices, inasmuch as the success of the nominees depended on their votes. Truth requires me to state that this expectation of the north and east has not been realized by the selections of the convention, as a brief reference to their residences and the geographical position of the state will demonstrate.

Commencing at the Gulf of Mexico and going north to Jackson, east of Pearl river, thence north with the boundary of Atalla, Pontotoc and Tippah counties to the Tennessee line, including in the eastern section of the State thus divided, more than thirty counties, all democratic, with two or three exceptions, and casting a democratic majority of thousands at every election, we find it includes the residence of but one of the nominees of the convention, (Auditor,) while the western section, casting a whig majority of thousands includes the residence of all the other nominees. As I stated before, there should be no objection on this account, if the north and east had willingly acquiesced, but complaining as they do, especially as they were not fully represented in the convention, it becomes the duty of the nominees, or a portion of them, to quiet these complaints, by retiring from the ticket, and give those sections of the state an opportunity of filling the vacancies by selections of their own. Although none of the nominees reside east of Pearl river, yet good old democratic Lawrence striding that stream, presented her claim, to a candidate at the convention, which body most properly responded to the call, by conferring the nomination of a candidate for congress, upon one of her citizens. The nominee for Governor has long been the favorite of the east, and that section of the State, although first disappointed that one of her own citizens had not been nominated, will, I am confident acquiesce in the nomination. Not so the north east. With all proper respect, and without intending the slighest censure upon the convention, I must say that justice and sound policy required that at least one of the candidates for congress should have been selected from that part of the State, and for the following reasons:

Four fifths, if not nine tenths of the private business from this state, in the various departments of the government at Washington city, eminates from the Chickasaw and Choctaw counties. Conflicting claims of the most perplexing and complicated character are constantly before the departments, and the members of Congress must have a local as well as general knowledge of the business in those sections, to do justice to their constituents, in having their claims promptly acted on, and equitably adjusted. From the counties in hese two cessions, eminate nearly all the petitions for new mail routes and post offices, requiring a local knowledge of the country, to enable the member successfully to urge their establishment. The Chickasaw cession is ably, faithfully, and efficiently represented by Mr. Thompson. The Choctaw counties should have a member to attend to their local claims of their citizens. When I say should have a member, I do not mean that he should actually reside within the boundary of the cession, but that he should be intimately acquainted with the business and wants of that section of the State.

For the reasons above stated, and others that I have no space to detail, I conceive it to be my duty to decline the nomination tendered me, and propose that the north eastern counties of the State select some suitable person from their midst, to fill the vacancy thus created on the ticket, nominated by the convention. Although I do this at some sacrifice of personal feeling and political aspirations, yet if the object I seek be thus accomplished, I shall esteem this sacrifice of personal inclination as one of the most meritorious acts of my life, and will derive from it more satifaction and pleasure, than from the most brilliant career in public life, if secured by endangering the principles I advocate, and the ascendency of the party which sustains these principles. This object is to unite the eastern democratic party of the State, in support of the ticket nominated by the convention.

In retiring from the ticket I occupy a different position from any of the nomineess. It so happens that no objections to my nomination exist in north or east Mississippi. From these sections of the State, so far as they were represented in the convention, I received a unanimous vote. Numerous letters from all sections of the north and east assure me that I am excluded from all of the objections urged against the nominees. I retire therefore with the full conviction that it is not demanded of me by objections to myself personally, in those sections of the state that complain of the action of the convention I believe, (and I say it without entertaining a vain glorious spirit, but with proud satisfaction,) that no member of our party in the section of the state where I reside, is more acceptable to the northern and eastern democracy than myself, and this partiality is of no recent origin.

In 1837, when a candidate for United States Senator, I received in Legislative caucus the almost unanimous support of the eastern members, and divided the delegation from the north almost equally with my competitor, an eminent and most popular citizen of that section of the State. In the contest of 1841, I received the highest evidence of popular favor from the same sections of the State, and the votes in the convention exhibits a continuance of the confidence in me. There reside, my most trusted and most devoted, personal and political friends, and from whom can so properly come a sacrifice of personal advancement, if thereby is secured, to either the north or east, their proper proportion of the officers to be elected in November? Such may not be the situation of others in this section of the State, who were nominated by the convention, and their retiring from the ticket, may in the opinion of some persons, be thought a personal degradation, by being forced by public opinion to take that step, because they could not command the support of the whole democratic party. Such a sacrifice I am confident no portion of party would make, of the feelings and political prospects of any nominee of the convention, all of whom deserve the confidence and support of the democratic party.

Permit me to say that the calling of another convention is, in my opinion, impracticable, and would result in evil instead of good. In the present state of feeling in various sections of the State, the nominees of another convention would probably be received with less favor than were those of the last. A candidate for Congress selected from the list of able and distinguished democrats in north east Mississippi, will make the present ticket as strong as any that can be selected in the state, and nothing can prevent its truimphant success but the continuance of those sectional prejudices and dissensions which if presisted in may bring disastor and defeat to the democratic cause in this state.

I take especial pleasure in the recollection that I have on no occasion, permitted my personal aspirations to endanger the success of the party to which I belong, nor has the prospect of defeat deterred me from being a candidate, when success seemed improbable if not impossible. I have always retired before competition in my own party when it was in the majority if my competitor, from position or other cause could more successfully advance the principles for which we were contending. On this occasion, I retire from no personal opposition, but with every prospect of success if I should remain a candidate, whatever fate might await others on the ticket. I cannot mistake popular feeling in favor of Mr. Thompson and myself in the north, where most of the objections to the action and nominees of the convention exits. This very feeling requires of him or me the duty of producing harmony in our party, if the retirement of the one or the other will bring about that result. From his position, Mr. Thompson can produce no such result. I hope it can, and I have acted on this solemn conviction without consultation with friends whose partiality for me personally would no doubt have induced them to dissuade me from taking a step, which in my opinion, if met with a proper spirit, will lead to a glorious triumph of the democratic party at the next election.

With great respect, I remain your friend and obedient servant,

WM. M. GWIN.

HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR.

Friend Harris, of the Signal, has picked up some strange items about a little family meeting which we Calhoun men had while at Jackson. He is mistaken about the objects of that meeting. No cyphering was done at the meeting, "to ascertain if Mr. Calhoun had a majority in the Convention,"—nor was it to break up the Convention in a row, if a nomination should be made." We—apprehending the Van Buren members would insist upon nominating, and carry their nominee by a beggarly majority, and satisfied that there was a large Calhoun majority in the State, wrote a resolution to the effect that if the Van Buren members should determine on going into the nomination, the Calhoun members would draw a protest against the proceeding; but upon reading this resolution to Gen. Quitman, Col. Howard, and one or two others, to get their views upon it, they suggested that it might have the effect to create a breach between the friends of the two democratic presidential candidates, &c., &c., and we declined offering it for the action of the meeting; and no similar proposition was favored or adopted by the meeting.

Our friend of the Signal has done injustice to the meeting. Its members were nearly all, "sage, grave men; its proceedings were calm, philosophic and dignified; and not a word of hostility was uttered against his favorite: on the contrary, Mr. Van Buren's name was mentioned in the most respectful terms, whenever introduced by any member of that assemblage of nearly all the talents, wit, learning and eloquence of the Democratic party of Mississippi—the Calhoun meeting at Jackson"—[*Dollar Democrat.*

Galvanic Experiments upon the body of the criminal Tricotti.—We were present yesterday to witness the experimeots of professor Grant, upon the body of the italian. Immediately after the body was taken down from the gallows, it was placed in a cart and conveyed to the hospital of Dr. Stone, where it was given in charge of professor Grant and his assistant J. Milton Sanders. The body was placed on a bench in the dead house, and in the presence of a number of spectators, Professor Grant commenced his operations. The poles of the battery were first applied to the *medium nerves* of the arm, and in an instant that member was exercised with a force which was truly astonishing. The arm raised up and grasped a case of surgical instruments, as if it was about to throw it at the person who appeared to be tormenting the patient. The fluid was next applied to the *anterior crural nerve*, and instantly the leg was thrown up, and worked with violence; the muscles protruded as if they were strained to their utmost, in the discharge of some heavy violent exercise.

The poles of the battery were now applied to the *portia dura*, which caused one side of the body to work in a fearful manner. The *anterior tibial* was next excited, and the same curious phenomenon exhibited. The fluid was now applied to the *spinal cord*, and now it was that the spectators were horrified with the fearful working of the dead man's features, joy, sorrow, grief, despair, hate, anger, and every passion with human featnres so vividly portray, were exhibited in the most energetic form, till the professional part of the spectators (and there were many present) signified their perfect willingness that the professor should cease his experiments. After bringing the poles in contract with the *semi-lunar ganglion*, the experiments were ended. It was said by several professional gentleman present, that they have never witnessed a series of similar experiments which succeeded so admirably as these of Professor Grant — The galvanic battery used so light that a small boy carried it away; still so energetic is this new invention of Prof. Grant's, that it comprises within itself an intense power, which to obtain in the old plan, would require a series of plates and fixtures the weight of which a horse could not bear. We understand that professor Grant intends giving a series of Chemical lectures in this city. His lectures we are sure, will be well attended.—*N. O. Tropic.*

An Earnest Prayer.—The following capital anecdote is related of Col. Harry Babcock, late of the United States Army, who was an educated man of brilliant oratorical powers, though a somewhat excentric personage:

On a certain time when his regiment was formed for prayers, it was announced that the chaplain was unable to attend through a sudden indisposition. The Colonel instantly ascended the drum pulpit, commanded attention, assumed a reverential attitude, and burst forth in a stream of the most impassioned eloquence. Suplication on suplication for every earthly blessing, and the conversation of both Jew and Gentile nations, were offered up in a sublimity of language and manner never before witnessed. Then after an appropriate pause, he proceeded: "And for our enemies in particular, O, Lord, we beseech thee to hear our prayer, that they may see the error of their ways, and be speedily brought to a sense of justice, in end of their oppressive and wicked usurpations. But, if not, (changing his voice and manner to a corresponding degree,) then, O, Lord, brace our hearts, nerve our arms, and permit us to take vengeance into our own hands;" here suddenly he came to an abrupt pause of some few moments; then breaking forth anew, in a contrasted style of oratory, he added—"But, O, Lord, what shall we say to those cursed Indians? —Damn 'em all! Amen. The sermon was responded to by every one, and followed by three loud huzzas.

Extract of a speech of MR. HOLT, of Kentucky, delivered before the National Convention, at Baltimore, June, 22d, 1835, in reply to the objections of the Virginia Delegation to the nomination of Col. Johnson.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Who is he? If, Mr. President, you could at this moment transport yourself to "the far west," you would find upon one of her green and sunny fields, surrounded by the impliments of husbandry, a personage whose plain and simple garb, whose frank and cordial unostentatious bearing, would tell you that he had sprung from the people—that he was still one of them, and that his heart, and all its reflections, its hopes and its sympathies, was blended with the fortunes of the toiling million. But, sir, his scarred and shattered frame and limping gate would tell you, too, that the story of his life was not confined to a mere recital of household hospitalities or neighborhood charities. The story is no legend of obscure and doubtful authenticity—it lingers not alone in the kindly bosoms of friends, but every tongue in the republic can give it utterance, and the brightest pages of your country's history, have caught lustre from its glowing record. When this country was agonizing and bleeding at every pore—when war had desolated with fire and sword your northern frontier, and the best blood in the land had been vainly spilt upon its plains, he left the warm halls of Congress for the bleak winds of the Canadas; and waiting for no summons of the recruiting officer, he rallied about him the chivalry of his State, and dashed with his gallant volunteers to the scene of hostilities, resolved to perish or retrieve the national honor. With daring impetuosity he persued and overtook the enemy—threw himself like a thunderbolt of war into the thickest of the fight—fought hand to hand and eye to eye with the Briton and his savage myrmidons—poured out his blood like water—triumphed and returned loaded with the richest trophies of the campaign. Sir, his deeds rely not for recollection to blazonry upon musty records. They have been spoken in the thunders of victorious battle—they have been written upon the hacked and broken armor of our country's invaders. His life has been one of unfaltering unswerving devotion to freedom and to the people. The people "love him because he first loved them. His popularity rests on no calculation of political chances. It is not seated in the arithmetic but in the deep and ardent affections of his country.

It is not intriguers, nor president makers, nor, the starched, brainless aristocrats of your villages that rally around him. No—it is the enlightened, liberal laboring people whom he has served. It is the mechanics—the bold and hardy yeomanry, who are their country's pride in peace, its bulwark in war—men of the ploughshare and the pruning knife, who amid the late "panic" which spread dismay and consternation from one end of the Union to the other, stood firm as the seated hills—still planting their crops, and hailing the storm and the calm as equally commissoned to bless them. Men, sir, who were dependent for the banking facilities, who drew upon no heartless corporation, but upon the God that made them, and they were answered in the sunshine and the shower. Their flocks sported in beauty and in gladness through their smiling fields—their harvests were ripened, their grainaries filled. To *these* they look for nurture—for protection to the brooding wings of the Almighty; and under His shaddow, and amid the household idles that blessed their domestic hearths, in the proud and unsullied nobility of their nature, they vowed eternal hostility to every kind of tyrany that can opress the mind of man."

These are the men, Mr. President, that have demanded and will sustain the nomination of the distinguished personage to whose character and patriotic daring I have referred. His fame, like that of our venerable Chief Magistrate, spreads every where—alike in the wilderness and in the "city full," penetrating into the valleys, climbing the the hill tops, and reaching in its kindling, animating influences, every log cabin beyond the mountains. His brilliant and successful struggles against the foul, adulterous union of church and state, have consecrated his name to immortality. The emancipated debtor, as he leaps from his prison and pallet of straw, shouts forth their praises, and the soldier of the revolution, as he totters into his grave, teaches his children to love and venerate his name. There is a voice from the great valley of the west, from all her cities and cottages; there is a voice from the east, from the north and south; there is a voice from the fields of the husbandman, from the workshops of the mechanis, from the primary assemblies of the people, from the conventions of neighborhoods and of States, calling aloud for the elevation of this war-worn soldier, this tried and incorruptable patriot, this advocate of the destitute and the down-trodden, this friend to freedom and to man. Such sir, is Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky.

"FAS EST."

The New York Express (Whig) propounds the following questions, byway of poser, to the Democratic press:

Loco Foco Principles.

While the Loco Foco press throughout the United States are endeavoring to impress upon the voters of the coming contest, the necessity of going for principles. not men, and urge at the same time the harmony of action, it would be well for them in order to produce the desired effect, to define their principles so that there may be harmony of opinion as well as of voting

It would be well for the Albany Argus, the Globe, Richmond Enquirer, Evening Post, and Boston Morning Post to state—and it is here respectfully asked that they will do so—what declarations they intend to require of their candidates at the next Presidential election? No prate about rights—democratic principles—equal laws—anti-monopolies, and similar stuff is called for. These things are mere generalities intended as humbugs; but their opinions are desired on the following points:

1. are you in favor of the repeal of the present tariff?

2. Are you in favor of prosecution?—[No trashy replies about incidendtalism, but a simple answer of yes or no.]

3. Are you in favor of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia—and receiving petitions?

Though not named amongt he very respectable organs of the party addressed by the Express, we take the opportunity of answering for ourselves. The baner which head our columns, and those of most of the papers, which have proclaimed their preference for John C. Calhoun, is a sufficient answer to most questions involving important principles, which the whigs or any body else can propound; and to the questions stated by the Express, it is an answer in full, and unequivocal, that we prefer John C. Calhoun as next president: *Therefore,*

1. We are in favor of the repeal of the present tariff.

2. We are against protection.

3. We are against abolishing slavery in the district of Columbia—and against receiving petitions for that object.

We take the responsibility of thus answering for the party, and for the man whom we believe it intends electing president of the United States.—[Mercury.

Extract from Gen. R. M. Saunders' Address to the people of North Carolina:

I prefer Mr. Calhoun, because in his administration of the government, as I believe, he would maintain the principle of the constitution, and carry out in good faith a practical system of retrenchment and reform—that he would say to the thousands who live and hang on the Government, like so many harpies, not that such and such abuses must be corrected, but that they *should be.* For I hazzard nothing in saying, if the people expect the federal expenses to be lessened—the high tariff of taxes to go down—the national debt to be paid off—and economy to prevail in every department, they must have an executive, not pledged to *restore* but to *abolish* all useless officers, and to stop every inducement to a lavish expenditures.—For it is a singular fact in the history of our National Legislature, that those who come from the States where the lowest salaries are paid, and the most rigid economy practised are generally the most extravagant in their votes for high salaries and expenditure. And I tell you, whatever you may hear from the political partisan, whether he be Whig or Democrat—the advocate of a tariff, whether it be direct or incidental protection, will generally be found supporting the highest appropriations. Your motto should be, "millions for revenue, not a dollar for spoil or protection, unless it be an incident to what is necessary to the administration of the Government." I speak boldly, and say, of the past, the present and future—it is idle to talk of bringing back the government to what it was in the days of Jefferson and Madison, nnless there shall be an efficient Executive. I go further—you can hardly expect a reforming executive from that portion of the country which fattens on the government, three fourths of whose expenditures go annually to the North. It is true, there are those in our political party from the northern States who are as sound, and vote as correctly in regard to appropriations, as any portion of the Union. They stand upon their principles, and deserve the highest praise for their firmness. But stil the remark is no less true, if reform is to come at all, it must come from the tax paying, non receiving portion of the community. For such is the pressure of these moneyed appropriations, that it is only from those who feel that taxation is a burden and not a blessing, that you can hope for an honest economy and a stern responsibility in the administration of the General Government.

But Mr. Calhoun has been a nulifier, and is not to be trusted. To this objection I answer, I am not, and never was a nullifier. But Mr. Brown voted against the Force bill, Gen. Jackson's most effective measnre against nulification. I approved of that vote, and only advert to it herein, to show the incincerity of those who think proper to charge me with nulification.—If the General Government moves in its restricted orbit, what will there be to nullify? And how can any occasion arise wherein the mere abstract opinions of the chief magistrate on this point have any practical fearing? The truth is, if we are to have an administration *truly democratic,* and if our federal legislation shall be kept within the plain meaning of the constitution, and no doubtful powers shall be exercised, there can be neither cause or pretext for State interposition. There can be no foundation for any fears, real or imaginary, unless it is designed and expected that the Government is to be administered on federal principles. This I suppose those who seek to raise the host of nulification to answer their own selfish ends, will hardly be willing to acknowledge.—It is absurd to talk about the President of the United States being a nullifier, the danger does not lie there. He is much more likely to join in the exercise of powers not conferred, than in resisting usurpations not authorized by the constitution.—But there is little danger of the revival of nulification, unless the cause which gave it birth shall be renewed; of which its opponents say there is no design. Then why talk about it?

Catholics in the United States.—The number of Catholics in the United States has been lately estimated at 1,500,000, an increase of 200,000 since the beginning of the year 1842. Of churches and chapels there are 574, and 82 in process of construction, making a total of 656. Officiating priests the number is 572—nineteen of these have been made in the year 1842, 14 of whom are in the diocese of New York.

The New York Courier and Enquirer says—"We understand that the last steamers have brought considerable amounts of various American Securities, for the purpose of sale and conversion into bonds and mortgages. The Columbia and Kentucky 6 per cent. bonds, Farmers' Loan & Trust obligations, American Life and Trust Obligation, United States Bank Post Notes, &c.—[*Charleston Courier.*