The Columbus Democrat.

W. H. WORTHINGTON, [A STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION—THE ONLY SAFEGUARD OF THE SOUTH.] Editor & Proprietor

VOL. XVIII. COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1851. NO. 5.

THE DEMOCRAT

Is published every Saturday Morning.

Terms.

☞ SUBSCRIPTION—THREE DOLLARS in advance; FOUR DOLLARS if payment is delayed until the expiration of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at ONE DOLLAR per square, (ten lines or less) for the first and FIFTY CENTS for each subsequent insertion.

☞ Liberal reductions will be made to persons who advertise by the year.

JOB PRINTING.

☞ JOB PRINTING neatly executed, on the short notice and at REDUCED RATES.

ADDRESS OF COL. J. B. COBB TO THE VOTERS OF LOWNDES.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—It is known to you that, in conjunction with Col. Billups and Capt. Wm. Barksdale, I was nominated by the Union party of Lowndes county at their meeting in Columbus, last April, to be offered to you as a candidate to represent the county in the State Convention called by our Legislature at its late extraordinary session. It is also known to many of you that I hesitated to accept this proffered honor from my Union friends, having little desire to re-appear as a candidate on the political stage; and had the office to be contended for been of a strictly political character, I should doubtlessly have begged leave to decline the candidacy. But as it was *not* a strictly political office—as it is for a seat in a body which will compose the sovereignty of Mississippi, and which, for weal or for woe, will settle the destiny of the State as a member of the Federal Union—and as it is intimately connected with all our private relations as property holders, as well as with our allegiance to the Constitution and Union of our fathers, I thought I was bound by every sense of duty and of patriotism not to shrink from the contest under such circumstances. I determined, therefore, to leave my name, where the party had placed it, by the side of the accomplished and worthy citizens selected as my colleagues in the candidacy. Accordingly, on the 23d of the same month I delivered a speech in the Court House at Columbus, in which I took occasion to deliver in full my opinions and views on the Compromise bills, and stated my impression that there was no valid ground of resistance to those bills on the part of the South. The positions I then assumed were approved and endorsed by the Union party of Lowndes county, and many even of the disaffected who were present, assured me, personally, that they were satisfied with my views. The same opinions that I then expressed I now avow and maintain. I do not alter or abate them in any particular, or in their full sense, nor have I ever since given utterance to any which clashed with them. Consequently, those who then supported me have either been since misled by the perversions and misrepresentations of mere traitors, or are unstable, inconsistent and fickle, in case they or any of them have joined in the unmanly and malignant strife which selfish politicians and demagogues have waged against me since I left home.

Immediately after the delivery of this speech, and before I could find time to visit the different precincts, the Union State Convention for nominating Union candidates for the various State offices, assembled in Jackson. Of that Convention I had been made a member by the voluntary action of the same meeting of my fellow citizens which had brought out my name as a candidate in the ensuing September elections. The deep interest I felt in the cause of the Constitution and Union, impelled me to leave my home and my business to attend that Convention, especially as I had learned that, without me, the county would be unrepresented, except by a single member. This caused an absence of more than two weeks, of itself. The very day of my return home, it so happened that I received, quite unexpectedly I may say, an invitation or appointment from the President of the United States, through the Secretary of War, to become a member of the Board of Visitors annually convened, under a law of Congress, to attend the examination and report on the state of the National Military Academy at West Point, N. York. This invitation, by the advice of many of my friends, as also from a desire to obtain some household and agreeable recreation from my usual employments at home, I decided to accept. I did not go North at all with the view to seek pleasure merely, but with the duties of this Board have I been engaged for the past month. These things alone have caused my absence from home—an absence which, I learn, has opened the mouths of some calumniators and cowards of mine, who found it quite convenient to remain silent until I had gone from home.

You are now enabled to perceive, my fellow-citizens, the necessity which has urged me to address you thus distant from my home and friends. The short time intervening to the October election, leaves me no choice, in order to place you early in possession of certain facts and views, but to address you generally in this manner from West Point, assuring you, in the meantime, that, if my life and health are spared, I shall soon be present, in my proper person, not only to sustain, in my feeble way, the great cause in which the true Union party of our State is engaged, but to repel the calumnies which selfish demagogues and crafty politicians have so unscrupulously promulged in connection with my humble name.

It is due, my fellow-citizens, to the cause which my friends have called me to represent, that I should again briefly state my views on the questions at issue before you. My own sense of self-respect urges me to waive, for the present, any special notice of the attacks which have been made on me as an individual, contenting myself simply with saying that calumny, falsehood, and malignancy of the most selfish dye, constitute always the weapons of those who can never seek to cover the most mischievous designs with plausible garniture and personal vituperations. A course the most calmly and serene, as I learn from creditable and friendly sources, has been ruthlessly pursued against me by unscrupulous opponents. I shall not stoop to so low a means of personal defence as argument or mere contradiction, but shall simply say, to detractors, as they deserve, the lie stealing on the shore of these calumnies and misrepresentations.

I have before said to your fellow citizens that there seemed to me to have been, in the minds and manner of the other South of Calhoun as a State, some wrong to the South—some peculiar sensitiveness in the Southern mind—some. But the question has always been with me, where or *how* the wrong, if wrong there has been of any Congress of the South, consisted, and which is this wrong on Congress? Under the spirit and terms of the Constitution, Congress can have to do other test in the admission of new States into the Federal Union, save that of a Republican form of government. In 1819 when Missouri was demanding admission as a State with a Constitution containing slavery, the South, with one or two honorable exceptions, took no ground against the power of Congress to admit a State with slavery. Nor did the South, as a section, oppose the admission of Missouri, although it opposed the restriction. The South, as a section, was divided on the question of power in Congress to admit a State with slavery, and on the question of expediency of the restriction. The South