KNOXVILLE WHIG.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.:
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1861.

That Lecture at the Hall.

The Editor of this paper expects to deliver his lecture at the Hall, on Sabbath, 7th inst., at 3 o'clock. It was postponed last Sabbath on account of the weather.

CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR!

To the People of Tennessee

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—As there seems to be a tardiness on the part of aspiring men in the State, to declare themselves candidates for the office of Governor, at the ensuing August election, and as the people seem a little slow in moving in that direction, I take this method of informing you that I am a candidate for the office. I come before you upon my own responsibility, without solicitations from or consultations with the politicians of the State. To them I do not look for "aid and comfort," as they are aware that they can never control me, if in office, or use me to promote the objects of selfish cliques or factions. I look to the unbought, and untrifled PEOPLE of the State to elect me, and as I purpose, if elected, to serve them and their interest only, I desire to be elected by their suffrages and influence. I have confidence in the real people of the State, and will bow to their decision as expressed through the ballot-box, without one word of complaint though that decision may be against me. I should despise myself if I could resort to any of the tricks of the demagogue, to secure the votes of the honest yeomanry of the country; such as arraying the poor against the rich; boasting of my humble origin; claiming my right to be elected upon sectional grounds, or upon local issues; advocating a reduction of the salaries of public officers, and otherwise appealing to the passions and prejudices of the people. But I may be allowed to say, that I have no wealth to make me prominent among the "upper tens"—I have no long train of influential relatives to urge my claims. Loosing my parents when a small boy, and being left without means, I went to the trade of the *House Carpenter*, and after acquiring a knowledge of the "profession," I worked for wages enough to enable me to acquire an "Old Field School English Education," adding to my store of knowledge in after years, as best I could. While I do not think I ought to be supported *because of these things*, I do not think that any class of my fellow-countrymen ought to vote against me on this account. I ask for the votes of the people of Tennessee, for the high and responsible office of Governor, only on account of the *political principles* I claim to represent. These I will, in brief, lay before the public, concealing nothing that ought to be made known.

1. It may be proper for me, as briefly as possible, to point out the circumstances which existed when this Confederacy and Constitution were formed. There exists now no question, political or otherwise, that did not then exist; and hence, what is alleged to be the cause of the present attempt at the dissolution of this Government, is a sheer fabrication, founded upon political chicanery, despotism, folly, and personal ambition. When the Constitution of the United States was formed, and was sought to be ratified by the various States which then composed the Colonies, afterwards called the United States of America, there existed precisely the same elements, and many more subjects of diverse opinion and controversy, than now. There was, first, the despotism and tyranny of monarchial power, that refused to grant to the Colonies their just rights, for which, in 1776, these united colonies waged successful war against Great Britain. *Afterwards*, for the purpose of mutual protection against invasion, it was deemed advisable to form a Confederacy—that Confederacy to represent the *people* of the United States, and not, as is contended by Secessionists, the "Sovereign States of America. Our Fathers, declaring their independence, threw off the oppression of the mother country, and summed up their grievances as "TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION." We have again in our midst, a *despotic* form of Government, forced upon the Cotton States, by an organized band of revolutionists, whose very foundation is that of "TAXATION without representation."

2. In consequence of diversity of climate, interests, and population, it was necessary to have certain sectional lines. Those lines already existed to a certain extent, and therefore it was deemed advisible to retain them to prevent confusion. But the Constitution was formed by the *people to govern the people*, and no single individual State was called upon as a separate "Sovereignty," to sign or ratify that Constitution, but the representatives of each State were called upon to ratify it for the *people* of that State. Therefore it was, that not in one, nor two, but many years of debate and controversy, as well as of amendments, substitutes, the Constitution was adopted and ratified by all the States of the then existing Union. No State, therefore, belonging to the compact has a right to withdraw, without consulting with the other members. Originally, the States coming in, were obliged to consult their *sectional* interests; they were obliged to call in question the various political and social differences then existing. They were obliged to question peculiar rights, to touch upon delicate points that then, more than now, bore upon the interests, welfare and prosperity of the Union. And all who are at all acquainted with the history of our Government, know that the hobby then in the hour of contention now, among politicians, that it constituted not a sectional or State policy, strictly speaking, but a NATIONAL FACT; that it was considered and reconsidered; that concession after concession, plan after plan, was sought for, in order to prevent any future difficulty upon this normal question of African slavery. I take occasion to assert, that the question has not changed its relation to the General Government since then; and that, while the people of the North, then possessing slavery, desired that it should be abolished, the South clearly and distinctly understood that it was to continue here. Therefore, it was made a Constitutional fact, that slavery should exist in every State of the Union, if *the people* of each State should so decide; and if the people of one or more States decided that it was against their interests to hold slaves slavery should be abolished; where not abolished, it should be protected and sustained under the Constitution. And it is known to every political historian, that the patriots who formed the Constitution, agreed in more sense, deliberating upon the welfare of the nation, than it was important to prevent any future disquiet or discussion upon the slavery question, and that therefore it should be left as a matter of purely personal interest, with which the General Government has nothing to do, and for which it would not be responsible, save that it would protect the interests of all the States adhering to adhere to slavery.

3. I say, unhesitatingly, if there has been an Act, and there has, such as a "Personal Liberty Bill," passed by any of the States, which is wrong and at war with the Constitution, and the rights of the South under the old Constitution, it is the duty of those States to repeal those acts, and if they are allowed time to do so, I believe they will repeal them. If they have done violence to the South, then those laws should be repealed. It is the duty of the States of the North to repeal every act at variance with the Constitution. If they refuse to do this, why, the acts are simply void, and the General Government has only to exercise its authority, and execute its laws. The South should not be satisfied with less—she should not ask in her stubbornness for any more. I affirm that the North is at fault, and that Abolitionism and Democracy combined, have sown the seeds of the present political crisis; but while the South has been greatly wronged, by this unholy combination, and should seek amends for these wrongs, the remedy is not in rebellion against the Constitution and the Government. And South Carolina has no more right to separate herself from the Union, because the States of the North have perpetrated acts in violation of her rights, than has one member of a family the power to withdraw, because another has done a wrong act.

4. It was the sworn duty of JAMES BUCHANAN to suppress this rebellion when it first appeared, and before it grew up into its present gigantic proportions. Instead of doing his duty, he actually sat in conference with the TRAITORS engaged in the TREASON, received them into his presence, held counsel with them, and treated them with deference, instead of issuing an order for their arrest. He even consulted his Attorney General, as to the constitutionality of what was going on. An American President asks if it is constitutional to suppress rebellion or treason—if it is constitutional to hang a traitor—when the very spirit, as well as the letter of the Constitution, is death to all treason! What I advocate is this—that our Government execute its laws. If a million of lives are sacrificed, the other twenty-nine millions will have the benefits of freedom. And to the people of Tennessee, I would say, in the name of your constitution, in the name of your country, in the name of your forefathers, in the name of your children, your honors, your free institutions, I conjure you, give no ear to that insidious voice of treason, which says, peaceable secession will put an end to our troubles! In the same breath, I would say to the people of the North, repeal those acts which are wrong and unconstitutional. The Nation requires it, your Government requires it, children unborn, who are to represent you in the future, urge it, all your future welfare and glory among men require it, and the dictates of your holy religion require it!

5. I stand where I did in the late Presidential contest, and never can stand anywhere else, that is to say, upon the platform of the "UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS." I do not believe that the election of LINCOLN affords any sort of pretext for dissolving this Union; I deny the right of Secession; I regard the States that have gone out of the Union as guilty of TREASON, and I view the leaders of the Secession party as TRAITORS. If elected Governor, I would refuse to convene the Legislature, or take any step that would advance the cause of Secession, and treat them as men guilty of breaches of good faith and common honesty.

6. I believe that the zeal of the anti-slavery party at the North has not yet subsided. I am opposed to the officious intermeddling of Abolitionists with our institutions—I do not believe in their final triumph, any more than I do in the successful reign of the rebellion of the Secessionists. I abhor and despise the Greelys, the Prynes, the Hales, the Phillips, the Beechers, the Fessenders, and other Northern men of notoriously extreme views, who seek a Dissolution; and I hate all who are found hand and glove with the Yanceys Rhetts, Davises, Toombs, Wigfalls, and other Secessionists South, who seek to destroy the very Government they have taken an oath to support.

7. I endorse the inaugural Address of Lincoln, and I commend it for its temperance and conservatism, and for its firm nationality of sentiment. From it I infer that we shall have no war, *unless* it be forced upon the country by the Seceding States. If Lincoln should attempt to inaugurate oppressive and unconstitutional measures, and Congress shall sanction or adopt those measures, either in reference to the slavery question, or any other subject, we of the South should await the decision of the Supreme Court, and if the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Departments of the Government, all sanction such iniquitous measures, and unite in attempts to carry them out—then, and in that case, I would advocate resistance "at all hazards, and to the last extremity." But until this is apparent, it is the duty of this patriotic State, to stand firm, and not entangle herself with the extremes of either the North or South; and to act upon the sound maxim, that *Disunion* is not a remedy for any wrongs whatever.

8. The leaders in this movement to dissolve this Union, the great citadel of our liberties, and the depository of the hopes of the human race, will go down to their graves without any halo of glory surrounding their brows, while on their heads will be gathered the blasting curses of all generations, horrible as the forked-tongued snakes of Medusa!—Their ghosts will stand on the highest and blackest eminence of infamy—the detestation of mankind. Having met a traitor's death, they will each and all fill a traitor's grave, over which there will be no requiem but the groans of the oppressed and the execrations of the good. Their monuments will be of human bones, upon foundations slippery with human blood. However high may have been their elevation in office, their fall will be like that of Lucifer. And whilst from their hid eminence they shall turn from beholding the glories of that Constitution and Union, against which they rebelled in the year of Grace, 1861, to survey the barren waste, the boundless and bottomless pits of Secession, they will exclaim like Lucifer, their "illustrious predecessor":

"Farewell, happy fields, where joy forever dwells!
Hail horrors! hail infernal world! and thou,
Profoundest hell! receive thy new possessor!"

9. I claim to have had no lot or part in bringing upon the country the terrible crisis that is now upon us. The late Chief Magistrate, JAMES BUCHANAN, was inaugurated into office, under auspices of general peace and prosperity—strong in the confidence of a mighty, united and triumphant Democracy—Possessed of every aid and inducement to an honest, a patriotic, a brilliant, and a vigorous and successful administration of the Government—has retired from power, amid general execration and disgrace, carrying into his retirement the official brand of public condemnation upon his forehead, and leaving to history, as the only trophies of his Administration, his National Treasury depleted, the country loaded with an incubus of debt—that great national and conservative party, to whose generous and confiding suffrages he owes all his fortunes, demoralized and dismembered, the perpetuity of the Republic a doubtful and an appalling problem, and his own name a by-word of infamy and derision throughout the civilized world. And in this State, the men are in power, wielding its patronage, who travelled all over the State defending this corrupt Administration, after the proof of its infamy was before the world, both clear and unquestionable!

10. The policy of the new Administration is not yet fully developed. Taking the nomination of that great and good man, Mr. Crittenden, to the Supreme Court as an example, it has manifested thus far, only conservative tendencies; and it has afforded proof that it does not stick to abolitionize the Democracy. It would be more reasonable, more consistent and infinitely safer, for the people of the South, to wait only to watch the developments of the policy of the new Administration, that they may know what they have to expect, before they talk of dissolution. It is the duty of the States of the North to repeal every act in variance with the Constitution. If they refuse to do this, why, the acts are simply void, and the General Government has only to exercise its authority, and execute its laws. The South should not be satisfied with less—she should not ask in her stubbornness for any more. I affirm that the North is at fault, and that Abolitionism and Democracy combined, have sown the seeds of the present political crisis; but while the South has been greatly wronged, by this unholy combination, and should seek amends for these wrongs, the remedy is not in rebellion against the Constitution and the Government. And South Carolina has no more right to separate herself from the Union, because the States of the North have perpetrated acts in violation of her rights, than has one member of a family the power to withdraw, because another has done a wrong act.

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